

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Notice of unapproved minutes of the July 12, 2007 special meeting for road issues.

Members present: Rae Washburn III, Stephanie Venema, John Hoogenboom (7:20)

Guests present were: Craig Elwell and Cheryl Brown – clerk

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 7:00

Moretown Mountain/Common hill - The first order of road business discussed was repairing the village hill. Estimates to do the entire hill are around \$30,000. That would shim, overlay and patch and would last about five years.

The highway work budget \$44,000 was reviewed and the possibility of holding off doing some of the budgeted work so that money could be used to fix the hill. The Board will meet with Doug Newton later in this morning for his input.

South Hill road repair by Price road – Discussion about phone conversations with Martha Price about claims that water runoff from South Hill comes down her private road and washed out a portion of her road. Martha wants a culvert installed at the stop of her driveway and ditching done to stop the water from coming down her road.

Discussion followed: Craig said he told Martha's mother a couple of years ago that if they purchased the culvert for their private road, that he/town would install the culvert. He said he didn't hear back from her. Craig suggested stone lining the ditch, and putting two bigger culverts to send the water to an area by the Wood's property, to a ditch large enough to handle the runoff.

The Board decided that if Martha pays for the material, the town will do the work. Stephanie and Craig meet with Martha later this morning, they will tell her then what the Board decided.

\$44,000 road work budget projects

Survey for erosion problems - Stephanie will apply for a Better Back Roads grant that will pay 75% of the costs for an engineer to survey town roads for erosion problems. The engineer will then prioritize the erosion problems and provide estimates to repair each. \$1750 was budgeted for the town's share of the analysis.

Dickerson Road – Rae will provide a sketch for grant submission. \$1750 was budgeted for the town's share of a grant to repair a second area of erosion that was identified when the first area was repaired last year.

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Cobb Hill reconstruction – A portion of the work will be done depending on what is decided about fixing the village hill. \$18,500 was budgeted for the work.

Mountain Road bank erosion – There was \$16,000 budgeted for this project. Most of the budgeted funds will be used to help pay for the village hill repair.

Howes Road bank erosion – This work will be done. \$2,000 was budgeted for the work. Craig said Howes Road will be closed for two days while this work is being done. He will let emergency personnel George Moulton and Eric Howes know when he closes the road.

Tree removal at the Jct of Howes/Farnham Roads – This work will be done. \$2,000 was budgeted for the work.

South Hill Road drainage - \$2,000 was budgeted for this work. It will be done.

8:00 a.m. Site visit of Village Hill – Doug Newton, Rae Washburn III, John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Craig Elwell and Cheryl Brown were present

The group walked down the hill to view the condition of the road surface.

Rae explained that the town has an estimate from Pike Industries to (shim and overlay) fill in the holes with 1” of product then another 1” of wearing course would be placed over that. Pike estimated about \$30,000 to do the entire hill. Rae thinks the work would last for five years.

A 2003 traffic count shows about 1200 cars per day travel the hill.

Discussion followed that the easterly side of the hill is in the worst condition and that it must be repaired as soon as possible whether spots are patched (about \$2800) or one side of the hill has shim and overlay (about \$15,000) or the entire hill has shim and overlay (about \$30,000).

Doug Newton said the town should consider two issues with the hill. One is what is the sub base material (core boring sample) in the hill and what do we need to have for sub base material before the hill is resurfaced. He thinks a long term plan could be to realign the road which could reduce the current 10% or so grade of the steep hill. In the interim, Doug said the hill needs to be repaired, at least the east side. Doug said the town could then apply for a Class II road grant to pay for an engineering study to determine what the road has for a sub base and provide a repair plan for the drainage/pavement replacement. He suggested contractors who might be interested in bidding on the work.

Stephanie moved to shim, patch and overlay the easterly side of the hill for a price not to exceed \$15,000. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Rae had to leave, but after he left additional discussion lead to the idea of it might be better to repair the entire hill now for a price of \$30,000 to give the Board time to do engineering studies and pursue funding for reconstructing the road.

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Discussion also included where the other \$15,000 would come from to repair the whole hill. Should the Board bring a question to the voters for the unbudgeted \$15,000 or should they try to use funds from other budgeted highway projects. More discussion will follow at the 7/16 meeting.

Craig will contact paving contractors for availability to repair the hill, whether it be half the hill or the entire hill and get the work lined up.

South Hill drainage issue

Stephanie and Craig met with Martha Price about her complaint that runoff from a town road (South Hill) was being drained onto her private road.

Martha said stormwater from the town road should continue in a ditch not on her road so she thinks there should be a culvert installed at the throat of her road and the water diverted to the Wood property side of the road. She also wants damage that was done to her road from the runoff repaired. She said she owns all of the property that would be involved in the drainage work and culvert work and that the town could remove any trees necessary to do the work. A 50' culvert would be needed. Martha agreed to provide the culvert. The town agreed to install the culvert.

The area of her road that was damaged was viewed. It was apparent that some of the water that damaged her road did not come from the town road but rather from the hilly area by her riding rink. Martha suggested that if the town doesn't take care of this drainage problem the town could lose its town match for VTrans funding. She added that her road was in before South Hill Road was developed to the extent that it is now and that once the road was made wider the runoff increased. She said if the town doesn't repair her road, she will pursue legal action next week.

All parties agreed that Martha will provide the culvert and pay for the gravel that is needed to fix her road. The town will install the culvert and spread out the gravel in her road to fill in the holes left by the water. Martha will call Craig when she has the culvert and has purchased the gravel.