

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

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Reed Korrow, Rae Washburn, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Pete Bero, Martin Cameron, John Schmeltzer, Ricky Blake, Tom & Martha Douglass, Henry Erickson, Bill Maclay, Clark Amadon, Sean O'Brien, Will Houghton, Jordan Champney, Guy Martin, Steve Korrow, George Austin, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave an overview of tonight's agenda.

Approval of minutes:

7/15/13 – Reed moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 7/15/13 as amended to add *that when Rae asked the schoolboard about possibly consolidating with other schools, they replied that the transportation expense would be too expensive to consider that option.*

Vote: Reed, Rae and Tom were in favor. John abstained from voting as he was late for that meeting.

7/22/13 – John moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 7/22/13 as written.

Vote: John, Rae and Tom were in favor. Reed abstained as he was absent.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Dan Emery - An email from Dan Emery was received expressing his hopes that local and state governments keep an open mind and do all they can to get cell 4 on board.

Steve Gladczuk of CVRPC – called to let the selectboard know that he has been in contact with Martin about using a road system software (RSMS 11) that would help track road conditions, repairs, calculate job costs etc. A consultant would survey Moretown's roads with Martin, input the data in the RSMS software, and train Martin how to use the new system, all at no cost to the town. If interested, the work can begin in September or October.

Martin said he is interested and has had conversations with Steve, and is ok with moving forward with the new software/training. He will contact Steve directly.

Green Mountain Stage Race – The annual race will be held on Saturday, September 1st this year. The route is the same – Start at Harwood Union High School on Route 100; travel through Duxbury Jct. of Route's 100 and 2; and finish on Route 100B at the Ward Access. Each field of racers will be led by Vermont State Police Troopers.

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Highway business – Martin Cameron

Gravel stored at Wimble’s – Martin asked for permission to use the gravel on South Hill. Martin thinks most of the Japanese knotweed from the stockpile has been eradicated, and when loading the material into the trucks, he would remove any “tubers” and destroy them. They have also eradicated most of the knotweed from South Hill that was laid down last year. The board approved using the gravel on South Hill Road to resurface about a 1000’ section.

Gravel stored at Ciampi’s pit – Martin asked what the board had decided about using the gravel stored at Ciampi’s on the Lynch Hill Road. Since Lynch Hill is a class IV (b) road, no decision will be made until after the Road Policy has been reviewed in September.

Fletcher Road bridge # 42 – Concerns that the wood on the Fletcher Road bridge needs to be treated. VTrans will be contacted and asked to inspect the structure.

Mowing and trimming the school grounds – Mowing and trimming of the town/school properties has been slack. Tom said he spoke with Wendell Labor a couple of weeks ago about the condition of the properties but it didn’t seem to help, so he asked Meriden if he could help out with the mowing if need be. Meriden said he would. Tom will follow-up.

Mowing roadsides – Martin plans to have Wendell mow the roadsides this year with the rented tractor. Wendell doesn’t have a driver’s license, so Tom will find out if he needs one to travel on highways with the tractor.

Snowplowing the school yard – Martin asked if the town would be snowplowing the school parking lot again. The salt cost the town about \$2,300 last year. There was discussion that the town agreed to plow the school last year but not necessarily this year, if the cost was significant. Martin said since the town isn’t plowing class IV roads this year, it may not be necessary to hire a temp.

Moretown Mountain Road – The resurfacing project is complete, and came in about \$27,000 over budget. \$10,000 was budgeted for the work so Martin will need to find other areas in his budget to compensate.

Where to allocate the \$31,006.13 received for the box culverts – After discussion about putting the money in the Bridge & Culvert Fund; using it to pay off the line of credit that will be the town’s share of the bridge project; or leave it in the General Fund. It was decided that \$10,000.00 will be transferred to the highway budget to help offset the Mtn. Road overage, and \$21,006.13 will be put toward lowering the balance on the line of credit for the bridge work.

Garbage being dumped on the side of town roads – Martin has found that since the landfill closed, garbage is being dumped along several town roads. Mattresses, bags of garbage, tires, etc. Martin doesn’t know what to do with things such as tires and mattresses. Report that people have been seen using the dumpsters at the school for personal trash. Tom will notify Duane Pierson so he can lock the dumpsters. Martin will try to identify who is dumping the bags of trash. Cheryl will ask if the State if they have an enforcement person to address roadside dumping.

Mr. Van Hueven – Complaint about Japanese knotweed on his property, that wasn’t there prior to the town dumping ditch dirt at the location, and he wants the town to deal with eradicating it now.

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There was discussion that some of the knotweed is on VanHeuven’s property outside of the town rights of way. Martin thinks it is possible to get rid of the knotweed. The board said Martin could work on it, but only within the town rights of way.

Overview of the work done to date:

- Dickerson Rd., Pony Farm Rd., Hathaway Rd. (back side of the common), Jones Brook Rd., Cobb Hill Rd., Fairground Rd., Herring Brook Rd., and the Moretown Mountain Road have all had ditching and surface work.
- Kelley Brook trail – Rae said Jeff Ladue is willing to install a culvert at the site where someone created the swale if the town furnished it. Martin has a used culvert that he can furnish.
- About 1,800 cy of MLI rock has been hauled to date. He plans to haul more.
- The road crew attended training for flagging and chainsaw operation safety; attended the Barre Municipal Expo; Foremen meetings, and “Idle Free” seminar; and brought equipment to the Moretown Elementary School for the “touch a truck” program.
- In their spare time they have been hauling road sand. Martin figures between what the contractor has hauled and what they have hauled, they have about ½ of the 4,800 cy he wants to stockpile.
- Grading maintenance and equipment repairs and maintenance has also been done.

Overview of work that still needs to be done:

- Resurface a 1,000’ section of South Hill Road
- Haul 3,200 cy more of MLI rock.
- Install a dry hydrant for the fire department, which will take about a day.
- Mow the road sides.
- Tend to water issues on Gove Rd.
- Address ditching issues on the Friedland property caused by runoff from South Hill Rd.
- Class IV (A) road annual maintenance.
- Clean the pavement shoulders on River Road.
- Clean and stain the town garage overhead doors.
- Ditching and culvert work on Old Route 100.
- Clean up the area around the sand pile – old plows etc.

The board thanked Martin and the road crew for their good work.

Fire Department business – Sean, Will and Jordan came in to talk to the board about purchasing a “Jaws of Life” extraction tool. They explained the importance of Moretown having the tool, so important that the department would be willing to pay for half the unit from their fundraising money if need be. The tool is about \$16,000. Will said there is no grant money available at this time.

The board agreed to support a ballot at Town Meeting for half the cost of the new extraction tool. Cheryl will work on grant funding as well.

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Public Hearing of the Select Board and of the Town Office Committee, for the purpose of providing residents with an opportunity to learn about the proposal to build a new town office on the “playground” site in Moretown Village, and for an opportunity for residents to ask questions, express their views, and offer public comment. This hearing is a requirement of the grant application being applied for from the Vermont Community Development Program, that if awarded will pay a significant portion of the project.

A copy of the grant application will be available for viewing at the Moretown Town Offices on 19 Kaiser Drive, during regular business hours.

Discussion included:

- The town is applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help pay for a portion of the project to build a new town office that would be out of the flood plain elevation. The new building would be about 1’ higher than the 500 yr. flood level, and about 7’ higher than the TS Irene flood level.
- This building will replace the town office that was destroyed during Tropical Storm Irene.
- After careful consideration and studies of several sites, the playground site was chosen as being the most feasible to house a town office building.
- Henry Erickson provided the cost analysis; Maclay Architects provided conceptual design and plans for a highly energy efficient building.
- The total budget for the project is \$865,000. The amount of the grant that would be awarded is uncertain at this time, but the time between grant the submission later this week, and hearing the outcome shouldn’t be a long.
- The Moretown Planning Commission studied the “needs” for a town office building, prior to TS Irene. The study was used during the planning for this new building.
- The floor plan will allow for privacy for workers and users of the offices, and provide adequate space to hold meeting of town boards.
- The plan is to have a bond vote in early November of 2013.
- There was general discussion about moving the old town office building to the playground site, and adding onto it. Bill explained that it wasn’t really feasible to move this building which is basically a shell now, and explained the various expenses that would be associated with moving it then adding onto it, making it energy efficient, saying it would be very expensive.
- There was discussion about what the old building could be used for; and if the septic and water utilities at the school could support a third building.

End of public hearing.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Austin Construction bridge invoice – Previously the selectboard decided not to pay Austin Construction's \$25K invoice for the overrun on the bridge project, because the town wasn't made aware that there would be an overrun until the bill was received in late June. George Austin came in tonight to explain why the project ended up with the overrun.

Rae explained that before June, the board didn't know about the extra steel etc., or about a design change.

Pete Bero from DuBois & King, engineers and clerk of the works for the project, said they take their best guess for quantities of materials when pricing jobs, but on this one it was necessary to rotate a wingwall slightly and that created the extra cement etc. He made the decision on site as to what he thought was the best for the town. Pete doesn't consider there was change in the design. Pete said emailed to/from State and FEMA personnel indicate the town will be reimbursed the \$25K. Pete added that the project overrun is well under the 10% allowed by FEMA.

George said the net would have been near zero if it hadn't been necessary to go longer on the piles and if the wingwall hadn't been rotated.

Rae asked Pete why the town wasn't notified sooner of the overrun.

Pete indicated a lack of communication and he is sorry about that. Pete will write up a detailed accounting for the overage to give to FEMA at close-out, justifying the overrun.

Tom moved; John seconded, to pay Austin Construction \$24,677.85 as indicated on Application #15. All were in favor.

Host Town Agreement – John moved; seconded by Reed, to enter into executive session at 8:45 to discuss the host contract, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Host committee members Martha Douglass and Rick Blake were invited to stay for the discussion, as was the board's assistant. All were in favor.

John noted to the guests that following this session the board will be going in executive session again to discuss the Blodgett mediation that he attended today.

Reed moved; Tom seconded to exit executive session at 9:28. All were in favor.

Once the meeting was open it was relayed that as a result of the executive session, the host committee will meet monthly rather than weekly, to work on a host agreement for cell IV. The current agreement will expire on 8/9/13, and the town's attorney has advised that there is no need to renew the agreement at this time.

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Litigation regarding the tipping fee payment is still ongoing and therefore confidential.

Blodgett mediation re: appeal of the location of Trail #49 - John moved; seconded by Tom, to enter into executive session at 9:31 to discuss the Blodgett mitigation, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. All were in favor.

Reed moved; seconded by Rae, to exit executive session at 9:51. All were in favor.

There were no decisions made. The mediation settlement process will be ongoing for the next four months and the details will remain confidential.

2013 tax rate

Reed moved; Rae seconded, to set the 2013 town tax rate as follows:

Residential	\$0.2699 town/\$1.5047 school = total of \$1.7746
Non-Residential	\$0.2699 town/\$1.4194 school = total of \$1.6893

Vote: All were in favor.

Invoices were reviewed and warrant # 43 was approved as submitted.

Reed moved; seconded by Rae, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.