State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MINUTES DECEMBER 8, 2003

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Brian Kellogg

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Chief Richard Keith; Chief Wally Reeve; Mary Ann Wilson, TC; Dot Cook, MRS

Guests: Library Representatives, Sue Sargent, John Meyer, Barb Adams, Molly Pease, Steve Bousquet and Phil Kiely Sr.; Amy Noyes, News & Citizen; Kevin Lane and Steve Rae, MCC; George Cook, MRS; Judith & Steve Harris of Harris & Harris

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light Facility.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard approved the minutes of December 1, 2003 and December 8, 2003 unanimously.

JERSEY HEIGHTS:

The Town Administrator reported that per a phone conversation with Gary Nolan, H. A. Manosh is willing to put up the $62,000 for 1 ½" of pavement at their cost in an escrow account. However, Gary feels there are two areas from Route 100 to the two dead-end streets, the dead-end streets and parts of Foss Street that don't need to be bomagged. The Administrator suggested having the paving people advise whether or not it is necessary and then if it is needed the total cost will be determined at the end of the project and the $62,000 might not be the final cost. The Selectboard inquired if Manosh would be willing to sign an addendum stating that the Town would bill them for any additional cost over the $62,000. The Board asked the Town Administrator to contact Mr. Nolan.

POST OFFICE:

In reference to a letter from Postmaster Gary Merchant regarding pot holes in the alley, the Board advised the Town Administrator to send a letter advising that this was their landlord's responsibility.

OXBOW EASEMENT FROM MORRISVILLE LUMBER:

The Selectboard requested the Administrative Assistant contact Mr. Loati regarding signing of the easement agreement, as he has not contacted the Administration Office as of yet.

GUESTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Members of MCC were present to discuss their recommended actions from their November 21, 2003 letter to the Board regarding the Town Forum #2 Summary. Item #2, where they were looking for support in taking steps to protect key open spaces, along with other conservation efforts, in the form of support from the Town voters for pledging expenditures of funds for this purpose, was the main topic for discussion.

Chair Greenia inquired whether the recommendations should go before the MPC for their input before being included as an article on the warning for Town Meeting. Discussion included whether such an item should be done by paper ballot or done from the floor. The Town Administrator stated that most issues such as this were handled from the floor. Chair Greenia stated that he had reservations about putting their recommendation on the warning, but after further discussion the Board requested MCC present a draft article for their approval with wording to include, "not to exceed a dollar amount". Steve Bousquet arrived at this time.

As to recommendation #3, the Board was informed that Mike Stafford was working on a grant pertaining to this topic. As far as MCC recommendation #1, the Board felt it wise to postpone until after the Phase 2 permit process is complete for the Duhamel Pit.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board approved the Warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated 12/08/03. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL:

We received an email from David Pelletier, Sr. Transportation Planner for LCPC pertaining to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and the rail-banking process for the Lamoille

Valley Rail Corridor. Mr. Pelletier sent a draft letter of support, which can be personalized and urged the Town to complete and submit as soon as possible. The Board was in favor of sending a letter of support and requested the Town Administrator revise the provided sample letter and mail out.

George & Dot Cook and Molly Pease arrived at this time.

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the following items: Downtown Designation, which we received two weeks ago; current information on the STP WALK (4) S Brooklyn Street sidewalk project and he informed the Board that Jim Ryan of the State of Vermont will be coming to the January 5, 2004 Board meeting to discuss waterway issues in Town.

Chair Greenia informed every one of the aquifer regulations and the appeal of the Village on the Gregory sub-division. The members of the joint sewer committee asked that the Planning people be questioned if the regulations are adequate in patching the water supplies. The Town Administrator has sent a letter to the Planning Board. Mary Ann Wilson arrived at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET REVIEW:

The Police, Rescue and Fire Departments preliminary budgets were reviewed. Barb Adams arrived at this time. As before, the TA had his own column with his recommendations as well as the Department Head's request.

The Police Chief had no issues with the TA's recommendations as he was expecting some seizure money that would help alleviate any shortfall.

MRS questioned the amount of revenue to expect, as billing for Ambulance calls was not up to date. Another issue the MRS Representatives were concerned with was Building Improvements. If the expansion plans for MRS is in the near future, they did not want to expend unnecessary funds now for something that would be changed relatively soon, but if not they felt there were items that required attention soon. The Town Administrator stated that he had put information in the MRS mailbox today and requested they review the info and get back to him.

MFD Chief Reeve discussed the Aerial ladder that did not pass inspection and was grounded. Steve & Judith Harris arrived at this time.

Items discussed in the MFD budget review included pagers at $350 each for a total of $4,900, which Chief Reeve stated could not be purchased with Homeland Security funds. Also discussed was the necessity of repainting of the tank on the pumper truck at a cost of $3,500 in vehicle maintenance.

GUESTS

HARRIS & HARRIS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING FACILITY:

Judith Harris presented drawings with an overlay to show what the proposed combined Library and Town Hall facility would look like in comparison to the layout of the street along with a Preliminary Façade Visualization. She outlined the combined project benefits, the project characteristics and the potential offsetting costs from the sale of the existing Town Offices and joint grant opportunities and fund-raising efforts with the Library.

Discussion included financing of the project, sale of the existing facility, and whether the Union Bank is interested in purchasing it or looking for other possible prospective buyers. The Library building is owned by the Town and by designing a joint complex costs as well as building amenities can be shared. For example sharing one community or meeting room, such as the Copley Room would be a savings. Chair Greenia inquired of the Library Representatives if the conditions of the Copley Will were met with the proposed project. Barb Adams stated yes they were.

Possible funding from grants included Rural Development funds, Preservation Trust funds, and with our recent Downtown Designation there could be help there. If the facility was outfitted to house an Emergency Operations Center, possibly Homeland Security funding may be available.

The Selectboard were all in favor with moving forward with the project. It was decided a next step would be to hire an appraiser to look at all properties involved. It was also determined that now might be a good time to look at a master plan for the Copley Avenue intersection as a part of this project.

Judith Harris stated that this project makes sense. She has worked on various other projects, but none that have seemed to fit like joining these two facilities.

Harris and Harris will present a complete project budget at the December 22, 2003 Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

NCAL FEES:

From a previous question at a prior meeting, Brian Kellogg stated that NCAL does indeed charge $10 per dog for a turnover fee.

NEW BUSINESS

ADELPHIA CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC GOOD:

Shaun Bryer gave a brief update on the happenings of Public Access television. He is now chairman of the newly formed Access Board between Morrisville, Hyde Park and Johnson with Deanna White serving as a member at large.

Discussion included the fact that Adelphia provides one live feed to a site in each town. It was suggested that it could be included as part of the new Copley Community Room. The question was raised if the Town signed off when the Access Group received the $84,000. The AA will let Member Bryer borrow the Public Access folder for his review of the matter.

HIGHWAY COMPLAINT:

Member Bryer stated that he had received a complaint from a resident on the Magoon Loop about one of the Highway Department crew. The TA will look into the matter.

ADJOURN

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard adjourned their meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 11th day of December 2003.
Barbara Cochran, Administrative Assistant

Minutes are to be presented for approval at the next regular meeting.

______________________________ ______________
Minutes approved Date