State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2008

Members Present: Shaun Bryer, Brian Kellogg, Todd Yando, and Dave Yacovone.

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, TA; Mary Ann Wilson, Town Clerk.

Guests: Kevin Lane, Steven Gravel, Cathy Voyer, Marge Taylor, Tammy Taylor, France Paquette, Jeffery Wood, Allison Maxfield.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room by Shaun Bryer.

I. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. None

II. INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

1. ***Power Point Presentation by Town Administrator Dan Lindley. Dan went over the options discussed between himself and the Board.***
    a. Repair & Maintain the Bridge- $100,000 minimum the first year. This would extend the life of the current bridge for 2-4 years, and then we would need approximately $200,000 every 4-5 years for repairs and maintenance.
    b. Mabey Bridge- is approximately $1 million to buy and install a Mabey bridge.
    c. Wait 10 years or more for State Funding
    d. Town Funded Replacement
        i. Town would own
        ii. Potentially receive 10% match from the State.
    e. No matter which option is chosen, something needs to be done in the next construction season.
    f. Maintenance Plan will be necessary as salt and sand is the main culprit for the state of the bridge.
2. ***Question & answer Session***
    a. ***Who would be responsible for a maintenance plan and how much would it cost?*** At this point there are no real figures for the cost of maintenance; we would need to contract with a company to do the work. The Town does not have the right equipment to perform a thorough job.
    b. ***Is the 10% State match real?*** We do not have it in writing. We do have Susan Bartlett's word that we could receive 10% of the cost of the bridge back if we were to be a model Town and replace the bridge with our own funds. Susan Bartlett did talk with Neil Lunderville of AOT and he said that the State Transportation Agency would find the money.
    c. ***What would the Interest Rate be?*** If we were to use a bond bank then the rate would be about 4.88% for a 20 year note. If we were to use a local bank then it would be about 3.88%. With a bond bank there is a penalty for early pay off; with local financing there is no penalty.

d. ***Will there be a sidewalk on both sides?*** Yes and the bridge itself will be wider. Currently, it is 22 feet wide. The new bridge will be 24 feet wide, which will allow for trucks to pass through without difficulty and the Town Highway Department will be able to plow it better.
e. ***How will we design it?*** The Town will do an RFP (Request for Proposal) and in it will have the dimensions and standard features. Each company that bids will have a different idea of what materials could be used.
f. ***Is there a signed agreement with the State deeding the bridge to them?*** We have not been able to locate an agreement, nor has the State.
g. ***What is the budget impact?*** Selectboard directed the Town Administrator and Department Heads to level fund the budget for FY09-10 Property taxes will go up approximately $35.00 for every $100,000.
h. ***What will be the total cost with interest?*** That depends. If we go with a bond bank, it will be about $2.3 million with the 4.88% interest. If we go with a local bank, it will be less.
i. ***Why isn't repairing the bridge until the state moves us up on the list a better option?*** Repair cost would be a minimum of $100,000 the first year. We won't know the actual state of the bridge until we have an engineer look at it. If we start fixing the bridge, it could potentially open a can of worms and the cost could reach $500,000 easily. We have an issue with potholes on the bridge; this is due in part from the disrepair of the decking. All we can do is fill the holes, we can't grind the pavement down and repave, the decking has deteriorated too much. It needs to be replaced.
j. ***Would the State own the Bridge if we wait 10 years?*** It is possible that we could agree to an easement with the State. We are also looking into giving the State an easement once the bridge is replaced.
k. ***Could we put in a Mabey bridge for 10 years then let state take over?*** We don't know what the resale value of the bridge will be in 10 years. We felt this was a more permanent solution, for not that much more in dollars.
l. ***What other repairs or purchases are we looking at in the next 2-5 years?*** We have been trying to design a "Town Capital Plan" which would include the Town and the School. This would enable us to have a plan for taxpayers to anticipate the increase in taxes. There are some ideas that have been floating around like the a Fire Station on the north end of Town, the Police Station is overcrowded and needs more space, and combining the highway garage and the village garage to only have one facility.

General concerns of the public were the impact on tax dollars, the budget impact for the coming fiscal year, what other major purchases we will need in the coming years. If the bond passes they felt we would need to be conservative in our design to have the least impact on our budget.

The public thanked the Selectboard for having the meetings; it has helped them to be informed and involved.

III. ***NEW BUSINESS***

1. **Resolution for Opposing Budget Cuts for State Highway Aid to Towns-** the Selectboard discussed the VLCT request to sign a resolution that would oppose the $3 million dollar budget cuts for State Highway Aid to Towns. The impact on Morristown would be about $15,000 next year. Dave Yacovone questioned if the State doesn't cut the highway budget, what other State Aid will be cut, Medicaid, fuel assistance etc.

Even if we oppose the highway cuts it doesn't mean that it won't happen. Board asked Dan to get in touch with Susan Bartlett and Shap Smith to see where they are on the subject. Selectboard were in agreement of signing the resolution.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Todd Yando to approve signing the resolution as presented opposing State Highway Aid to Towns budget cuts of $3 million. Motion approved. (4/0)

ADJOURN

On a Motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Todd Yando, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:20PM. Motion passed unanimously (4/0).

Respectfully submitted and filed this 28th day of October 2008.
Erica Reed, Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator
Please note that all minutes are in draft form unless otherwise stated.