

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 7/7/14 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Henry Lewis, Raymond Munn, Eric Howes, Ricky Blake, John Riley, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the Board

John called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Henry Lewis said he is having problems with water on his property that is coming from under the town road. He said ever since Stuart did some deep ditching, he has had the water problem. He would like it fixed.

Rae remembers this problem and thought it had been taken care of by the road crew at that time. Rae will get in touch with Martin.

Raymond Munn – Meeting notice - Raymond asked when the schoolboard meets and where they post their meeting notice?

Rae referred to the town report which indicates the schoolboard meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The school has its own website where most likely the meeting agenda is posted. It is also posted at the town office.

MECA – Ray asked the selectboard about the schools MECA program running in the red, and about taxpayers paying retirement for the MECA workers.

FARMER’S MARKET – Ray wonders if the school has a conditional use permit for the farmer’s markets held at the school. Is the school charging for the space, because the school is wide open and lights are on etc?

Tom thanked Ray for his questions, and encouraged him to attend the schoolboard meeting with his questions where they can be better answered.

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Tom thinks the Moretown schoolboard had done a good job keeping their budget at a low increase, and the problem with the education tax rate lies within the State. He encouraged everyone to contact their representatives about how school taxes can be reformed so that each town pays for their own spending.

Eric Howes submitted a letter to the selectboard earlier today (via email) regarding the recent conduct of a member of the Moretown DRB at a hearing for Jolley Associates (Moretown General Store) to change the current fluorescent lighting to LED lighting. In the letter, Eric expressed his concerns that one DRB member was offensive when he said he was going to vote against the application because he thinks there is too much signage and lighting already. He feels that voting should be based on whether an application meets the zoning criteria, not on personal opinion. Eric was sitting in as an alternate at this hearing.

Eric expressed to the selectboard that the statement made in an open meeting offended him and made him feel as though that persons mind was already made up and closed to further evidence. Eric told of a conversation after the hearing had adjourned that he feels was inappropriate as three DRB members were present. Eric said he spoke up and told the other two that this was inappropriate and the discussion stopped.

At the request of Tom Martin, John Riley as Chairman of the DRB was copied on Eric's email so he was aware of Eric's concerns.

John R. said Eric makes some good points, but he feels a candid and open relationship with an applicant is good democracy. John R. went on to tell more about the current signage at Moretown General and what the applicant was requesting, all of which was discussion included at the hearing. Draft minutes of the hearing were also provided to the selectboard.

Conclusion: There was a unanimous vote of the DRB to continue the hearing until 7/10 so Jolley could provide additional information as to whether the requested change would increase brightness from the sign. Subsequent to the June 26th hearing, the applicant provided notice that they withdraw their application.

Tom thanked Eric for his comments and John R. for coming in to offer his opinion as DRB Chair.

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Tom Martin –

Seguin garage fire – Tom said the fire department did a great job fighting the Seguin fire last week. Steve did a great job directing the firemen and they had water pumping very shortly after arrival. He thinks they saved Mr. Seguin’s house from catching fire because the wind was blowing the fire directly toward the house. Tom also thanked Waitsfield Fire Department for their assistance.

EA Grandfield equipment donation – Tom thanked Eugene Grandfield for donating his equipment to sweep the school parking lot.

Approval of Minutes:

6/16/14 – tabled

6/23/14 – Tom moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 6/23/14 as written. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

2015 Municipal Park & Ride Grant – to develop small park-and-ride facilities on municipal land. No grant application will be submitted at this time.

Town’s request to State to lower speed limit to 25 mph in the village – was rejected by the State, as 85th percentile of the speeds range from 31-32 mph in the current 30 mph speed limit.

The board feels the new speed indicator signage is effective.

Laura Gans – CVRPC TAC – An email from Laura was received requesting appointment to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Transportation Committee (TAC).

Tom moved; seconded by John to appoint Laura Gans as Moretown’s representative to the CVRPC TAC. All were in favor.

Cheryl will ask Laura to come in sometime in August to meet with the board and to update them on any transportation news she might have.

Delinquent dog list – Tom has the updated listing and will make some calls.

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Dave Van Deusen email of 6/26 – regarding a phone message from a resident saying the River Road is not safe, because of the way the road crew put material down.

Rae said the night of the rain storm Martin was grading about 7:30 p.m. which left loose gravel which created the trouble when the rain came.

There was discussion: board members received several calls about the road; the road crew did go back out and fix the road because it was really bad; dust control is costly but could be controlled under the right circumstances; some roads need some good gravel. If you have to grade before a storm, do the roads that have had good gravel put on them and have a better surface.

With vacations coming up, Reed will talk with Martin about getting help with grading from other towns if need be.

Investment Committee – The investment committee cancelled their time on tonight’s agenda because they have nothing new to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Host Town Agreement outline of objectives for cell 4 H, I, & J. – were reviewed and amended tonight. At the next meeting the last two items on the list K & L will be reviewed. At the first meeting in August the outline as revised will get a final review and the board will talk about when to hand off the objectives to the professionals for their review and to prepare a draft host agreement.

Maloney culvert – Rae has nothing to report. He will keep trying to get in touch with Jason Maloney.

Blodgett litigation – After discussion with the town’s attorney on 6/23, the board made Blodgett what they feel was a very fair offer to settle the litigation, but Blodgett turned down the offer. Parties had until 7/9/14 (30 days from the trial) to submit comments on the agreement drafted at the court hearing.

It was decided tonight that Cheryl will contact Paul Gillies tomorrow to let him know that the offer the Selectboard decided on 6/23/14 stands.

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Fire Department financials – discussion was tabled.

New Business:

Bids to replace/repair the town hall steps and make an elevator pad –

Written bids were received as follows:

Brian Anderson	-	replace front stairs w/ cement	\$ 5,600
	-	elevator pad	\$ 2,975
Joe Gabaree	-	replace front stairs w/wood	\$ 1,850
	-	repair the concrete stairs	\$ 1,680
Kevin Streeter	-	via phone just to replace the steps	\$ 1,600

Kevin did not attend the pre-bid meeting so it wasn't clear if his bid included footings, walls, and sidewalk for the \$1,600.

Joe's bid indicated that he didn't think replacing the stairs with wood or repairing the cement was a good option.

Discussion followed about how to pay for the needed repairs, but the stairs need to be replaced. There is nearly \$2,100 left in the Town Hall Restoration account that could be used toward the work. Neither bid included demolition and removal of the old steps. Hopefully that is something the road crew can do with town equipment to save money. Reed will talk to Martin about that. If the road crew can't do it, we will ask Eugene Grandfield if he has the time.

Tom moved to hire Brian Anderson to replace the front stairs per his bid of \$5,600. John seconded. All were in favor.

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During the phone conversation with Cheryl, Kevin Streeter mentioned a less expensive method for an elevator pad. He suggested digging out the ground and placing foam then pour a cement pad over the foam, versus the more expensive footings. He thinks the problem is frost, and the foam will take care of the frost problem. When this was mentioned to Joe Gabaree, he said he would be willing to try that if Kevin thinks it would work and the board chooses to try it.

Cheryl will ask Joe to provide a price to do the foam/slab work if Joe checks around and thinks that method will work.

John moved; Tom seconded to reject all bids submitted for the elevator pad. All were in favor.

2014 Tax Rate – The board were provided a draft worksheet for a 2014 tax rate to review between now and the time they set the rate on August 4th. The selectboard will invite the schoolboard to attend the August 4th meeting. There was no discussion on the worksheet.

Review invoices and warrants: Warrant's 32, 33, 34 & 35 were approved as submitted.

Other documents for approval:

- Road Maintenance Permit for Rae Washburn to work on Lynch Hill Road.
- 2 Liquor licenses for Bliss Ridge events
- Overload permit for Grandfield Masonary
- Various reports to submit to the State/FEMA for the buy-out grant

Tom moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. John seconded. All were in favor.