

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD**

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 12/3/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Clark Amadon, Reed Korrow, Michelle Beard and John Hoogenboom arrived at 6:15 and left about 8:00

Guests included: Secretary of Natural Resources Deb Markowitz, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Justin Johnson, Representative Maxine Grad, Representative Adam Greshin, Tom Douglass, Martha Douglass, Scott Baughman, Lisa Ransom, Dean Moulton, Mary Ann Raymond, Bonnie Alexander and Sasha Bianchi from the Vt. Health Department, Moretown's Health Officer Dick Valentinetti, Rachel Goff from the Valley Reporter, Shane Grace, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of tonight's agenda.

Tom moved to enter into executive session at 6:05 p.m. for contract negotiations including discussion related to the Host Town Agreement, whereby premature public knowledge would place the town at a disadvantage, and invite Deb Markowitz, Justin Johnson, Maxine Grad and Adam Greshin to stay for the discussion. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Tom Martin moved to come out of executive session at 6:45 p.m. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment:

Martha Douglass – asked if any action was taken in or as a result of the executive session. The board told Martha there was no action taken. Martha questioned why the landfill contract wasn't a topic on the agenda. The agenda said contract negotiations – not the landfill Host Town Agreement contract.

Tom M. said there was no intention to misinform or not inform the public. John said he wasn't aware the people from the State would be here.

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Martha said she finds it interesting that not all members of the board knew there would be guests from the state coming tonight.

Tom M. said he informed the entire board that people from the State would be here tonight, and believes John got that email.

Michelle said reasons for going into executive are usually pretty vague to protect the sensitive subject matter and persons involved.

Martha and Tom D. feel the selectboard is not interested or supportive of the Route 2 Group presentation given last month. They thought when they came into the last board meeting, that the selectboard was going to talk about recommendations/changes to the Host Agreement and about the presentation but that wasn't the case. Instead they were shown a letter from Advanced Disposal about an 80% reduction.

Tom M. indicated that it was his understanding that the Group was going to forward their recommendations for changes to the Host Agreement, which hasn't happen to date.

Vermont Department of Health Barre District Office – Bonnie and Sasha gave an overview of the services provided by the Vermont Department of Health, including:

- Free vaccination clinics (1st Tuesday of every month) McFarland Office Bldg.
- Alcohol and drug abuse prevention
- Breastfeeding program
- Chronic disease program
- Emergency preparedness and response training (VERV Ready)
- HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis education (free HIVtesting the 1st Tuesday of each month)
- Lead poisoning prevention program
- Nutrition education
- School health nurse assistance
- WIC (Women Infants Children) program offers healthy food to pregnant and nursing mothers and children up to age 5 who meet the income guidelines
- Facts on school meal changes

Information on the above was left at the town office if anyone is interested – or people can contact Sasha at the Barre office (McFarland State Office building) at 476-0161 or by email at Sasha.Bianchi@state.vt.us

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There is a free adult Tdap Pertussis (whooping cough) Vaccination clinic on Wednesday, December 12th - 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the McFarland Office. No appointment is necessary.

The board will speak with Steve Sharp about creating a section on the town website that would include the information of what services are available from the Vermont Health Department.

Budget work –

Reed moved to enter into executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss employee relations and to invite Cheryl to stay for the discussion. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Reed moved to come out of executive session at 7:55. Tom seconded. All were in favor. *John left the meeting.*

Reed moved that the road department pay increases are as follows:

- Martin's pay will increase from \$17.00 per hour to \$20.00 per hour
 - Rodney's pay will increase from \$16.50 per hour to \$17.00 per hour
 - Wade's pay will increase from \$14.00 per hour to \$16.00 per hour
- so they are comparable with what other valley town's pay their road crew. The raises will be effective the first paycheck in January of 2013.

Discussion - Martin's and Wade's probationary period (Martin's for the promotion to Foreman and Wade's for new hire) ends early this month so that is why the raises begin in January.

Tom, Clark, Reed, and Michelle were in favor. (John had left by the time the motion was made). Motion passed. There will be more budget work on 12/10.

John Deere tractor repair/replacement - \$5,000 to \$6,000 in repairs are needed before the tractor can be used for blowing snow this year. Reed said Martin indicated he would like the board to decide soon whether or not to make the repairs or to buy a new tractor.

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At the last meeting Martin gave the board a price of \$12,250 for a new tractor and the same implements we have now (snowblower, cab, mower, sander) after trade-in. A new tractor would be purchased from the current highway budget.

Reed moved to purchase a new John Deere tractor with implements from Harvest Equipment from the highway budget, for a sum not to exceed \$12,250.

Discussion: that for bookkeeping purposes the expenses for repairs to the 2007 truck from the accident are shown in the expenses, but insurance money received for those repairs show in the revenue, so the expenses indicated on the expense report are not true expenses. Purchase of this tractor will look like Martin overspent, when in actuality he did not.

Vote: Motion passed to purchase a new tractor and implements.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hurdle Road – John indicated before he left that he hasn't set up the meeting with VTrans for them to look at the STOP sign and see if the trimming Frank has done on his hedge is sufficient. Further discussion was tabled until the 12/17/12 meeting.

Route 2 traffic study news from the 11/27/12 hearing – John was unable to attend the hearing, but notice was received today from Traffic Operations Engineer Amy Gamble, that at its 11/27/12 meeting, the Vermont Traffic Committee voted to retain the existing 50 mph speed limit on the area between Middlesex and Gallagher Acres. They will however review the curve related signage within the area and make upgrades as needed to improve safety.

The Douglass's would like the contact information for the Traffic Committee so they can give their input.

Town office committee report news – Clark reported meeting with Henry Erickson and John Schmeltzer regarding paperwork needed for FEMA for the "Scope Change" request for the town office that he hopes to submit later this week. Clark said there is no particular location listed on the paperwork – only options being considered.

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The committee meets again on 12/13/12 – and there will be a public forum on 1/10/13.

Dean Moulton noted that the construction costs should also include demolition costs, and he doesn't see that in the outline. Clark will check into that.

The study results done by Henry Erikson can be found on the town website moretownvt.org

New Business:

Animal Control Officer (ACO) – Shane came in because he is interested in being Moretown's Animal Control Officer. Shane questioned that his out of pocket costs could be recovered at the current pay rate of \$10.43. Shane thought probably if \$1,000 plus mileage was budgeted it might be sufficient.

Discussion followed about the town appointment protects the ACO from liability issues; about the collection of fines; and to help ensure the safety of residents from unvaccinated dogs, the ACO could contact people who have not registered their dogs and keep any penalties assessed/collected similar to the delinquent tax collection process; and that Front Porch Forum is a good way to find the owners of lost animal. The board will talk more about the hourly pay rate.

Clark moved to appoint Shane Grace as Moretown's Animal Control Officer. Tom seconded. All were in favor. Shane's contact information is 496-5289 or 802-498-4312.

Approval of Minutes:

11/19/12 - Clark moved to approve the minutes of 11/19/12 as written. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

11/26/12 – Tom moved to approve the minutes of 11/26/12 as written. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

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Reports, Communication and Announcements:

Speed limit reduction request – (as discussed earlier in old business) The board received a letter from Traffic Operations Engineer Amy Gamble, notifying them that their request to lower the speed limit on US Route 2 between Middlesex and Gallagher Acres from 50 mph to 40 mph was denied.

Advanced Disposal letter – The selectboard was copied on a letter to John Riley, Chairman of the Moretown Development Review Board (DRB), requesting the DRB consider a continuance/recess of MLI’s application for the Cell 4 Expansion until 2/1/13, so MLI can focus all its immediate efforts and attention on its current operation. The DRB will discuss the request when they reconvene on 12/6/12.

Review invoices and approval of warrants commenced.

Other documents signed were:

Letter to Calvin Blodgett – A letter was signed by the board that will be sent to Calvin Blodgett in response to his November 5, 2012 letter to the Town regarding a tree that he feels is unstable and in need of removal. The letter to Calvin states that the Moretown Tree Warden and Northfield’s Road Foreman have inspected the tree and feel it is stable. Therefore no action to remove the tree will be taken at this time.

NRCS Grant Request for Reimbursement – for \$52,292.90 was signed.

Letter of Support from Moretown for CVRPC to apply for a block grant – A letter of support from Moretown was signed for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to apply for a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery, to conduct a Flood Study of the Mad River (through Moretown) and the Winooski River that suffered damage from the 2011 flooding. There will be no cost to the Town for the Flood Study.

Clark moved; seconded by Tom to adjourn at 9:40 pm. All were in favor.