State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2002

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

Members Absent: Donald Anderson

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA

Guests: Susan Low, Peggy Sprague, Kate Sprague, Amy Noyes, Pat Lencke, Steve Herrick, Ryan Lencke, Nicholas Tillotson, Ellen Tillotson, Zach Lyman, Gina Lanpher, Judith St. Aubin, Charles Miller, John Sullivan, Senator Susan Bartlett, Dave Pelletier, Gary Nolan and Howard Manosh

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

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

Mark Struhsacker moved to accept the minutes of September 30, 2002. James Paige seconded the motion. During discussion, the Selectboard agreed to eliminate the words "***in participating***" from paragraph four on page two. ***A vote was called and the Selectboard approved the minutes with the above noted change.***

CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES INC:

At the last meeting, the Selectboard postponed taking action on Cartographic Associate's request for "blanket" permission to sell copies of town maps to non-municipal parties that may request them.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard unanimously denied the request for a "blanket" permission to sell copies of town maps.

The Board instructed the Administrative Assistant to send a letter to Cartographic Associates Inc. advising them of their decision.

NEW BUSINESS

LAMOUREUX & DICKINSON – BROOKLYN STREET STP WALK (4) S:

A second amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between the Town of Morristown and the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation for the Brooklyn Street sidewalk project was presented for

Selectboard approval. Proposed increases include: PE increased by $70,000 and $30,000 additional funding for ROW. The town is responsible for a 10% match for this grant.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard approved the increase to the Cooperative Agreement and authorized the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the town. Mark Struhsacker opposed.

GUESTS

PROJECT GRADUATION – COIN DROP REQUEST:

Several parents and students of People Academy attended the meeting. Steve Herrick, speaking on behalf of the group, requested permission to hold a coin drop as a fundraiser for Project Graduation. Chair Brian Greenia gave a brief history of similar requests for coin drops. He stated that in the past it had been a standard rule of thumb not to allow coin drops on town highways.

Possible alternate locations suggested were the Union Bank parking lot or instead of a one-day coin drop, holding a five-day event at the school during morning and afternoon hours when people are coming and leaving the school grounds. They were advised that any event to be held on private property would need the owners' permission and any event held at the school would require School Board approval.

Board member Shaun Bryer stated that some organizations provide flyers about their project at the coin drops, which provide exposure for their cause. They hope to raise up to $200 at the coin drop, but stated their biggest fundraiser would be the 50/50 raffle they are currently selling tickets for.

NEW BUSINESS

SECURITY LIGHT AT GOELTZ RD AND ROUTE 100:

Resident Fay Lauber of 342 Goeltz Road contacted Scott Corse of Morrisville Water & Light regarding a security light at the intersection of Goeltz Road and Route 100. At this time, three households share the monthly cost of the light and would like to request that the Town of Morristown assume the financial responsibility for the light.

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard unanimously denied the request to assume responsibility for the security light.

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GUESTS

LVRC ENGINE HOUSE PROPERTY:

Charles Miller, VTrans Director of Rail, John Sullivan of LEDC and Senator Susan Bartlett discussed with the Selectboard the possibility of the Town of Morristown leasing the LVRC Engine House property. A lease drawn up by Mr. Miller and John Sullivan was presented for review and discussion showed there were minor changes that would need to be made. Mr. Miller showed the boundaries of the property highlighted in yellow on a map and discussed right of way issues. Mr. Miller also noted that the doors in the Engine House are custom made for locomotives and if they were removed at any time, the State would like to have them for use at another facility.

The Selectboard authorized the Town Administrator to work directly with Mr. Miller on behalf of the town. Mr. Miller said he was willing to work with the town to develop a plan and the State would help with the marketing for the property.

John Sullivan stated his interest in applying for a Planning Grant upwards of $40,000 for the property, under the town's jurisdiction. He also expressed his thanks to Senator Bartlett for all of her participation with this project.

Mark Struhsacker inquired if the building itself could be torn down. Mr. Miller replied that the town would need the State's approval. He further stated that during the next legislation, the infrastructure of the railroad may change and other alternatives could be looked at.

Board member Shaun Bryer left the meeting at this time and Howard Manosh arrived. After reviewing the map once again, Senator Bartlett, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Miller left at 7:10 PM.

JERSEY HEIGHTS ROADS:

Gary Nolan and Howard Manosh reiterated their request for the Town of Morristown to assume responsibility for the roadway system at Mr. Manosh's development at Jersey Heights. Mr. Nolan presented the Selectboard with a set of plans so they could review them together. Reference was made to a July 3rd Memo to the Selectboard and a July 10th letter to Mr. Nolan from the Town Administrator, regarding a punch list of issues that needed to be addressed. Each of the eleven items on the list were reviewed and discussed if they had been corrected yet.

The Selectboard felt that the final topcoat of paving should not be completed until all construction was completed. They suggested Mr. Manosh establish an escrow account with funds in the estimated amount to pave the streets. Mr. Nolan stated he had the estimated tonnage that would be required to pave the streets and asked if they would be allowed to base costs on municipal rates for asphalt.

The Town Administrator asked about future development of the 40 acres adjacent to the Jersey Heights development and how Manosh Corp would access this property during construction. Amy Noyes left at this time.

When the Administrator commented on the plans that are missing from the Town's files, Mr. Nolan stated that Attorney Jim Mahoney is working on them. There are 52 lots at the development with 41 houses currently built or in the process. Mr. Manosh stated that he might build more condominiums. He also said that no two houses were identical, which he thought gave the development character.

When a timeframe for the Town to assume the responsibility for the roads was questioned, it was determined that by law a public hearing must be warned before the Board takes final action. All necessary paperwork must be completed and submitted to the Town Administrator before the hearing can be warned.

OTHER BUSINESS

SKUNK ISSUE:

Ms. Judith St. Aubin expressed her concerns regarding numerous skunks and woodchucks that had taken up residence on her property. She referred to the issue of "Hank", who against her wishes spent much of the last year camping on her property and felt that the animals were drawn to the area by the trash and waste left behind by him. The cost incurred by her to trap the animals is $40 per animal and so far they have caught two woodchucks and ten skunks. She felt the Town should share in the cost. The Board felt the river also attracted the animals and did not believe that skunks fell under the Town's jurisdiction for animal control, but would look into the matter.

Ms. St. Aubin also stated she had witnessed "Hank" providing alcohol to teens behind Tomlinson's on several occasions. The Town Administrator would discuss the issue with MPD. Board member James Paige volunteered to videotape the transfer of alcohol if Ms. St. Aubin gave him a call. Shaun Bryer returned to the meeting at 8:25 PM. He stated he had also received a call from Mr. Teillon who has been trapping the animals.

Richard Sargent stopped by after the Village Trustee meeting. He informed the Board that he has not been contacted by Attorney Mahoney, regarding the Manosh development.

Mr. Sargent and Ms. St. Aubin left the meeting at 8:32 PM.

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ERRORS & OMISSIONS:

The Board of Listers submitted an Errors & Omissions list from the Morristown 2002 Grand List. There were two properties listed. (Attached)

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard moved to accept the Errors & Omissions list as presented. The Chairman signed the document.

WARRANTS

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard approved the warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated October 15, 2002. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The TA report was discussed. Three Highway Department personnel are currently on vacation, Mike, Roland and Bruce. Brian Greenia stated he had received a complaint on the roads in the Morristown Corners area not being graded on a regular basis. The TA informed the board that besides the three men out on vacation, there have been two out on disability and Dave was one of them.

GENERAL OPEN DISCUSSION

BUDGET PROCESS:

The Budget process and how wages are calculated in particular were discussed at length. Discussion included raises given by percentage versus a set dollar amount, tied to COLA or based on merit. The Board agreed that by continuing to offer pay raises based on percentages across the board, the spread between the highest and lowest rates would continue to grow, therefore other options will be considered.

The Board will be looking for as close to level funding as possible, excluding wages.

MERCHANT TRUST COMPANY QUARTERLIES:

Not all Selectboard members have received the quarterly financials from the Merchant Trust Company. The Administration office will contact them.

ADJOURN

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed October 21, 2002
Barbara Cochran, Administrative Assistant

Minutes to be presented for approval at the next Selectboard meeting.

Minutes Approved	Date