

Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
8/21/2017

Guest Present: Bill Maclay, Henry Erickson, Cheryl Brown and Catrina Brackett.

Board Members Present: Tom Badowski, Rae Washburn, John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz

Board Members Absent: Tom Martin

Meeting called to order by John at 6:00pm

No one was present for general public comment.

Cheryl gave her town administrators report including, we are still waiting to hear back concerning the ERP grant. The VTRANS grant has been submitted to replace the catch basins, for \$255,000. The towns share would be \$25,565. Catrina is also working with the library on a Historic Preservation Grant to address the windows.

The Town Hall drainage issue has been completed. Stefan reported no leaks the last storm.

Cheryl checked with the planning commission concerning the lack of the scenic roads in the new Town Plan, and hasn't heard back yet but noted they are not meeting in August.

Catrina did research concerning class 4 road policy. Comparing other towns in Vermont to Moretown. The board will review the information in preparation for an upcoming public forum.

The date for a public forum was discussed. A decision will be made for the date at the next meeting.

Cheryl suggested discussing at the public forum the designated catch and release fly fishing area suggested by Clark Amadon. Jason also added future town investments.

The next selectboard meeting will be held September 5th, a Tuesday due to Labor Day being on Monday the 4th.

An email was received from Michelle Beard letting the board know she will be attending the Sept 5th meeting for the Mad River field purchase but would like the board to appoint someone else to be on the Mad River Park field committee. She suggested contacting Neil Nussbaum and Rebecca Busker as they had expressed interest before. There will also be a celebration hosted on September 9th. Both Tom M and John plan to attend the party.

An email was received from Kara Casey stating she is no longer a Moretown resident and will be stepping down as Grand Juror.

Tom B made a motion to accept the resignation. John seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The board would like to send Kara a thank you note, and suggested contacting the former Grand Juror to replace her.

An email from Dara Torre was received expressing interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission for another term.

Tom B made a motion to appoint Dana Torre to another 4-year term on the PC. John seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

An email from Jonathan Siegel was received expressing interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission for another term.

Tom B made a motion to appoint Jonathan Siegel to another 4-year term on the PC. John seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

An email was received from Catrina Brackett expressing interest in becoming one of the Town Auditors.

Tom B asked what the responsibilities were and Cheryl explained their main job is to do spot checks on accounts, reconciling with the bank statements. Also, to assemble the Town report. Cheryl also spoke about their not being any conflict with her current position as assistant town administrator.

Tom B made a motion to appoint Catrina Brackett to the position of town auditor. Jason seconded the motion. All voted in favor. If Catrina wants to continue being an auditor, she will have to run at town meeting in 2018.

Cheryl also suggested appointing Rita LaRocca to the position of town auditor for another term.

Tom B made a motion to appoint Rita LaRocca to another term as town auditor. Jason seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

An email was also received from Michelle Beard asking the board to be judges for the pie baking contest at Morefest, along with the road crew and Shane Grace who have already committed. Only John will be attending and he would be happy to.

Bill Maclay and Henry Erickson of Maclay Architects were present at the request of the board to discuss the continued humidity problems in the vault.

Cheryl spoke about the humidity reading in the mid 60s. The Vermont Secretary of State recommendation is between 30-50 for humidity, and below 72 for the temperature. The board directed a new system to be installed by Peak Mechanical a Mitsubishi LoTemp system. Cheryl's opinion was that for fairness to Maclay, it could take a couple weeks with the new unit to do readings to compare. The board feels Maclay should split the cost of the new system assuming the numbers drop in the next few weeks. Cheryl had asked Bill to have this conversation a while ago, but it did not work out.

Bill spoke back to the several meetings held with the board and former employee of Maclay, Bill Gallup, concerning the vault. He said they suggested several different units. Consulting the state and code

compiling agencies. At first the bid for the building there was no heating and cooling system at all. But the town did not want to spend money on it. The board then decided they needed a system.

He also spoke about that the new system that was installed and didn't know that it would decrease the humidity.

Tom B asked how the town ended up with the original system. Henry spoke about that the board only requested a unit concerning heating and cooling.

Bill talked about all the research he did humidity and storing records that under 60 was what he found. He questioned that the smell of mold was in the vault and suggested it could be from the town records that went through the flood. Cheryl assured him there were no records in the vault from the flood. Any we might have were in the back room waiting to be restored/copied.

Henry spoke about an email from Bill Gallup that the town clerk in Moretown requesting a heating and cooling system.

Tom B. asked if the contract specified a goal for vault humidity. It did not.

Bill felt that if the town wanted a system installed that would lower the humidity they need to install a system meant for that not just a heating and cooling system but that the board felt it was too expensive.

Cheryl spoke about speaking to Henry several times and gave him the guide lines from the State of Vermont. Cheryl also feels Maclay was ethically responsible for sure, for the best interest of the town, that vault humidity was considered.

Bill said there was no consistency with the board about wanting a system that would address humidity because of the cost. Since keeping the humidity down was only a suggestion, not a requirement, is why the board went with the heating and cooling unit.

Cheryl thought that at that time, the cost for a unit that addressed humidity, would be about the same as the unit installed.

Bill spoke in principle they did their job in giving the town the options they asked for and they are not responsible. Bill also spoke about the building being all concrete and it holds a lot of moisture in at least the first year. Also, that humidity measuring devices are historically inaccurate. Cheryl stated they purchased one that Kevin (of Maclay) suggested. Cheryl also stated they had to run a dehumidifier in the vault.

Cheryl stated the new unit is now operating on its own zone which Bill and Henry agreed was a better than what was originally done. Cheryl questioned why this option of a separate zone was not presented to the board to begin with. The price difference was only about \$2000, if that.

Rae had to leave the meeting at 7:00pm

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A closeout public hearing was held at 7:00pm for the Town office project (Community Development Block Grant). No public was present. John did read the hearing notice which told of the project and of the process to build the new town office and the funds used.

Tom B made a motion to close the public hearing. Jason seconded the motion. All agreed.

A request from Catherine Scribner to wave the penalty fee for filing her homestead declaration late. Tom B made a motion to waive the \$413.83 fee. John seconded the motion. All agreed. There is no cost to the town for the waiver.

John B made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/7/17. Jason seconded the motion. All agreed.

Jason spoke to the board about investment option with a firm called VanGuard. They will not actively manage the portfolio but they will provide recommendations and implement what the board wants to invest on. Jason would like the rest of the board look at the VanGuard website and this should be discussed at the upcoming public forum.

Tom B questioned what funds were being invested. John stated it is the savings reserve. Tom B would like to see the towns investment policy and discuss them at the next meeting. Tom B also questioned where the moneys is being held now and wants to verify that with Cherilyn.

Tom B made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Jason seconded the motion. All agreed.

Warrants approved: PR 17039. 18948-18949, e252-e2534. AP 17040. 1895-18983.