

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Notice of unapproved minutes of the May 19, 2008 Selectboard meeting

Members present: Don Wexler, Stephanie Venema, Rae Washburn III

Members absent: John Hoogenboom, Paula Mastroberardino

Guests: Raymond Munn, Kara Herlihy-The Valley Reporter, Larry Smith and Susan Benoit-Vermont League of Cities & Towns, Benjamin Abare, Greg Wagner, Sean O'Brien, Eric Howes, Hoover Austin, Will Houghton, Cheryl Brown-Clerk for the Board

Public Comment:

Ray Munn

Vehicle noise – said motorcycles are racing through the corners on 100B. He said they are very loud and he can not understand if we are using the noise ordinance the fight the quarry why we shouldn't be enforcing the noise ordinance for town highways.

Don doesn't know what we can do on a state highway other than notify the State Police or Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Ray thinks the police can set up a trailer, especially on the weekends, to monitor the speed and noise.

Stephanie will call Washington County Sheriff's Department and ask what they can do and talk with Deborah Feldman about the Zoning Regulations relating to vehicle noise.

Animal control issues – Ray said he responded to two animal control calls this weekend. He said two people were bitten by the same dog and the owner destroyed the dog. Secondly he responded to a call of a huge snapping turtle being in a person's garage and the person feared the turtle would bite his dog. Rae picked up the turtle and put it on river bank behind the fire station.

Minutes:

5/5/08 – Rae moved to approve the Selectboard minutes of 5/5/08 as written. Stephanie seconded.

Discussion – Don signed the order to purchase survey plat holders. Monies from the Preservation Fund will be used to pay for the holders. A memo from Amy verified there is over \$9,200 in the account – the new hangers will cost around \$4,000.

Stephanie and Paula split the check list/NEMRC voter report that did not agree from Town Meeting. Stephanie has her portion done and has turned it back the Cheryl for her review.

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Jane Gomez Dimotsis – Rae met with Craig at the intersection to compare current road measurements to measurements listed in the 1998 minutes. They found Jane's comments that the road has been widened over the years by winter plowing. Craig will bring in topsoil, grade and seed the area that needs to be reclaimed by Dimostis. Rae said this is not the only intersection in town that needs to be brought back within the town right of way as a result of years of plowing. He suggested the Board getting together and surveying all intersections and Craig will do what he needs to do to get other intersections corrected. He suggested a 24' wide width travel lane with a 4' shoulder. The Board thought that it was a good idea to measure some of the town roads.

Stephanie thinks during winter plowing the roads are made wider because it is difficult to see where the bank/road edges are.

Unregistered dogs – Stephanie said there should be a better way to find contact information for owners who do not register their dogs. She will talk with Cherilyn about how to get email addresses or phone number information should you need to get in touch with dog owners if the need be. She said out of about 30 delinquencies, she still has 10 or so owners she has been unable to contact.

Vote: All were in favor of approving the minutes of 5/5/08 as written.

Larry Smith and Susan Benoit of Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) – came in to give the Selectboard an overview of what we currently have for health insurance coverage, and overview of how a Health Savings Account (HSA) is managed and what other options the town has for health insurance benefits through VLCT.

Larry recommended fully funding HSA's in the first quarter of each year because that is usually when deductibles are used. He said Federal Law allows employers to contribute up to \$2850 into employees HSA and that it is only VLCT's rule to limit the employers contribution to half of the deductible.

Employees need to be educated on allowable uses of HSA's and how they can benefit from pre-taxed contributions into an HSA. Larry and Susan would be glad to come back and give a demonstration to employees and review other plans offered by VLCT.

Any changes in coverage must be done by mid December. 2009 rates will be available in mid November. Each employee will be given a packet supplied by Larry and Susan tonight, which shows what coverage we have now and what other insurance options are available.

Flex-spending account a health reimbursement account, is offered by VLCT out-of-house, administered by Dave Davis at Future Planning Associates, Inc, in Williston, Vt., whereby accounts are funded 100% by the employer and if the employee leaves, any remaining fund balances are returned to the town. However, any unused funds do not roll over from year to year as they do with an HSA and the money is forfeited so you need to be careful to deposit each year only what will be used. There are service charges each month for administration fees \$5.25 per month per account, one-time set up fees, and installation fee of \$375.00. Larry suggested having Dave come and talk with the Board about flex-spending if the Board is interested.

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Mowing/Snowblowing – Ben, Greg and Sean are all interested in mowing and snowblowing town properties and came in to talk with the Selectboard. The town provides all equipment needed to do the services. The rate of pay would be \$10.23 per hour and the person would be considered a seasonal employees and no eligible for benefits. All present are willing to do the work for \$10.23 per hour. All present know they are responsible for equipment maintenance.

Sean said he has been somewhat trained by Meriden Nelson in the case Meriden was away or unable to do the work, Sean could help out. Sean said he works days during the summer at HUHS and would mow after he got out of work in the afternoon and during the winter he works nights so he would be available to snowblow during the day.

Ben said he is not familiar with the town's equipment but he has mowing experience. Ben works at the Moretown General Store and said his hours there are flexible.

Greg said he is not familiar with the town's equipment but he also has mowing experience and since he is custodian at MES, he knows the schools fields and septic area. Greg said his hours at MES are also flexible.

The Board told the group they were somewhat unprepared for so many people showing interest in doing the work. Meriden has been saying for some time now that he would like to get done, but no one was interested in doing the mowing or snowblowing, now we have three interested parties. In early spring Meriden expressed that he would not be mowing this year and recommended Sean to take over for him, saying Sean would do a good job. The word spread about the town looking for someone to take over for Meriden, resulting in three interest men to do the work.

The interested parties were invited to stay for the Selectboard meeting and tabled the discussion until later in the evening so they could follow the time on their agenda. Eric Howes also expressed that he thought Sean O'Brien would do a good job and suggested the Selectboard hire him for the job.

Later in the meeting Rae moved, based on the recommendation of Meriden Nelson and Eric Howes, to hire Sean O'Brien on a one-year basis for \$10.23 per hour, to mow the town/school property and snowblow the sidewalks and other town properties as needed. Stephanie seconded.

Discussion: Stephanie wonders if the interested parties should fill out an application and submit their qualifications before making a formal decision. That would take time and Meriden has graciously been mowing until tonight. Sean has shown interest in the past to do the mowing and snowblowing and is somewhat familiar with the equipment. Sean will be asked to contact Meriden for additional training and being mowing. The town may have to purchase a weed cutter.

Vote: All were in favor.

Cheryl will call parties and let them know of the Board's decision and advise Sean to see Amy to fill out payroll information.

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Fire truck purchase – Eric said Larry Dingie left a generic contract on April 21st and wonders if the Selectboard has had a chance to look at it to see if they need the contract changed. The total quote including the chassis is \$153,000. The chassis was quoted by Cody's Chevrolet and Dingie will be building the body. Eric was going to call Cody's Chevrolet regarding the availability of a 2007 or 2008 chassis. Eric said Cody's has not been able to find a 2007 or 2008 model 5500 truck and that time is running out to order a 2009 chassis. He thinks we have until around June 1st to order the 2009 and urged the Selectboard to sign Dingie's contract. Larry Dingie was to supply the Board with an increase percentage for the body if the board decided to hold off signing the quote until after the board received word on the \$175,000 FEMA grant application which would most likely be sometime in September 2008.

Stephanie said she called FEMA about the town going forward with the purchase prior to getting word on the grant award. She was told that only in the case of an emergency (ie. our truck was wrecked/burned etc), would it be allowed to purchase the vehicle before notice of grant award. Simply a price increase would not be considered an emergency.

The Board asked if Cody's could even find a 2008 and what the price of a 2009 would be and said they would like actual numbers before they make any decision. Eric agreed and he will call Cody's for that information. He will also call Larry for the increase price if the quote is not signed soon d get the information to the Board.

Dispatching service price increase – Eric reminded the Selectboard of a June 2nd meeting at Berlin Fire Station, to talk about how to fund a significant increase Capital West Distric town's will be charged by the City of Montpelier for dispatching services. Eric said the increase comes after a review town's have been paying versus dispatching costs. The new price will be based on per capita population and the number of dispatching calls made. Someone from the Selectboard will attend the 6/2 meeting.

Firestation repairs:

Inside from water damage – Eric will get quotes from general contractors to the Selectboard to make the repairs to the inside of the firestation (sheetrock) from last year's roof leak.

Siding damage – Don had a call from David Elson of James Hardie Building Products stating they have come to inspect the faulty siding but he needs to call David back for further information on the remedy.

Firemen parking – John Girard-DiCarlo would the Selectboard to ask the firemen not to park cars on his lawn or near his fence.

Eric will remind the fire department members to park in the commuter parking lot not along 100B.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Town Garage project – Rae said the town garage committee has a design/build proposal ready to be sent out. He said the title search has been done and he tried to contact Paul Gillies today for a closing date but was unable to make contact. He will try again tomorrow.

The Board reviewed the bid proposal which will be sent to seven or so contractors and is due back June 9. Contractors interested in additional information should contact Doug Reed.

Jay Pilliod of Efficiency Vermont will be invited to attend the next town garage committee meeting on 5/28/08 at 5:30 p.m., to talk about energy efficiency for the new town garage.

Hoover will call Recycle North to see if they would like to take a look at the town garage to see if they might be interested in purchasing any of the materials when the old garage is torn down.

Personnel Policy adoption – discussion was tabled until 6/2/08.

Selectboard work plan report – Don gave an update – there is a meeting on 6/2 re: sidewalks. The town hall – do we need an architect?

Three committee members have projects:

Kitchen

Windows

Shell (energy efficiency)

Heating system

NEW BUSINESS:

Lover's Lane road repair – Stephanie reported meeting with VTrans and Agency of Natural Resources personnel about a severe crack along a portion of the road that needs to be repaired before it costs us a fortune to repair. The crack is about one-quarter mile from Route 2. This repair was not budgeted and Craig estimates the repair to cost about \$6,800. Stephanie said she would like to hold off doing the repair until July until the stone being donated by Moretown Landfill is ready which could seriously decrease the cost of the repair. Stephanie meets with Tom Badowski and Craig on Wednesday morning to talk about when the stone will be ready and what the crushing size will be etc.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATION, MAIL

Memo from the Town Clerk – requesting the Selectboard approve a \$2550 purchase for a workstation/desk/counter for the front office. The Board will wait until the next meeting of the people who use the town office meet again to talk about the work station.

Town office use sign-up log – Anyone who will be using the town office for a meeting should note the meeting in a sign-up book which is kept on the front room table.

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Memo from the Town Treasurer -

Financial Statements – Amy anticipates having a current financial statement for the board to review at their 6/2/08 meeting.

Town Garage bond – the town will need a bond-anticipation note (short-term) until we can apply through the Vermont Municipal bond bank (the annual deadline was 5/15) and take advantage of the low interest rates. She said Paul Giuliani can provide us with a legal opinion in order to qualify for the short term note. She will keep Rae update on the progress going forward.

Necessity Resolution – A second memo from Amy asks for a Board motion or resolution in which the Board determines that the public good and necessity supports the construction of a new town garage. The motion can take the form of approving the annual Town Meeting Warning.

Stephanie moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2008 Town Meeting, specifically with respect to Article 12 – Town Garage, to support the construction of a new town garage at its present site. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Preservation of Land Records Fund – the reconciled bank statement has \$9,278.99 fund balance.

2009 Enhancement grant application – was received. The grant could be used to help pay for the town hall renovations or sidewalks. Discussion tabled until 6/2/08.

Memo from Craig Eilers – re delinquent taxes – updating the Board on delinquencies and his deadline before proceeding with tax sales. Craig will keep the Board updated.

App Gap – request for approval to use Moretown public roads (Routes 2, 100 and 100B) for the 19.5 mile course Green Mountain Stage Race on August 30, 2008. The Selectboard approved the request.

Grand List extension – The Selectboard signed a letter requesting the a 60 day extension of the completion of the Grand List by Property Valuation.

Otterman and Allen/Kuczynski – requesting the town reimburse the Kuczynski's \$1,447.14 in lawyer fees spent to correct an error by the listers. Discussion was tabled until there is a full board on 6/2/08.

Worker's Compensation claim for Craig – VLCT asking for additional information on the claim.

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Grandfield property damage – during plowing of the commuter parking lot, the Grandfield’s chain link fence was damaged as well as their lawn between the parking lot and their chain link fence. The Grandfield’s would like their lawn and fence repaired as soon as possible.

Since the school hires the contractor to plow the school/commuter parking lot, Cheryl will notify John Schmeltzer of the claim.

The Grandfield’s said there is a lot of car activity in the school parking lot late at night doing “donuts” etc. waking them both because of car lights in their windows and by tires squealing. Cheryl will let Ray Munn know of the problem.

Selectboard orders were signed.

Overload permits were signed for - Warren Hill Trucking, Inc. and E.A. Grandfield, Inc.

Curb Cut – was approved for Wesley Novick.

Don moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Rae seconded. All were in favor.