State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 2002

Members Present:	Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Lee Sturtevant
Department Heads:	Paul D. McGinley, TA; Chief Richard Keith; Carol Bradley and Mary Ann Wilson
Guests:	Heidi Krantz, Jack Calhoun, Wayne Fawbush, Sam Guy, Linda Osgood, Scott Corse, Village Trustees Sonny Demars, Richard Sargent, Andy Jensvold, Richard Tomlinson and Peter Bourne

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light Facility and turned the meeting over to Jack Calhoun of Antioch New England Institute.

Morristown was one of three communities in Northern Vermont chosen to be part of a program to assist communities to enhance employment quality and prospects for the residents who live here. There are three organizations involved with the project. They are the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund Inc. (VSJF), which receives funding from the Wendling Foundation, Antioch New England Institute (ANEI) and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA). Mr. Calhoun gave a brief follow up of the October 5th meeting. Copies of the Conclusions and Recommendations report along with two maps were provided to members of the Trustees and Selectboard. Members who attended the October meeting had previously received a packet of information that summarized the events of the October meeting.

Issues discussed included *Funding and Cost Issues*, including permitting and allocating costs for the Engineering process for new locations as well as developing appropriate costs allocations and hook up fees.

Governance Structure of Town and Village, many towns and villages have inter-municipal sewer issues. With concerns of who would be expected to fund the costs of possible expansion of the Morrisville Wastewater Treatment Facility (MWWTF) and where available funding can be found, Mr. Calhoun recommended a committee be identified to research the matter further. Possibly the Steering Committee can work this into their plans. Mr. Fawbush stated there were funds available for such research.

There are *New State Septic Regulations* that allow more waste in smaller areas. The issue regarding Snow Guards' request for tax stabilization due to the additional costs they would incur to hook into the sewer line built by the H. A. Manosh Corp. and their ultimate choice to purchase a second lot in the Industrial Park to have onsite septic was discussed. The Selectboard asked who indeed did own that sewer line. Trustee Sargent stated that if a line is in the right of way it was owned by the Town and if on private property it was not. Trustee Demars stated that anyone that has ever asked to hook on to the municipal sewer has never been denied, and in the instance of Snow Guards they didn't formally ask MWWTF for permission, but asked other parties instead. The group attempted to plot the impact and feasibility of each issue on a grid whether it was high, moderate or low for both impact and feasibility. A separate more detailed set of minutes will be attached to the Selectboard minutes on this issue and will give the impact and feasibility results for each issue that were plotted.

The *Cadys Falls Aquifer Protection* area was discussed as whether expanded sewer lines would hurt the area or would it actually protect it instead. Stormwater in that area has been a major concern according to Sam Guy of the Morristown Planning Commission. He has had discussions with Don Ostler, a member of the Cadys Falls Aquifer Board on the subject. It was further discussed that use of the land that is owned by several neighbors, was determined by the Cadys Falls Aquifer Co-op.

Concerns with Sprawl in various areas of town were identified as numbers 1-6 on the map provided from the October 5th meeting. There were varying opinions as to what were the growth zones in town. One question asked was would sewer expansion be compatible with the Town Plan that Morristown Planning Commission (MPC) is currently in the process of rewriting. Sam guy said the MPC is meeting next week to continue their work on the Town Plan and they have been looking at growth in areas one and four. He stated that MPC members felt they should stay away from the Cadys Falls Aquifer area, and said he is wary of it. Scott Corse interjected that the MWWTF plant could handle flow from area five at this time, but the pump station would need expanding.

Plant Hydraulic and B.O.D. Capacity, (B.O.D. is short for Biological Oxygen Demand) is largely impacted by the kind of flow received from businesses processing food i.e. a dairy or cheese plant or breweries. B.O.D.'s are also affected by household waste. B.O.D. Capacity from food processing future use is an unknown and cannot be determined at this time.

Stormwater is another issue regarding capacity, as it is unknown where it all comes from. For example roof drains, sump pumps etc. More information is needed before plotting for future B.O.D. analysis can be done.

Funding and costs issues both inside and out of the village should be looked at as well as developing a cost allocation process and the statutes of limitation for building an aquifer and boundaries of the Cadys Falls Aquifer were further discussed as was infiltration. Chair Greenia asked if MPC was working on limiting or discouraging sprawl to the south of town. It was stated that past analysis have been done on technical viewpoint and did not include zoning criteria. Again, Mr. Calhoun felt it extremely important to identify a group of people to research these issues, as without answers it will be hard to make informed decisions as to what the next steps should be.

Trustee Sargent asked where were people looking for sewer lines to go, to define the issues and for what reasons. How many gallons were being considered? Mr. Sargent received a call and left at this time. Rates and costs to hook on to the municipal sewer lines for both the village and outside the village were discussed. The issue of whether existing businesses or residences would be required to hook on if a sewer line were available or when their existing system failed. Mr. Demars gave for an example that it would be of no advantage for Demars Hardware & Rental to hook on to the Village sewer, as they have a perfectly good septic system and being that their system is so close to the building, would have no other use for the existing septic site. He suggested that he and Mr. Corse do a sample survey or needs assessment of one part of town, for example the Industrial Park. The Administrator felt that researching only one area was not a good idea. Member Struhsacker stated he was in no way in favor of imposing a burden on someone for a sewer system that already works, whether a public line or their own private deal. Other issues discussed included the difference in rates charged to Village residents versus Town residents, and how Stowe regulates their fees in the village or elsewhere.

At this time, Trustee Bourne reminded everyone that each board had another meeting to attend and asked what they needed to do to address these issues. It was determined that Mr. Calhoun and Heidi Krantz would summarize what was discussed and bring back to the group before the end of the year. Mr. Fawbush said it was impressive that everyone was sitting here to discuss something that is not necessarily a crisis, but obviously something that they are willing to look at collectively as a group. The Trustees, Scott Corse, Linda Osgood, Sam Guy, Jack Calhoun and Wayne Fawbush left the meeting at this time. The Selectboard asked everyone to take their chairs and resume the Selectboard meeting in the common room.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR:

Heidi Krantz presented an outline depicting her *possible* responsibilities through June 2004 and funding sources. Discussion included "Downtown Designation" and possible responsibilities after it has been reached, how her position is currently funded and where the money comes from, as well as possible grant money that can be applied for to help defray the cost of the position.

Heidi informed the Selectboard that revenues from ad sales that still need to be included in the budget would offset the Newsletter expense of $4,800.

Heidi gave a brief update on the VCDP Planning Grant and the four buildings being considered for possible renovations. They are the two buildings River Arts are working with, Roland Jost's building and possibly Arthur's. Heidi stated that River Arts and the Josts were enthusiastic about the project, but Arthur and Theresa Breault are not yet comfortable with the idea.

TRAILS & COMMISSIONS

The Town Administrator reviewed the proposed budget for the other various groups such as MCC, Trails and the cemeteries. He noted that PVC request for town appropriation was down $1,000 from $13,000 to $12,000 this year. The condition of the lawn tractors were discussed, being the John Deere was dead and the cub Cadet is in need of $500 - $600 worth of repairs. It was also explained that the cemetery has changed from a calendar to a fiscal year for accounting, therefore this budget is for (18) months. REC is the same as always.

Lee questioned the change from $450 up to $1,000 for the Emergency Management account. The Town Administrator stated that as we do not yet have a designated Emergency Management Director, we might need to have funds to pay for one.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard accepted both the November 25, 2002 and December 2, 2002 sets of minutes as presented.

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY BOARD:

The EAB presented the Selectboard with information showing the up and down pattern of health care costs and how it has fluctuated over the past six years. Figures were also broken out into three categories: Union employees, non-union employees and employees who do not take the health care insurance as well as one person, two person and family plans, so the Selectboard could see actual dollar figures.

Other discussion included investment income and how it affects health insurance costs, requesting insurance usage information from VLCT and a rundown for our community as well as other insurance options or choices. It was determined that the Selectboard, EAB and VLCT should meet to discuss long-range options for future budgets. Carol Bradley left at this time.

SNOW PLOWING ISSUE REVISITED:

Lee Sturtevant stated he had received a second complaint from Paul Griswold regarding the plowing of Gallup Rd and the speed at which it is being done. Mr. Griswold felt the road was plowed (8) hours later than other roads. The Town Administrator will check with the Highway Superintendent. Richard Keith left at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

HEALTH OFFICER:

It was questioned if the Zoning Administrator (ZA) could also be the Health Officer. The Administrator will check with the ZA to see if he is interested.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard authorized the warrants as listed on the memorandum dated 12/09/02. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Paul informed the Selectboard that John Sullivan had provided an estimate of $70 per window to cover all twelve windows at the Railroad House building to keep the pigeons out. The building is in rather good shape, but has neither heat nor electric, but there is electric at the pole. The Board felt that as the pigeons have been there for three years, they did not want to go to the expense to cover the windows at this time, but would look into other avenues of getting rid of them.

Ed Turbitt, VT State Buildings Division and the Town Administrator have come to an agreement on the rental contract for space in the MPD facility. The agreed upon rental rate will be at $784 per month or $9,408 per year for the next three year with a 3% increase each year for the 960 square feet that includes common shared space. Mr. Turbitt will have the contract drawn up effective the first of the New Year.

Information was given to the Selectboard on the Maple Street project that included past letters and correspondence for their review. Chair Greenia stated he had talked with Mr. Corse and $33,000 has been spent thus far on engineering. He was also asked if the Town wishes not to do anything with Maple Street at this time, does the Village have the Town's blessing to do their upgrades? What percentage of the project costs or any were they looking for? Can the pipe size for stormwater be reduced down and has any funding aid been applied for? These are questions that have been asked but not answered by MW&L.

Vermont Coalition of Municipalities issues were discussed briefly. Copies of information sent to the Town of Morristown have been given to both the Selectboard Chair and Lister Lynn Miller. The Administrator stated that Lynn, Tom Vickery and Stearns Allen had met to discuss their concerns of recent high sales of local property. The Coalition was asking for Morristown to join with them to challenge the methodology the State of Vermont uses in determining the equalized education property tax grand list. Questions that were asked were: will it benefit Morristown and do we want to join? The Selectboard would like more information before their meeting Thursday. The Administrator will check with Lynn.

The Administrator explained changes in the budget pertaining to the Portland Street project, as most of this work will be completed in this fiscal year. The Community Development Coordinator position was further discussed as well as payment options regarding the Fire Truck purchase. The permit fund revenues reserve fund will be discussed at Thursday's meeting. The salt shed is already half empty, as it has been an unusually cold, snowy fall.

GENERAL OPEN DISCUSSION

At the Sheriff's Advisory meeting the $145,000 satellite dish purchased years ago and still not being used was a topic of discussion. Space is being rented for storing the dish at Allie Ring's in Hyde Park and it was mentioned that it would be at least three more years before it would be used, which at that time it may be obsolete.

The issues discussed at the joint meeting earlier this evening were not a priority at this time. It needs to be looked into how other towns handle this type of situation. The Manosh sewer line was discussed further as well as the sidewalk from Harrel Street to McMahon's. The Town Administrator will talk to Mr. Manosh as well as check on regulations on fees charged for hookups when Federal money is involved for expansion.

ADJOURN

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 11th day of December, 2002
Barbara Cochran, Scribe

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Minutes approved Date