State of Vermont Chartered in 1781
MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING OF August 25, 2008

Members Present: Brian Kellogg, Bob Beeman, Todd Yando. Shaun Bryer arrived at 6:30PM. Dave Yacovone arrived at 7:20PM

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, TA; Bob Melfy, Highway Superintendent; Heidi Krantz Community Coordinator , Mary Ann Wilson, Town Clerk, and Carol Bradley, Finance Director.

Guests: Steve Rae, Amy Noyes, Heather Sargent, Mel Patashnick, Guy Shane, Laura Jacobi, Dorinne Dorfman. and Sara Haskins.

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

I. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Add previous Board minutes to Old Business- 7/14 & 7/28
2. Mel Patashnick- Copley Hospital Construction Updates.
3. Announcements
   i. Welcome new Town Administrator Dan Lindley
   ii. Welcome new Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk, Sara Haskins.

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

1. **MACC-** Heather Sargent updated Selectboard on what they have been working on to enhance the community.
   a. Lamp Posts- they have sold 4 ½ posts and have 3 ½ more left to find donors for. Heather spoke with Jim Fontaine and they are on schedule for removing electrical poles on Portland Street. One of the Copley Avenue lamp posts had to be repaired.
   b. Flower Pots and Water Trough are looking great.
   c. Investors group is interested in the Water & Woods Building
   d. Working on Festival of Lights celebration- December 6th
   e. Economic Restructuring met, has new members and are gearing up for revitalizing the downtown.
   f. Movies on the Oxbow were well attended. Held 2 movies at the Oxbow and 2 at River Arts.
   g. Maynard's building renovation under way which is part of downtown revitalization.
2. **Recreation Committee Updates-**
   a. Main focus is on Town wide recreation opportunities.
   b. Would like to see a part-time staff person in the FY 09/10 budget with an allocation of $5,000. Board agreed that this might be a possibility and would discuss as budget time draws near. Dan will start working with Recreation Committee on the details.
   c. LARC presented a proposed fee schedule for use of the Oxbow fields. Schedule is split into 3 categories- entire fields, upper field and lower field.

Classification of charges is based on resident, non-resident and not for profit. There is also a proposed $200 damage deposit. Board will review and schedule for the next meeting agenda. Board questioned who would be responsible for insurance; Heidi Krantz said that those who do not have insurance have the option to purchase through the VLCT TULIP program.

3. **Rail Trail Updates**- Steve Rae drafted a letter to VAST outlining Trail Heads the Town would like to see identified. There are four possible Trail Heads: 1) at the end of Pleasant Street & Railroad St. (Melbens Restaurant), Tenney Bridge & Rt. 15A, various locations where ROW rail travels along Lake Lamoille. A possible access point where the rail ROW crosses Needle Eye Rd. The letter also expressed the importance of recreational opportunity this four season trail could provide for the Town. By signing the letter there is no commitment by the Town, but just an expression of interest in having four season trail for community use.

Motion made by Todd Yando, seconded by Brian Kellogg to approve and sign letter to VAST in reference to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Motion approved. (3/0)

4. **Mel Patashnick, President & CEO of Copley Hospital**- came to discuss some of the upcoming changes that may be occurring at the Hospital. They are currently looking at replacing their boilers; they are considering different sources of alternate energy. They are also looking at expanding the out-patient care portion of the Hospital. They are in the preliminary stages of development and Mel will keep the Selecboard updated.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Tax Rate for FY09**- Mary Ann provided overview of numbers used to calculate municipal tax rate, as well as an annual comparison of grand lists and tax rates and the percentage of change. There was a 5.53% increase in Homestead and a 6.87% increase on Non Resident.

Motion made to approve municipal tax rate of 6.733% per $100 of assessed value (which included a municipal rate of $.3879, a highway rate of $.2843 and a local agreement rate of rate of .0011 and affirming the total tax rate with the Education taxes of $1.7054 for homestead and $2.0247 Non-Resident. Motion approved. (4/0)

2. **Previous minutes of July 14 & 28-**
   a. **7/14 Minutes- Selectboard Concerns should read Dave Yacovone met with Dana Wildes and Ken Harvey on Economic Restructuring.**
   b. **7/28 minutes** Mary Ann questioned the reclassification of the Assistant Finance Director's position and whether it was correct or not. The position was moved from a pay grade 4 to a Pay Grade 6, the rate of pay was to be the same but in moving the position to Pay Grade 6 the closest step to the current rate of pay resulted in an increase of .26 cents.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Fireworks Permit**- Vern Poland submitted a fireworks permit for August 30, 2008 with a rain date of August 31, 2008. Notice was placed in the News & Citizen last week, no response received from public.
2. **Vacation Request**- Richard Keith, Chief of Police is on vacation this week. Bill Morley is filling in. Richard also will be taking 1 week of vacation for the next three months, but because his vacation bank is over the allowed amount he is requesting to be paid for 40 hours and he is not able to take more than a week at a time.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Bob Beeman to approve vacation pay to Richard Keith and the regular rate of pay. Motion approved (4/0)

3. **LARC Lease Discussion-** Skate Park is still in the beginning stages. Working on a lease agreement with the Town where the Town would lease a portion of the land for the location of the skate park. Dan (TA) & Guy (LARC) will get to together to discussion the concerns raised by Dick Sargent at the last meeting. If there are any other concerns regarding the skate park that the Board or the public would like to discuss, they should contact Dan. There are some financial and contractual aspects to the lease so the Board felt that this needed to be discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Todd Yando enter Executive Session at 7:15PM to discuss Financial and Contractual issues with the LARC Executive Board. Motion approved. (4/0)

Motion made by Todd Yando, Seconded by Brian Kellogg to exit Executive Session and resume regular session at 7:45PM. Motion approved. (4/0)

V. TA REPORT

1. Thank you to the community and staff for the warm welcome
2. In the process of meeting with each Department Head to discuss any issues.
3. Working on getting updated information on the Bridge Street Bridge from the State.
4. Would appreciate any feedback from the Board especially as Dan gets acclimated to the Town.

VI. SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Todd Yando- None

Brian Kellogg- Irene Wilkins contacted him about a tree that needs to come down at the Wheeler Cemetery. Bob Melfy will check into this.

Shaun Bryer- John Rubino came to last meeting and showed some unique designs for a new bridge. Should we contact him and ask him to prepare a cost estimate for a design and engineering. Dave thinks we should ask the state for updated costs on a temporary and replacement as the price of steel has gone up significantly and then maybe add our own uniqueness to the layout. Dan will research new costs for temporary and a replacement including annual maintenance costs. Bob will get specs of the bridge the new design will need to be wider will discuss at the next Board meeting on September 8.

Dave Yacovone- Will be meeting with Chip Sawyer, Art Sanborn and Dan Lindley to discuss planning grant to layout the Business Office Park.

VII. COMMUNITY CONCERNS-

Mark Johnson asked the Selectboard to look into the handling of his case by the Morristown Police Department. He felt that it was moving at an unacceptable pace.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes of August 11, 2008
2. Approve & Sign Warrants

ADJOURN

On a Motion by Dave Yacovone, seconded by Todd Yando, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:45PM. Motion passed unanimously (5/0).

Respectfully submitted and filed this 26th day of August 2008.
Erica Reed, Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator

Please note that all minutes are in draft form unless otherwise stated.