

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

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 1/21/14 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Ricky Blake, Martha & Tom Douglass, Martin Cameron, John Malter, John Schmeltzer, Steve Korrow, Guy Martin, Don LaRocca and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Public Comment – There was none tonight

Approval of Minutes:

1/6/14 – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 1/6/14 as written. Reed seconded. All voted in favor except Tom abstained as he was absent on 1/6.

1/13/14 – John moved to approve the minutes of 1/13/14 as written. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Cell 4 application - Ben Gauthier – State of Vermont Waste Management

Division – Copy of a letter to Adam Sowatzka, MLI's attorney, in response to the groundwater study and cell 4 certification provided by MLI/AD. Gauthier's letter indicates that MLI needs to pursue a single remediation strategy to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) prior to Solid Waste Management making a final determination on the cell 4 application.

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Grow Compost public hearing – recertification hearing will be held on January 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Best Western in Waterbury, with a site visit beforehand at 3:30 p.m. at Grow Compost itself.

OLD BUSINESS:

Snow shoveling entrances at the town hall – Rae said Becky’s arm/hand is broken and she still can’t shovel.

The board asked for help with the shoveling via the Moretown Front Porch Forum, but there were no firm commitments submitted. There were however a few who offered to help out if they were available, which is appreciated.

Martin will continue to do the shoveling for the time being.

Buttolph appeal of the selectboard’s decision – Correspondence between attorneys was passed along to the selectboard for their approval. After review the board had no problem with the plan but want a few things in writing such as; that the logger will clean up the trail/road after the logging job is complete. Cheryl will pass this along to Paul Gillies.

*more old business later

Truck article – Rae provided a write-up of four reasons why he is opposed to purchasing a new dump truck in 2014. Each of the four were read and discussed. Discussion included:

- Rather than just planning to purchase a new truck every so many years, look into other components such as mileage, condition of the truck etc.
- Consider subbing out work if it continues to be cost advantageous.
- Trade in the 2004 toward the new truck because it is showing signs of being an older truck; the body is failing; and it may need some frame work. Martin is checking on the frame work with Tenco.
- Borrow from ourselves. Begin paying back in 2015.
- Cost ramifications in putting off the purchase until next year such as; increase in the cost of the chassis; decrease in the trade in.

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- Setting aside money/plan for future equipment purchased.
- Avoid having two truck/equipment payments in one year.

Reed moved to go forward with a town meeting article to buy a new dump truck and trade the 2004 truck in, and design the financing from the Capital Reserve Fund so that we stay within last year's budget.

Discussion: Rae is not in favor of using money from the reserves without paying it back, considering the reserves are in his opinion for emergencies which this is not.

Vote: John, Reed, Michelle and Tom were in favor. Rae opposed. Passed.

*more on the truck article later

John Malter – Mad River Resource Management Alliance report – John gave an overview of the report, which will be available in full on Town Meeting Day. Points of interest include:

- Results of various collection events in 2013.
- Two collection events are planned for 2014. One on May 10th and one on October 4th. Both at Harwood Union High School. Also a satellite collection will be held in Northfield on October 4th.
- Tanks for old crankcase oil are located in Waitsfield at the Earth Wise Transfer Station, at the Northfield Transfer Station, and at the Moretown Landfill.
- There is a textile recycling collection box located in the parking lot of the Moretown town offices on Route 2.
- Moretown's Alliance dues increased from \$3,316 to \$4,560 for 2014.

Tom moved to appoint Jonathan Siegel as Moretown's representative on the Mad River Resource Management Alliance. John seconded. All were in favor.

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John Schmeltzer re: bid for Phase 1 Environmental Assessment – John S. was in tonight for the town office committee. He looked over the bids earlier today to review not only the price, but the scope of work outlined in each proposal and recommended tonight that the board hire Ross Environmental Associates to do the assessment.

A Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of the site to house the new town office is a requirement of the Community Development Block Grant that Moretown got to build the facility.

Bids were as follow:

Ross Environmental Associates	\$ 1,800
EIV Technical Services	\$ 2,900
Weston & Sampson	\$ 2,000

Tom moved to hire the services of Ross Environmental Associates to do the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Don LaRocca re: Capital Budget - Don met with Steve Smith from the fire department, Martin Cameron from the road department, Lisa Samsom from the library and added to the capital budget what they as department heads projected for future needs. Cheryl added figures for the town office project and for the town hall to the capital budget draft. What the board has before them tonight includes those projections for consideration before finalization of the document which will correspond with what was budgeted.

The board reviewed the new format that Don provided and found it to be a great projection tool and an important part of financial planning.

Revisions were made to the capital budget draft accordingly so that it corresponds to the town budget as approved earlier tonight.

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***more OLD BUSINESS:**

Host Town Agreement for cell 4 – Tom said the board will get started with outlining goals about what we want as a “host” town of a landfill from the agreement. Discussion included:

- The selectboard will take the lead to produce a new host agreement.
- There will be public meetings in hopes of gaining public input. Then the board will tell the lawyers and accountants what they want from the agreement and let them work on the wording.
- The board has documents/comments from CLEAR and from private individuals that express their thoughts and what they feel is necessary for a new agreement, which will be given to the town’s lawyer during the drafting process.
- At the 2/18/14 meeting, the board will work on formatting their objections for a new agreement and they hope to be ready for a public comment hearing on 3/31/14.
- Work with the lawyer to develop a new host agreement will begin once a cell 4 application has been deemed complete by the State of Vermont.

Blodgett appeal of Trail #49 location – Blodgett submitted and marked a new access to trail #49. Landowners and the selectboard members have looked at the proposed access and agreed that it will work.

Cheryl will contact Paul Gillies and let him know that the town accepts the proposal with the condition that Blodgett pay for all expenses related to building the new access and the process for relocation of a legal trail. They hope the agreement is done within 60 days, the actual road construction will take longer because of the time of year it is.

Town hall elevator repair invoice to Bob Weber (Accessibility Systems, Inc.) for \$3,177 – The invoice has been the subject of debate between Tom Martin and Weber/Weber’s lawyer. The town doesn’t feel Weber did all of the work that he is billing the town for, and offered to pay a portion of the invoice. Weber disagrees, saying he did the work and won’t settle for a portion of the invoice. Part of the invoice was for a new door, which cost about \$2500.

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The board decided to pay \$2,500 for invoice #7514 from Accessibility Systems, Inc. and Tom will contact Weber’s attorney to that fact.

Incident with the 2007 truck going into the ditch on Cobb Hill Road on New Year’s Eve – Rae wondered if there was any written report of the incident. There is not.

Martin said it was an avoidable incident as far as he is concerned because Wade chose to try Cobb Hill without truck chains, during an extremely slippery situation. Martin said he let Wade know he is very disappointed. Martin accepts the responsibility for not notifying the board about the incident right away.

Going forward the board wants Martin to report to them right away about any incident that is inappropriate in his opinion and the board will decide how to proceed. The board let Martin know that he is supervisor of the road crew and that they would support his disciplinary decisions.

Town Hall flooring replaced after Irene – Rae reported that Craig Ciampi feels that we need new flooring for the downstairs of the town hall, versus trying to reuse the recently purchased flooring that didn’t stick. Craig is willing to have the \$400 cost for the new tile deducted from his final bill.

The board wants Craig to get the new flooring and will pay \$200 of the \$400. The town will cut Craig Ciampi a check for \$400 to buy the tile.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road and Bridge Codes and Standards – as per the “Orange Book” put out by VTrans, was put before the board for adoption. The Standards are State guidelines for road and bridge repairs, but can be modified if approved by State VTrans personnel for projects.

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Budget and Town Meeting Articles –

- A lengthy discussion on whether or not to buy a new dump truck and if so how will it would be financed without increasing the 2014 town budget. The decision was have a truck article, to spend \$30,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund in 2014 when the truck is delivered, and finance the remainder over the next three years with payments beginning in 2015, so as not to increase the town budget.

Reed withdrew his motion made earlier (pg.3) regarding the “truck article” and Tom withdrew his second.

Truck article - Reed moved to purchase a new dump truck in 2014, by using \$30,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and finance the remainder over the next three years with payments beginning in 2015. Tom seconded.

Discussion: Rae cannot support taking money from the Capital Reserve Fund without paying it back.

Don LaRocca explained the purpose of the reserve funds and explained that monies can be added to the funds at any time.

The board thanked Don for his explanation.

Vote: All were in favor.

There will be an article at Town Meeting asking voters to approve the purchase of a new dump truck.

Martin will get firm prices from all of the truck dealers and bring them back to the board.

Town budget – Tom moved that the 2014 town budget be approved as \$1,068,802. Michelle seconded.

This is level funded from last year. All were in favor.

Invoices were reviewed and warrant #4 was approved as submitted.

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Other documents for approval:

Overload permits for P & L Loggers/Lantagne; Snider Farms; and EF Fleming III were approved as submitted.

TA 65 for \$126,346.50 for State funds to help make up for the shortfall in PA funds for expenses related to the new bridge.

Road & Bridge Codes & Standards – for 2014 were adopted as suggested to meet VTrans Standards.

Property Valuation/Marshall Swift – A contract was signed to allow the town to use the Marshall Swift software for assessing properties.

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Michelle 2nd. All were in favor.