TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

DATE: **December 13, 1999**

At 6:08 PM an Executive Session was opened by Steve Locke.
At 6:18 PM motion was made by Brian to exit Executive Session, seconded by Lee. Passed.

PRESENT: Brian Greenia, Chair, Steven Leach, Donald Anderson, Lee Sturtevant, Phil Locke
ABSENT:
DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Bill Moulton, Richard Keith, Brian Kellogg, David Godfrey, Mary Ann Wilson
GUESTS: Scott Corse, Cathy Killian

The Regular Meeting of the Morristown Selectboard was opened by Steven Leach at 6:18 PM.

AA REPORT:
MINUTES: A motion by Don was made to accept the previous minutes (11/29/99). Seconded by Lee. Approved.
HIGHWAY: Bill updated the Selectboard on the progress of the B-Street Bridge project. The bridge has been removed, and barricades will be put in place shortly. The walking path by the Oxbow is finished for this season. Brian suggested that he would look into the idea of putting up a sign at the beginning of the path, with a small portion of the $2,500 pathway grant money, and that the Town would like to re-apply for another grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont in March. Bill also informed the Selectboard of a minor accident which took place on Saturday, 12/11/99. An oncoming vehicle, during the snowstorm damaged the rear quarterpanel and bumper of a Highway truck. Phil Cote was injured during the week by a small tree falling on him, hitting him in the head. He was wearing a protective helmet at the time. Bill also mentioned that the generator batteries have arrived.
POLICE: Richard stated that there had been 125 calls, and 3 transports to detox during the past week. He stated that although these figures are relatively low, there have been several large investigative efforts going on, and the Department was kept very busy. A $13,000 State grant was received for the Town by Bill Morley, who attended the awards ceremony. Resource Officer training will take place next week, with Ryan Bjerke scheduled to be in attendance. Radio equipment was discussed. Lee made motion to approve a request, not to exceed $1,430, to be taken out of the new equipment fund, for the purchase of two new Kenwood radios. Seconded by Don. Passed.
Garth Christensen was approved for the position of full time patrol officer, at a rate of $11.05 per hour. The motion was made by Lee, Seconded by Brian. (Garth has already received Emergency Medical Training.) The details of continuing the 'C.O.P.S.' grant program funding with other Morristown PD personnel were discussed. It was decided that Mike Reeves would become the officer to fill the 'C.O.P.S.' program, at a rate of $11.05 per hour.
RESCUE:
HEALTH: David reported that the septic issue concerning Roger Demars has been resolved. The letter has been sent informing Dewey Mandigo of non-occupancy conditions. A trash burning issue on the Needle-eye Road was discussed. David also brought up other other trash accumulation concerns, as well as the difficulties of enforcement.
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Mary Ann confirmed, to the Selectboard, that Mr. Alter had not exceeded the time-limit for paying the fines issued to him. Brian let the Selectboard know of the progress he has made so far. His difficulty in recording the exact times on the tickets issued was mentioned as a concern. Mr. Alter also disputed the duration of time for which the dogs had barked, although Brian ascertained from Mr. Alter that he was not at home during some of the times the tickets pertain to. Up until now, about $500 in fines have been issued. It was agreed that Brian would continue to issue tickets in response to continued complaints from Mr. Alter's neighbors about the dogs' barking.
FIRE: Wally informed the Board that the Union Bank will me making a presentation of an infra-red device to the Fire Department, valued at $3,000, in honor of Wayne Comley. The presentation will take place on 12/14/99.
He also stated that the tanker truck is back from Leo's Welding. The installation of lights for the tanker will be handled by Wally and Don.
Scheduling details for future scheduled practice burnings were discussed.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mary Ann gave the Selectboard a general report of the status of tax collections. She also requested that a representative for the Board attend the committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 PM, at the Municipal Conference Room, (as follow-up from the 'Morristown - Our Town' forum); concerning the downtown area. Lee agreed to attend. (Brian mentioned that he would attend the LCPC Board Meeting on that night).

Five hours of compensatory time for Bill Moulton was approved; motion was made by Lee, seconded by Brian. Passed.
Carol also informed the Selectboard that Health Insurance rate would increase 19% for singles and 11% for families for the next year. Workers Compensation and Property Insurance rates are still pending.
Carol Bradley informed the Selectboard that the State loan at a 2% finance rate for the Fire truck had been granted, even though it was submitted after the cut-off date. The Board agreed to further their motion, made on 12/1/99, to obtain and use this funding to cover the cost of the new '99 Freightliner. Steve proposed that the Selectboard move to approve the Promissory Note and Agreement, for the amount of $59,377. Seconded by Lee. Approved.
Brian brought up the topic of adding a Town Administrator position to next year's budget. A discussion took place between the Selectboard, Mary Ann and Carol, concerning the possible placement of this item in the Annual Town Report, and listing it as a separate Article, or as a Warning, as well as varying rate structures.
$65,000 would be added on, and the category changed to 'Administration', if a Town Administrator position were added.
The Administrative Assistant would have an adjustment of a 3% wage increase, reduced from the 5% originally proposed. The figure budgeted for the Administrative Assistant's wages was also changed by a reduction of five hours; down from 35 to 30 hours per week.

NEW BUSINESS: In response to complaints; a motion was brought forward by Steve (seconded by Brian) to ensure that all parking restrictions at the new Post Office be clearly posted, with additional signs. Passed. Parking restriction enforcement was also discussed.
Two Fireworks Permits for New Year's Eve were approved, one for Edward Wilson, and the other for Joe Alfieri. Brian made the motion to approve; Lee seconded. It was agreed that all Department Heads would need to be informed of the Permit, in advance of the event.
Carol submitted a request, asking that $4,510 be transferred from the General Fund to cover the costs of the second half of the Medical Deductible Account. Don proposed a motion to approve her request. Seconded by Lee. Passed.
Brian proposed a motion that the Municipal Parking Lot lines be revisited, and adjustments filed by Quick-Claim Deed. Steve Leach will work with surveyor, Allen Newton, to upgrade the old elevation map drawn up by Justice Wheeler, and establish southern and eastern boundary lines of the parking lot. Seconded by Don. Approved. (Steve abstained).

OLD BUSINESS: The upcoming annual Town budget was reviewed. Brian proposed a 3% increase of the current rate for all Municipal employees, to be determinate by the Department Heads, effective as of July 1st, 2000, and exclusive of all contracts. Lee seconded this. Approved.
The annual budgeting process was continued, starting with the Highway Department. Discussion took place concerning paving the Golf Course Road (est. $40,000) and adding a new pick-up truck (est. $19,000). It was decided that both of these items be removed from the budget for now, and that the funding for these items be dependent on the availability of retained end year revenues. The Rooney Bridge project was also briefly discussed for end of year earmarking.
The Police budget was reviewed. After discussion of vehicle options, it was decided that the bottom line figure in place would be kept.
The Fire Department budget was then discussed. The continuing requirements and funding demands placed upon Municipalities was brought up by Wally. Professional services for processing new regulations and VOSHA criteria which entails covering costs of any requests for physicals and the repercussions of possible fines for non-compliance were brought up by Wally. The proposed Fire Department figures were left unchanged.
The ambulance budget was tabled for now, as it was decided that Lee and the other Selectboard members would like a chance to review the figures in greater detail.
The Delinquent Tax Collection figures were reviewed. The $5,000 now established was left for the time being. (Brian suggested leaving it intact in order to obtain a more visible tracking record). A motion was brought forth by Brain, seconded by Don, stating that Cathy Killian's salary be adjusted by an additional $2.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2000. This motion, as presented, was made to correct inequities of payscale, and increased workload, and to acknowledge Cathy's years of service. The appropriate adjustments for the Assistant Treasurer salary adjustments would be made, reflective of 3% wage increases.
As there is the consideration of moving the location of the Town Municipal offices, Brian proposed a motion that the general maintenance of the Municipal Building, (for the amount of $10,000), be reduced

to $5,000. Seconded by Lee. Approved. It was noted that this allotted amount was only designated for the interior two floors of the building.
It was decided that the appropriation amount for Green-Up Vermont would stay the same as last year's.
The Zoning budget was tabled until further discussion could take place with the DRB, the Zoning Administrator and the Planning Commission.
The Lister's budget was left in place for now. The Selectboard decided that Lynn might be brought up to 40 hours.
The bookkeeping budget would also be adjusted to reflect the 3% pay increase. It was decided that the audit figures be kept, but reduced by $500; to be changed form from $8,500 to $8,000.
The Animal Control Officer position's payscale was reviewed. Brian stated that at this time, no compensation is being made for calls; only for dogs picked up. It was at a rate of $10 per complaint received, and $20 per dog. He proposed that a $900 retainer fee be put aside, per year. The Selectboard agreed to this change, in addition to the $20 fee per dog.
Emergency Management received two increases of $450 plus $292; for batteries.
The Health Department budget remains the same as last year's.
The Library's projected budget is currently at $62,150.
The 2000 – 2001 year figures for the Lamoille Court House will be compared to last year's.
Adding the Town maintenance of Village Streetlights to the budget, at a cost of $22,000, would be contingent upon the transferal of Properties owned by the Village to the Town, and with a provision for a Quick Claim Deed to be filed in order for land located underneath the gym at the school to be transferred to the School District. It was decided that the drafted letter be finalized, outlining those Properties, and be given to the Village Trustees.
The new Public Safety Building Lease was reviewed, and motion was made by Don to approve the signing of the Lease. Lee seconded the motion. Approved.
The Forest Fire Permit reimbursement forms submitted by the Town Fire Warden were also approved; this motion was made by Don, seconded by Lee.
Don advised the rest of the Selectboard that the Raymo Property transferal to the State has been finalized.

PAYROLL/BILLS: Warrant #99-47, in the amount of $45,136.96, (for A/P from 12/13 – 12/14/99) was approved; by motion made to approve by Don, seconded by Lee.
Warrant #99-48, in the amount of $2,831.91, for payroll related invoices (12/8/99) were put forth for approval by Don, seconded by Lee; approved.
Payroll Warrant for the pay period ending 12/4/99, in the amount of $28,271.50, was put forth for approval by Don, seconded by Lee; approved.
Warrant # ML-5 (manual checks for November 1999) was approved by a motion made by Don, and seconded by Lee.

Don made motion to adjourn at 9:11 PM, seconded by Brian. Passed.

Lauria van den Noort, Scribe
Brian Greenia, Chair
Minutes filed 12/15/99

Minutes not approved