

**Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

**Notice of unapproved minutes of the December 4, 2007 Selectboard meeting postponed from December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Members present: Paula Mastroberardino, Rae Washburn, Stephanie Venema, John Hoogenboom, Don Wexler left at 6:20

Guests: Maxine Grad, Jamie Wimble, Tom Allen, Polly Bentley, Steve Sharp, Liz Laferrier-Mad River Seniors, Wilma Maynard, Sheila Griffith, Hoover Austin, Rube Scharges, Cheryl Brown-Clerk for the Board

**Public Comment:** No one was present tonight for public comment

**Minutes: 11/19/07** – Paula moved to approve the minutes of 11/19/07 as written. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

**Warrants** – Because Mondays, 12/3/07 regular Selectboard meeting was postponed and the office is closed on Wednesday, Paula signed the warrants yesterday so checks for invoices could be mailed out on Tuesday. While reviewing the warrants Paula noted a \$95.00 payment to NEMRC from the Town for Amy Deutl for enrollment into a training seminar for accounts payable and payroll. While the Board fully supports the training, it is noted that past procedure should be followed in the future - the employee/trainee pays for the training then submits documentation for reimbursement from the town.

**Invoices** – were reviewed and approved for payment.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer business:**

**Notice of Claim – for Susan Goodyear:** An envelope was left for the Selectboard containing a Notice of Claim for Short-Term Disability benefits for Susan effective 11/15/07. The claim needed the signature of the Selectboard.

Discussion followed that because the Town Clerk/Treasurer has throughout her absence and continues to receive full compensation from the town, the Board should not sign the claim form.

Following further review of the claim and after indicating on the form that Susan is receiving full pay from the town in her absence, the claim was signed and given to John.

**\*Memo from Susan** – containing four issues will be discussed later tonight.

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**Town Plan revisions** – Steve Sharp came in tonight to present the final draft after revisions of the Town Plan. Steve said there were insignificant revisions to the first draft made after the 11/19/07 public hearing that was held by the Planning Commission. Now that the Selectboard has been presented the revised Town Plan, they will have a public hearing to hearing any public input before making a decision to adopt the Plan as is or make further revisions before it is adopted. Since the Town Plan has expired, Steve encouraged the Selectboard to act soon on this draft.

The Selectboard will schedule a public hearing for January 14, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Moretown Town Offices for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Town Plan draft as it was presented by the Planning Commission tonight. A copy of the final draft is available at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

**Library budget** presentation by the Library Commissioner's: The 2008 budget being proposed for the Library is \$18,721. The 2007 Library budget was 10,686. The budget increase reflects an increase in hours the Library will be open and therefore additional payroll, plus wages for an assistant when Polly is unavailable.

Jamie Wimble gave an overview of monies generated by the Library through October of 2007 and deposited into the Friends of the Library account were \$6,965, used to purchase children's books. Revenue from fundraising and grants amounted to around \$3,740. Commissioner's stated that Friends of the Library is an independent non-profit organization and asked that the Selectboard not consider lessening the town's contribution to the Library because of the donations and fundraising. Stewart Sutcliffe, Architect was hired to work on future remodeling plans.

Polly Bentley spoke about the various community services provided by the Library and how it has grown significantly over the last year, creating the need for additional financial support from the Town. Currently the Library is open 17 hours per week with the staff being paid for 10 of the 17 hours. The rest is volunteer work. Polly would like the Library open 20 – 24 hours next year, 16 of which would be paid hours and the rest would be volunteer work. The goal is for the Library to gain certification which would make the Library available for grants and other free services which will ultimately save on operating costs.

Three letters of support for the Library were received and Maxine Grad came in tonight both as a parent and Legislator, to speak about how important libraries are in the fight against illiteracy and child neglect, both of which contribute to prison costs that impact even a small community such as ours.

The Library hours are posted in the Town Clerk's Office and on the website.

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**Mad River Valley Seniors – Liz Laferrier** came in tonight to speak about services offered to Moretown seniors through the Evergreen Place and Meals on Wheels. Liz said last year Moretown contributed \$1,000 to the Seniors through the town budget and asked that the same be done in 2008.

Paula suggested placing \$1,000, the amount being requested by Mad River Seniors, as a line item in the 2008 budget.

**\*Items on a memo from Susan continued from page #1**

1. Susan asked about Jamie being paid holiday pay for Columbus Day which the Selectboard previously removed from a warrant. The memo was noted that there would be no holiday benefit paid.
2. River Road phase II closeout. The memo was noted that Susan should talk either with Stephanie or Cheryl about invoices to be submitted.
3. Iron Horse Standing Seam Roofing – how is the invoice for partial payment for the roofing to be paid? The memo was noted that there were funds retained from the Russell Construction contract payoff that should be used for the invoice.
4. Approval to spend \$ 500 for a NEMRC Disaster Contract which would back up the NEMRC software. The Board approved the expenditure.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Charter/welcome sign** – discussion was tabled.

**Personnel policy** – The Board reviewed a draft personnel policy supplied by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and worked on a draft which will define full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal employees. Added to the draft was the definition for elected officials and statutory assistants to the town clerk and town treasurer. The definitions will be used in the benefits policy being worked on.

**\*more old business later**

**Town garage committee work** – An application for building a new town garage at its present site has been submitted and a Development Review Board hearing is scheduled for December 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the town offices.

Hoover has spoken with most of the property owners around the area and the plans have been generally well received. Hoover will prepare a list of comments from his conversations with residents.

Holly is working with his attorney to draft an agreement that the town can use his land with the intent that the town will purchase the property contingent on voter approval.

Doug Reed is working on a cost estimate for the project.

***The town garage committee will meet again at 6 p.m. on 12/20/07 prior to the DRB hearing.***

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**\*Old business continues:**

**Route 100 and 100B intersection** – by Maynard’s farm. John spoke with Doug Newton from Vermont Transportation District 6 about the Boards concerns that the wetland area near the intersection was paved over. John said Doug relayed that the area that was already filled in was simply paved over and that no additional wetland was disturbed.

**Town office light over back door** – Middlesex Electric will be repairing the light shortly.

**River Road Phase II** – Farr’s tree service quoted \$750 for removing trees at the Ted and Candace Brunnell property which were not removed when by the tree service when the other trees were cut. When this work has been completed, the project can be closed out.

The Selectboard approved the \$750 expenditure.

**Jennifer Champney** – of 14 Miner Road (off Route 2) contacted Paula stating that .28 acres was turned over to the town by Clifford Garrow, from an original 2.14 acre parcel. Jennifer purchased the remaining 1.86 acre parcel in 2005 that included two homes already in place that were grandfathered from the 1 acre lot minimum allowed under the new zoning ordinance. It appears that Jennifer wants to subdivide the property into two lots with one house on each but because of the 1 acre lot minimum, states she is unable to sell a lot of .86 acre. Jennifer is requesting the Selectboard to transfer and/or sell back the .28 acres that was turned over to the town by Garrow.

Paula will talk with John Riley – DRB Chairman and ask about minimum lot size restrictions before further investigations are made. The Grand List does not show Moretown owning a .28 acre parcel on Miner Road or Route 2.

**New Business – 2008 Benefits policy** – The Board will continue with drafting a new benefit/personnel policy on 12/10/07.

**Reports & Communication, Mail - none**

Paula moved to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. John seconded. All were in favor.