

*This is a true certified copy.*

Attest:  
*Cherilyn Samson*

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF  
TOWN OF MORETOWN  
AS A TOWN AND AS A TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

**TENTATIVE**

**The inhabitants of the Town of Moretown who are legal voters in Town and Town School District meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Moretown Elementary School in Moretown Village on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 9 (nine) o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following matters:**

Steve Magill, Moderator called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced the polls open.

Steve thanked people for attending and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed away and then read a Town Meeting Invocation.

**Announcements:**

- The PTN will be serving lunch this year.
  - Last evening there was a fire and our road crew employee Rodney Huntoon lost his home. Collection jars were placed in areas of the building for those who wanted to donate.
  - This past session, the legislature amended State Statutes to establish that public discussion of ballot issues and all other issues appearing on the Town Meeting warning, other than election of candidates, *shall be permitted at the annual town meeting, regardless of the location of the polling place.* Those present at Town Meeting today, will have the opportunity to discuss articles that will be voted on today by Australian Ballot.
  - Jerry and Wilma Maynard are celebrating their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary today.
1. To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting of the Town and Town School District whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.

Steve Magill announced that nominations for moderator are open. Paula Mastroberardino moved to nominate Steve Magill for Moderator; seconded by Karen Horn.  
Ayes have it.

Permission was granted by those present to allow Anne Donahue and Maxine Grad to speak about their work in the Vermont Legislature.

5. To see if the Town will vote to offer a discount on taxes and if so, to set the date and amount thereof.

John Riley moved to offer no discount on taxes; seconded by Amy Deutl. Discussion followed about offering a discount in the past and costs to the town which end up increasing the tax rate. Ayes have it.

6. To see if the Town will vote to set the tax warrant date on real property as November 1, 2009.

Clarence Wood so moved; seconded by Johanne Gray. Ayes have it.

Julie Kitchell moved to amend the article to set the tax warrant date on real property as November 2, 2009; seconded by Jack Wood.

Moderator read the article as amended. Ayes have it. Article passed as amended.

7. Shall the voters of the Moretown Town School District appropriate \$2,135,371.00 necessary for the support of it's school, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion followed about food service costs as they relate to the school's limitations for food preparation because of the current septic system. School Director's stated that there was an \$80,000 surplus from last year was carried over to reduce this year's budget figure.

8. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote the sum of \$955,128.00 for the support of the town, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, for any operating expenses and other obligations? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion related to the budget:

Office workers pay - about the increase for the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard pay over last year and whether or not the Selectboard have the authority to change positions from part-time to full-time. It was explained that last year the voters made the choice to change the Town Clerk and Treasurer position from one full-time person doing both jobs to two people separating the positions.

Budget preparation process – It was suggested that the Selectboard use the same budget process as the Schoolboard. The Selectboard will work with the Schoolboard during this years budget preparations.

Jerry Maynard moved to end debate on article 8; seconded by Tom Allen, approved by unanimous consent.

9. Shall the voters authorize the Board of School directors of Moretown Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010?

Duane Howes so moved; seconded by Johanne Gray.

Discussion followed about if the article was turned down where would the money come from for the Schoolboard to pay the expenses. The Schoolboard will find out.

Ayes have it.

10. Shall the voters of the Moretown Town School District authorize the Board of School Directors to appropriate the School District's share of the deeryard funds, estimated to be \$45,000, to the capital improvement and facilities maintenance reserve fund? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion – Voting to approve this article will increase the town's deficit. Why was all the deeryard money put into the town's general fund when half is the school's. The town is holding the money in the general fund until town/school what to do with the money. The school's share will come out of the general fund if article 10 is approved. At this time the town has no plan to spend their share of the money.

11. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to set aside the sum of \$20,000.00 for the repair and upkeep of the bridges and culverts of the Town? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion about why there is no report in the town report on the bridge and culvert fund as there usually is. There is around \$15,000 currently earmarked for bridge and culvert repair, before asking for this \$20,000.

12. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize the Selectboard to expend and arrange long-term financing for a sum not to exceed \$190,000.00, for repairs and renovations of the Town Hall? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Promissory Note financing interest, terms and payback recording was discussed as well as the purpose for purchasing the additional property.

Clark Amadon moved to end the debate on article 14; Denise Sanders seconded. There was an objection to end the debate. Moderator said we need two-thirds of those present to request and end to the debate.

Hand count commenced with results of: 65 Ayes  
17 Nays

Debate on article #14 ended.

12:10 – Town Meeting recessed for lunch.

John Schmeltzer so moved; seconded by Rube Scharges.  
Ayes have it.

15. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to adopt revisions to Moretown's Zoning Regulations as presented to the Select Board by the Planning Commission on December 1, 2008? Revisions will amend Article V – Section 5.2 (B) and Article VII – Definitions for Dwelling? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Chairman Steve Sharp gave a general overview of the changes, calling them housekeeping changes to reflect state laws.

16. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to establish a Savings Reserve Fund, for saving money in anticipation of the eventual closing of Moretown Landfill Inc. and loss of revenue that subsidizes the Town tax rate? This Reserve Fund can be funded from time to time from landfill revenue, and allowed to accrue interest and grow. Money in this fund shall only be withdrawn with voter approval by the passage of a separate article at a duly warned regular or special meeting of the Town.

Jonathan Siegel so moved; seconded by David Deutl.

Discussion followed that the purpose of this fund is to be a savings reserve that can not be spend without a town vote and how the closure of the Moretown Landfill and loss of tipping fee revenue could impact the tax rate if we do not have savings to fall back on. Jonathan Siegel gave a scenario of how putting \$100,000 into this savings fund would cost taxpayers about \$60 in additional taxes per year for every 100,000 their property is appraised.

Ayes have it.

Moderator called for a vote. Vote was too close to count and the Moderator called for a hand count.

Hand count results:      49 Ayes  
                                 10 Nays

Ayes have it.

20. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$945.00 to help support the work of the Green Mountain Transit Agency?  
Bob McMullin so moved; Liza Cain seconded.

Lengthy general discussion followed about what services are provided to Moretown residents.

Duane Howes moved to call the question; Julie Kitchell seconded.

Ayes have it.

21. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program?

David Van Deusen so moved; seconded by Clarence Wood

Ayes have it.

22. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?

Duane Howes so moved; seconded by Bob McMullin.  
Ayes have it.

Duane Howes moved to table discussion on articles 22-32; seconded by Raymond Munn.

Discussion – the goal is to take no action on articles 22-32.  
Moderator determined that each article had to be determined.  
Duane withdrew his motion; Raymond withdrew his second.

Duane moved to pass over article 22; Raymond seconded.

Discussion that passing over an article is the same as saying no.  
Duane withdrew his motion; Raymond withdrew his second.

28. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$850.00 to help support the work of the Central Vermont Council on Aging?

Vee Lynch so moved; Heidi Magill seconded.

Ayes have it.

29. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of People's Health & Wellness Clinic?

David VanDeusen so moved; Amy Deutl seconded.

Discussion followed about the services provided.

Ayes have it.

30. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Community Land Trust?

Bob McMullin so moved; Clark Amadon seconded.

Discussion that Land Trust purchases development rights to keep land open in Vermont to be used for farming. Discussion about the long-term benefits Vermont Land Trust might have in the future because they will own so much property. Steve Robbins provided information that Central Vermont Community Land Trust provides affordable housing and is very different from the Vermont Land Trust.

Ayes have it.

31. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc?

Vee Lynch so moved; Karen Horn seconded.

Discussion followed about the services provided.

32. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?

Heidi Magill so moved; Bob McMullin seconded.

Ayes have it.

- Kaj Samsom encouraged the town to move to a June 30<sup>th</sup> year end.
- Amy Deutl said there is an article missing on the warning to approve the Selectboard to apply for a Tax Anticipation Loan. The Selectboard's Assistant will contact the town's attorney for verification that an article is no longer necessary to borrow in anticipation of taxes because it is governed by State Statute.
- Tom Gibbs offered his services as professional auctioneer for town fundraisers.
- Eric Howes thanked Don and Paula who are retiring from the Selectboard this year and thanks the townspeople for supporting the fire department.
- Rube Scharges said this was the best pre-Town Meeting and Town Meeting he has ever attended.

Raymond Munn moved to adjourn Town Meeting at 2:30 p.m.; Will Houghton seconded.

Ayes have it.

At 7:00 p.m. Jerry Maynard announced the polls closed.

This is the first Town Meeting that the tabulating machine was used. Election results commenced.

**Dated at Moretown, Vermont this 5th day of March, 2009**

  
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**Steve Magill, Moderator**

  
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**Cheryl Lamson, Town Clerk/Presiding Officer**

  
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**Cheryl Brown, Secretary**