TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

DATE: **December 27, 1999**

PRESENT: Brian Greenia, Chair; Steven Leach; Donald Anderson; Lee Sturtevant; Phil Locke
ABSENT:
DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Bill Moulton, Richard Keith, Ken Sweetser, George Robson, George Vaupel
GUESTS: Dennis Degregorio

The Regular Meeting of the Morristown Selectboard was opened by Brian Greenia at 6:00PM.

AA REPORT: The rocks placed in the Town Right-Of-Way on the Spaldings's property were discussed. Bill Moulton agreed to check on them tomorrow and the Selectboard asked him to remove them if they are still in the R.O.W., as the deadline was only extended through December 15, 1999. The Fire Warden position was reviewed, and the Selectboard decided to set a time for review of this item again at the first Meeting in February. Lee mentioned that as the ground is now frozen, the fire burn permitting is not an issue.
MINUTES: A motion by Lee was made to accept the previous minutes (12/13/99), with noted changes made: Steve Leach opened the last Selectboard Meeting; the contribution received from the Union Bank, on behalf of the Fire Department, was partial payment towards infra-red equipment; and Richard Keith also made the correction which states that the C.O.P.S. program officer is now Garth Christensen, not Mike Reeves. Seconded by Don. Approved.
HIGHWAY:
POLICE:
Richard stated that there were 180 calls during the last two weeks, with no transports. Although there have not been as many calls, the nature of the calls have been more serious. An officer was assaulted on December 24th, and the appropriate documentation and insurance papers are being handled by Carol Bradley.
The "Toys for Tots" event on Christmas Eve went well, with Richard facilitating good response.
A request was submitted to the Selectboard for an amount, not to exceed $600, in order to purchase bulletproof vest for Cindy Storey. The cost of the vest could be reduced by 50% through a grant - VESTS program. Lee proposed a motion to accept this request, with weekly payroll deductions to be arranged for reimbursment of the cost from Cindy. Steve seconded the motion. Passed.
The Public Safety Building generator was discussed. Richard proposed that a long range plan might be to replace the old generator with a more substantial one, which would be self-sufficient, rather than work on the existing one to increase its' capacity. Lee supported this plan. Richard will look into grants which may be available to finance a new generator. Daniel Digregorio offered his advice, and estimated that $900 would be a conservative estimation of costs to enhance the old generator. He also agreed that a new generator would be a better solution. Arrangements have been made by Lee to use the Copley Hospital for emergency management facilities, if a back-up source of power is needed, during the Y2K transition. The Selectboard supported the long-range plan of obtaining a new generator.
Don made motion to adopt and revise the Town Parking Ordinance. This amendment would allow for inclusion of Part II, Section B, Line 2; which would provide for 10 minute, 2 hour, and any other parking time-limitations to be set and posted by the Selectboard. This was seconded by Phil. Passed.
The Selectboard advised that this change be posted in the newspaper.
RESCUE:
The status of the Rescue Squad was considered. Lee was very supportive of their efforts to make the qualifications for drivers easier. This would mean that drivers need only CPR certification and driver training. The Selectboard agreed to support the Rescue Squad, and that efforts continue to be made for improvement.
HEALTH:
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:
Mr. Alter's dogs were brought up. The copy of the most recent letters sent by Mr. Alter's neighbors were considered. It was decided to wait until further review with Brian Kellogg could take place, and the status of the tickets issued has come to full term.
FIRE:
Progress continues to be made regarding paintwork for the tanker truck.
ZONING:
Ken Sweetser gave a general report, and stated that he is still dealing the Miller's chicken farm case.

He has been issued a subpoena to attend the court proceeding.
It was mentioned that the new Post Office is in violation for lack of signage and parking violations. George Robson mentioned that although this is so, the enforcement should be addressed as a Municipal matter.
The progress of the breakout groups formed during the "Morristown – Our Town" forum were discussed. George was encouraging and mentioned that he would continue to help as the groups formulate and to review any resulting grants applied for on the Town's behalf, as well as ensure that the Town Plan be adhered to. Brian spoke to the Selectboard about the recent recreation group meeting that he attended. He feels with that the Planning Commission's involvement and sanction, this may help to make the groups more successful than previous efforts have been.
Zoning application and permitting was reviewed. Ken stated that he has been involved with a 13 member committee at the State level to address this. Most of the members of the committee would like to see the permitting system become simplified (as it was before the Bianci ruling). Ken said that he would continue to keep the Selectboard updated. This year, to date, there have been 41 Warning letters sent, and 198 Zoning Permits have been issued. Ken maintains that enforcement is utilized when deemed appropriate. The Planning Commission's stance supports this. Don mentioned his concerns regarding the length of enforcement time before resolution.
A discussion took place concerning the Zoning Office hours between Brian, Don, George and Ken. It was decided that an update on Zoning/Planning should take place quarterly, with Gary Nolan present.
The Act 250 Permit for the proposed two storage units on Professional Drive, owned by Oneal Demars was reviewed. It was decided that a letter be drafted, with copies made, to be addressed to the DRB; concerning run-off and water drainage concerns. (Bill stated that he would continue to monitor the area).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

George Vaupel spoke for the Rescue Squad, and went over next year's budget with the Selectboard. Lee stated that last year wages for the Rescue Squad were received from surplus funds. Lee suggested that the same amount of $8,500 be put in place as the figure for the upcoming budget again, instead of $11,600. (George asked if this figure would be exclusive of the amount received from surplus funds, and Lee reassured him that the wage amount could be supplemented again, with Brian also confirming that there is no reason to believe that a surplus will not be available for draw, since this has been the case for the past three years.) The Office Supply category was lessened from $1,100 to $600. Radios/Communication: Operating Supplies were reduced from $600 to $500. Radios/Communication: New Equipment was brought down to $2,800, from $5,000. Under the Maintain Building: Building Improvements heading, the amount was kept the same as last time (reduced from $10,000 to $1,500). Maintain Building: New Equipment was also reduced from $1,450 to $1,000.
Bill agreed to handle the Rescue Squad location's wash bay drainage and sand build up through the Highway budget.
Lee will be checking into the possibility of simulcasting radio frequency broadcasts in order to give the Rescue Squad the option to respond to calls before the Lamoille Ambulance Service. George stated that this had been worked out before with Lamoille Ambulance, and suggested that an Executive Rescue Squad Session could be held to make necessary arrangements.
Lee thanked Bill for checking on the generator. He noted that the amount of heat and lighting provided by the generator was minimal (just enough to keep pipes from freezing).
The Town Administration budget was reviewed, and it was generally accepted that the amendment to add an increase of $67,350 be accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phil informed the Selectboard of his intentions to not run again for a position on the Selectboard at the end of this term.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Village Streetlight budget was discussed. Don stated that Sharon Green, Sonny Demars and Scott Corse are working on the research for property transferal in lieu of the Streetlight maintenance. It was decided that the Country Club and Golf Course be added, for practicality of Municipality consolidation and proprietorship. The possibility of a Charter change was discussed, and Steve made mention of his intent to uphold the original wishes, as outlined in Mr. Alexander Copley's criteria for funds; held in Trust.
Lee gave an overall update on the Town back-up generators. He reiterated his appreciation to Bill for overseeing this project. Lee has also contacted Copley Hospital and made allowances for the Town to use their facilities, if necessary.
The usage of the Oxbow Field, and other Town Properties was discussed. It was decided that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns be contacted, in regards to insurance coverage for non-municipal use of governmental properties. Steve mentioned as an aside that any structures erected be covered by independent proof of insurance. Brian mentioned that the original intent of the Oxbow purchase was for low-impact recreation, and agreed that any other usage should constitute a need for private maintenance

and insurance. It was decided that input from the Department heads concerning this be sought. The Post Office parking situation was addressed. It was decided that a letter be sent to John Sullivan, in response to complaints from local citizens. Copies will be forwarded to Gary Merchant, Louis Ferris, Richard Keith, Bill Moulton, the Village Trustees, and the DRB.

Don proposed a motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM. Seconded by Lee. Passed.

PAYROLL/BILLS:
Warrant #99-50, for Invoices dated 12/27/99 through 12/28/99, in the amount of $39,281.92 was proposed for approval by Lee, seconded by Steve. Passed.
Warrant #99-49 for payroll related invoices dated 12/22/99, in the amount of $5,206.22; and Payroll Warrant for pay period ending 12/18/99, in the amount of $25,751.59, were proposed for a motion to pay by Lee, seconded by Steve. Passed.

Lauria van den Noort, Scribe
Brian Greenia, Chair
Minutes filed 12/29/99

Minutes not approved