

**Town of Moretown**

**Office of the SELECTBOARD**

**Notice of unapproved minutes of the October 1, 2007 Selectboard meeting**

Members present: John Hoogenboom, Don Wexler, Rae Washburn III

Members absent: Paula Mastroberardino, Stephanie Venema

Guests: Eric Howes, Gene Kazlow, Duane Howes, Steve Sharp, Kara Herlihy-Valley  
Reporter, Cheryl Brown-Clerk for the Board

John called the meeting to order at 6:05

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Eric Howes** praised the Board for controlling a potentially volatile situation at the last meeting during discussion regarding the location of the Kelley Brook town trail. Eric asked what progress has been made to find the trail location.

Paul Gillies is in the process of locating the town road.

**Gene Kazlow** asked if the Board has made progress in formulating a Capital Budget? The Board answered, not yet.

Gene asked how much landfill money the Board intends to set aside this year?

The Board said they have not decided yet, but will be working on the articles later this year and even though there was a public vote on an article last year, they hope to have the public more involved in the decision making process this year.

Gene said he would like money put into the Capital Reserve Fund this year rather than have it used to lower the tax rate. He would like all the landfill windfall put in the Capital Reserve Fund and questioned why none was set aside last year.

The Board explained that at the time, they decided that it made more sense to retain the landfill money in the landfill account rather than transfer it to the capital reserve, since the funds would just have to be transferred back out to pay for the highway equipment purchased (truck) and a highway project (River Road).

**Steve Sharp** came in to ask the Board how the funds/bills should be paid to Fountain Forestry for developing the Forestry Plan. The Town agreed to pay \$1250 toward the \$5000 invoice and the School agreed to pay \$1250 toward the invoice (from the MLI Easement proceeds), leaving \$2500, the amount in the Planning Commission budget.

The Board took the invoice Fountain invoice from Steve noting it to - please pay the invoice and then "charge" the school \$1250 for their share.

**Meriden Nelson** – was not able to attend tonight but John H. said he did speak with Meriden about snowplowing the sidewalks again this year. Meriden agreed to continue the snowblowing for \$13.13 per hour. The mowing of the town/school properties is still under discussion.

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**MINUTES:**

**9/17/07** – Clarification on page 6 – **Temporary bridge - *that the approach on the East side of the bridge is out of the town right of way and on Blodgett's property but the bridge is in the town road.*** Rae clarified that the reason the Board said the bridge could be gated was that the bridge is placed so that it does not block the use of the public right of way, Blodgett Road.

**Transfer of Moretown Landfill money** – John said he spoke with Susan about transfers needing Selectboard approval and because monies are coming in from property taxes, it should not be an issue in the future.

**Tree on 100B at Wilcox property** – The large tree on the Wilcox 100B Moretown Village property was removed today. John would like the minutes to reflect that State Pathologist, Tim Scmaltz verified that the tree did in fact present a safety concern and therefore should be taken down.

John moved to approve the minutes of 9/17/07 as amended to include the clarification on the temporary bridge. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

**9/24/07 – approval was deferred**

**ERIC HOWES – E911 and new fire truck/van purchase:**

**E911** - Eric said he hasn't had a chance to talk with George yet about E911 Coordinator duties but at this time he does not want to be the E911 Coordinator. Eric said he wouldn't mind helping out, on a temporary basis if the Town hasn't found a replacement by the time George retires, but with George retiring soon he wants to leave himself open for fire department related responsibilities.

**Fire truck purchase** – Eric said he still has not received a firm price for the new van. Eric stated the importance of the new vehicle to include; the truck goes to each and every fire call, around 50 per year, carrying fire and hazardous gear essential for every fire call. He said the new truck would be 4 – wheel drive where the current truck is 2 – wheel drive, which will allow access to residences in basically all weather which is certainly a benefit and the new vehicle will be a diesel powered motor with an automatic transmission where the old is a gasoline engine with a standard transmission.

**Other fire department business – training** – Eric encouraged the Selectboard to stop by and view a “flash fire” training session on Saturday, October 13, 2007, from, 12-3 in the Commuter Parking Lot at M.E.S. Eric said the fire department received a grant to help pay for this very necessary fire training.

Eric will notify the soccer group (Kelly Reagan) that usually uses the fields on Saturday's, of the 10/13 training session.

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**Town Clerk/Treasurer business:**

Warrants were reviewed and signed  
Invoices were reviewed and approved

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sullivan, Powers Co. recommendations** – There will be a special meeting on 10/8/07, at 6:00 p.m., at the town offices, allowing the Board time to work on the list of recommendations that were made by the CPA's after their audit of the 2006 financial records of the Town.

**Kelley Brook Road** – Paul Gillies is working to locate the trail. He doesn't think it will take much time to do the work. Discussion is tabled until word from Paul.

**Village hill crack in new pavement** – Rae reported having a conversation with FW Whitcomb pavers about the cracks, but they have not had a chance to come look at the area. Rae said he is confident the problem will be solved before the pavement plants close this fall. Further discussion was tabled.

**Bridge repair** – the Board reviewed a draft Request for Proposal that will be mailed to four contractors recommended by the State Structures Department, as being suitable contractors to perform the repair work needed to bridge # 41 (Munn). There will be a meeting at the bridge on October 22, 2007, at 8:00 a.m., for anyone interested in viewing what repairs are being recommended by the State.

**Charter/Welcome sign** – discussion about placement of one – two sided sign. The “portage” area by Middlesex (on 100B) was one suggestion. Steve Slatter provided information for a sign a few years ago but no action was taken to buy a sign. Cheryl will call Steve for an updated design and quote.

Don will find out if the byway grant could be used to buy a sign and ask the byway committee for their input.

**River Road project update** – Rae reported that the project is complete and there will be a final project inspection on 10/15/07 at 8:00 a.m. Rae said everyone involved with the project seems to be satisfied and that all drainage, landscaping and culvert work has been completed.

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**Town Hall repairs** – Gillespie Fuels provided a quote to repair the upstairs furnace with parts from the downstairs furnace and install a new space heater in the downstairs. The quote was reviewed.

John moved to accept the proposal from Gillespie Fuels to repair the Williamson hot air furnace that heats the top floor of the Town Hall, with parts from the existing downstairs furnace, and install a new Rinnai 1004 direct vent space heater in the downstairs of the Town Hall for a price not to exceed \$2400.00 and to begin the work.

Rae seconded the motion.

Discussion followed about installing the space heater where it is in coordination with the renovation plan. Gillespie/Doug McIntosh will be asked to contact Don prior to installation of the new unit.

The Town Hall committee meets again on 10/15/07, from 5-6 p.m., at the town office to continue work on the renovation plan. Jack Barnes is working very hard to acquire grant funding to help with the cost of the renovation and repairs.

**Vote:** All were in favor. John signed Gillespie Fuels proposal for the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Snowplow bids** – Before the bids were opened, John reported that when he spoke with Meriden about snowblowing the sidewalks, Meriden said the town should purchase a one-ton truck to plow the roads that are being plowed by individual contractors.

Discussion followed about the cost of a one-ton truck and the equipment necessary to plow and sand the roads and who would drive another truck and how much would it cost in the end if a person had to be hired to drive the one-ton. No action was taken at this time to acquire bids for a new truck.

**Sealed bids were opened and results were as follows:**

<b>Group I</b>	Matthew Abair	\$75 per storm	NTE \$1950 per year Sanding \$80 per storm
	Duane Howes	\$ 79 per storm	NTE \$1850 per year
	Louis Hallstrom	\$ 70 per storm	NTE \$1700 per year
<b>Group II</b>	Matthew Abair	\$130 per storm	NTE \$3900 per year Sanding \$90 per storm
	Eric Howes	\$130 per storm	NTE \$3700 per year
	Louis Hallstrom	\$130 per storm	NTE \$3800 per year
<b>Group III</b>	John Jenkinson, Jr	\$80 per storm	NTE \$1800 per year
<b>Group IV</b>	Matthew Abair	\$80 per storm	NTE \$2900 per year Sanding \$75 per storm
	Eric Howes	\$90 per storm	NTE \$2900 per year
	Louis Hallstrom	\$85 per storm	NTE \$2750 per year

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John moved to accept the bid for Group I as presented by Duane Howes, for Group II as presented by Eric Howes, for Group III as presented by John Jenkinson, Jr. and for Group IV as presented by Eric Howes. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

**Fuel bid** – One bid – Gillespie Fuels, was received.

<b>#2 Fuel Oil-per gal</b>	<b>\$2.3575</b>	<b>.059 adder</b>	<b>NTE \$2.82 gal</b>
<b>Propane-per gal</b>	<b>\$1.41</b>	<b>.200 adder</b>	<b>NTE \$1.81 gal</b>
<b>Diesel Fuel-per gal</b>	<b>\$2.5050</b>	<b>.059 adder</b>	<b>NTE \$ --- no bid</b>
<b>Gasoline-per gal</b>	<b>No bid</b>		

Don moved to accept the bid received from Gillespie Fuels as presented for the 2007-2008 petroleum/propane products and continue supplying fuel needs to all town buildings and allow FG White to supply the town's gasoline needs on an on-call basis as has been done in the past. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

**Route 100 & 100 B intersection by Maynard's** – Don wonders if now that the turn off on the corner of Route 100 is paved and enlarged, what the impact is to the wetland area on the corner. Don said it appears some of the wetland was filled in and then paved over.

John will call VTrans and ask for their opinion.

**More old business:**

**More on the Town Hall** – Drainage beyond the building is the town's responsibility and not included in the renovation/repair plan supplied by Keefe & Wesner Architects. Rae met with Craig, Johnny Summers and Doug McIntosh about how to solve the drainage problem that allows water to flood the downstairs of the town hall. All agree the flooding issue must be taken care of prior to any work being done downstairs.

Rae said there is a lot of water contributed to the area around the town hall from the mill yard. He recommends placing a decent sized ditch between the clapboard mill and Fletcher Road to drain the water away from the hall, cut some of the sumac shrubs and re-grade the area on the left side of the bridge. Rae said Johnny is ok with the plan but the Town will need to contact Holly Ward, because the ditch will involve some of his property adjacent to the mill yard, before the ditch work can be done. The town road crew would be doing the drainage work.

Rae will draft a plan which specifically outlines the work that needs to be done so Cheryl can contact Holly. Work on the left side (town hall side) of the road can begin.

**Buttolph petition for layout of right of way for logging** – There will be a hearing scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2007, from 5:30 – 6:30, at the Moretown Town Office. It is yet to be determined if the site visit will take place before the 11/19 hearing or after. Paul Gillies will be advised of the 11/19 hearing time and invited to attend if he feels it is necessary to for him to do so to create a final decision once the Selectboard has deliberated.

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## **REPORTS & COMMUNICATION, MAIL**

**Byway Grant Cooperative Agreement** – between the Agency of Transportation and the Town of Moretown, which lists town and state responsibilities for the Scenic Byway Grant, was signed.

**Keefe & Wesner Architects invoice** – for \$3,859 for the final phase of the drawings and plan for repairs and renovations to the town hall, was approved for payment.

**2007 Library grant** – An application prepared by Librarian Polly Bentley, for a Winnie Belle Learned grant was approved.

**Road Maintenance permit** – for work done on Blodgett's Road by the contractor logging the George Montgomery (used to be Lathrop property) property was approved.

**An overload permit** – for Terry Hill Trucking was approved.

**Hoover/Town Garage Committee** – do not have engineering results as yet for septic perk testing. Hoover hopes to have results for the 10/15 meeting.

Rae moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Don seconded. All were in favor.

