

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2002

Members Present: Brian Greenia, Donald Anderson, James Paige and Mark Struhsacker

Members Absent: Shaun Bryer

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Mary Ann Wilson, TC&T; Chief Richard Keith and Mark Leonard, ZA

Guests: Fred Latour, George & Dot Cook and Bob Philbrick

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

GUESTS

FRED LATOUR

The American Legion would like to sponsor a *9-11 Remembrance Day* at noon on September 11th at the PA Band Shell and representative Fred Latour requested a proclamation from the town leaders for that day. The Selectboard asked Mr. Latour to present the necessary documents to the Administrative Assistant to be included on the next agenda.

GEORGE & DOT COOK – NEW AMBULANCE

MRS Co-presidents George and Dorothy Cook reported that the new ambulance arrived on Saturday morning and it does fit in the building. George felt that 2” to 3” inches of additional blacktop to fill in the dip in front of the door would be beneficial. Discussion included the weight of supplies and stock may help make the vehicle lower, possible adjustment of door handle and it was questioned if winter tires would add height to the ambulance. Don Anderson questioned the need for snow tires with the automatic tire chains. The Town Administrator and the Highway Superintendent would handle these issues.

Dot said the stretcher has arrived, but the radio is lost in transit and Radio North has put a tracer on it. The ambulance still needs to be stocked, but they are waiting for George Vaupel to return from vacation, as they are not sure what he has ordered. George stated that the bigger motor in this ambulance would help on the hills.

As far as the issue of keeping or selling the second “old” ambulance, the Cooks informed the Board that at their last meeting a vote was called on the question with a 20 – 3 vote in favor of keeping the second unit. Currently, Stowe Rescue covers for Morristown when our ambulance is down *if we have jumpers*. Discussion included both pros and cons of

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having two vehicles. With two, if you are doing a training session you would not have to stop in the middle to go out on a call, therefore the "old" unit could be used for training. Both vehicles are set up very similar inside to allow for easy changeovers. George stated, "They are practically twins". If there was a multiple accident and a need for two units we could handle it and one could also be used for transports if staff was available. On the other hand, a second cell phone would be needed, additional insurance and maintenance of two units. The Selectboard was also in favor of keeping the second unit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 6:20 PM on a MRS Personnel matter with George and Dot Cook, Paul D. McGinley and Barb Cochran in attendance.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard moved out of Executive Session at 6:58 PM.

MRS BILLING REVIEW COMMITTEE:

A Committee to review billing issues was discussed during a previous meeting between the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, Financial Officer and Rescue representative. They felt that this committee should be comprised of a Selectboard member, the Town Treasurer, two MRS members and an *at large* person, chosen by the MRS Board of Directors. After discussing the possibilities, it was determined that the Selectboard liaison for the Rescue department would be the logical Board representative, Mary Ann Wilson as the Town Treasurer and the MRS Board of Directors would choose their two representatives and the *at large* person after their meeting on August 13th and report back.

George and Dot Cook left the meeting at this time.

MARK LEONARD – JUNK & JUNK VEHICLE ORDINANCE:

Zoning Administrator Mark Leonard presented a proposal to "Control Junk & Junk Vehicles on Properties in Town" at the last Selectboard meeting with the Board to take action on this evening.

Donald Anderson recommended the Board accept the proposed ordinance, with Mark Struhsacker in agreement. Discussion included the number of vehicles allowed on a property, the length of time to get into compliance, proposed fees and penalties and whether or not the Selectboard is ready to back the Zoning Administrator for non-compliance enforcement. A recommendation was made to change the number of days from (15) to (30) on page 3 in two places, under Article 3. Section a. and Section c. #3.

Further discussion included ways of informing the public of the existence of the new ordinance. Suggestions included the Community Quarterly Newsletter, radio

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announcements, and newspaper notices etc. Once adopted, it would be 60 days before the ordinance would go into affect, which would leave plenty of time for public notification.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard moved to accept the proposed Junk & Junk Vehicle Ordinance with the agreed upon change from 15 to 30 days for compliance.

Chairman Greenia reiterated a compliment he had received about the Zoning Administrator from a long-time resident.

MINUTES

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard approved the minutes of July 22, 2002 as presented. James Paige abstained as he had left the previous meeting early.

OLD BUSINESS

On a request by the Selectboard, Chief Richard Keith reviewed the speed limit issue of the 1.4-mile section of the Upper Elmore Mountain Road located in Morristown for a second time. Chief Keith stated both Elmore and Stowe have speed limit signs posted at 35 mph. Currently the speed limit in Morristown for that section of road is 30 mph per Article 0807-1 Section I: Speed Limits sub-section (B). Chief Keith recommended changing the ordinance to 35 mph and installing two signs, one at each town line to match the adjoining towns.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Donald Anderson, the Selectboard moved to accept the recommendation to change the speed limit ordinance to 35 mph for the 1.4-mile section of the Upper Elmore Mountain Road and install a speed limit sign at both town lines. Brian Greenia opposed.

Board member Mark Struhsacker asked Chief Keith to check on the speed limit signs posted on the Stagecoach Road from Morristown Corners towards Stowe for accuracy.

The Selectboard took a short break at 7:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

SET TAX RATE FOR 2002 – 2003:

In a memo dated August 1, 2002, the Town Clerk presented her calculations for establishing her recommendation of **\$2.74** for the 2002 – 2003 Tax Rate. The Municipal

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and Highway tax rate is estimated at \$.8964 an increase of 4.46% over FY 2002. The State education tax liability increased by 7.01% and the local share tax liability increased by 24.10%. Total state and local tax liability increased by +12% for a School tax rate of \$1.8385 representing an overall +9.36% increase of tax dollars to be raised (Town and School). She also included a multi-year comparison, which showed the tax rate in FY97-98 to be only \$.66 less than the proposed tax rate for FY 02-03.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Donald Anderson, the Selectboard voted to accept the Clerk's recommendation and set the tax rate for the ensuing 2002 – 2003 fiscal year at \$2.74.

Mary Ann Wilson stated that every town is suffering the same fate. During a recent discussion with other Clerks the main topic was the increase of local share to each town.

Also, the Town receives statements each month pertaining to outstanding items that have been paid and those that are still outstanding. The town has three delinquent dogs that go back to 1996, which she feels the town will never collect. Mary Ann requested permission to file an amendment asking the judicial board to reduce the fines to (0). That request would go before a judge to remove the fines. She will draft a letter for the Selectboard's approval for the next meeting. The Town Administrator expressed his concerns regarding rabies and if the dogs have had their shots. It was believed that some of the dogs have moved out of town.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOB DESCRIPTION:

The job description dated June 5, 2002 was reviewed and one change was made. Brian Greenia requested that the line which states, *Oversees the daily operations by working with the Department Heads* be changed to ***Department Heads report directly to the Town Administrator.***

Other discussion included the definition of *Department Heads*, the role of the *Selectboard Liaison* and changes to the *Personnel Policy*. The Board asked for a corrected copy of the job description for their next Board meeting. They also requested a copy of the Town Administrator's February 28, 2002 memo entitled, "My first six months as your full time Town Administrator".

GRADING OF ROAD:

Mark Struhsacker questioned the Town Administrator about grading the Ron Terrill Road. Discussion included the classification of the road and what materials might be required. The Town Administrator will look into it further.

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NEW BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES COORDINATOR LETTER OF AGREEMENT:

A Letter of Agreement with Judith Bell Harris to work as the Facilities Planning Coordinator was submitted for the Board's approval. The Town Administrator and the Facilities Committee have met and interviewed Ms. Harris and feel that her experience with municipalities and expertise would be very beneficial.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board moved to enter into an agreement with Judith Bell Harris as the Municipal Facilities Coordinator. The agreement was signed.

TAX CONTRACTS:

At the last Selectboard meeting, Chris D'Elia, Commissioner of Vermont Economic Development discussed tax contracts and outlined three different ways to address. The Selectboard discussed the options and whether they wished to put an article in the next Town Meeting Warning. The Board asked the Town Administrator to work on.

HIGHWAY GRANT:

The Town received the \$17,000 +/- grant for work on the guardrails and concrete of Bridge #5 on the Randolph Road. The Town Administrator referred to a conversation with Ernie Englehardt of the Agency of Transportation regarding Bridge 36 TH 30. He said that project was approved as would probably the other various projects that were discussed, as the district has funds available.

CANDIDATE FORUM:

VLCT provided information on scheduling a political candidate forum. The Selectboard was not interested in doing so.

PRIVATE ROAD NAME REQUEST:

Michael J. Anderson submitted an application to name a private road. The location of the road is .8 miles south of the Golf Course Road and .3 miles north of Joe's Pond Road on the west side of Route 100.

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by James Paige, the Board approved the request to name the private road Worcester View Lane.

Mary Ann Wilson left the meeting.

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VLCT VOTING REPRESENTATIVE:

The VLCT Annual Business Meeting will be held on September 26th at the Killington Resort and Conference Center. They request the Selectboard designate an individual as the Town of Morristown's voting delegate. It was recommended that the newer Board members attend, as it is a good learning experience. Mark Struhsacker agreed to go to the meeting. Donald Anderson will be attending the meeting and will serve as Morristown's representative.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board approved the warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated 08/01/02. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town Administrator reviewed his report to the Selectboard on issues from the last meeting. Regarding the sidewalk height in front of Melben's Restaurant; the Board felt this was not a Town responsibility.

The Town Administrator recommended using Bomaged material on the road to the cemetery, as it would hold up better. He reported that Highway Foremen Mike and Dwight are both on vacation this week and Jack is out on medical leave. The parking lot behind the Union Bank has been paved with lining still to be done.

The role of the Community Coordinator has changed and her job description needs to be reviewed and upgraded to match the changing requirements. The Administrator reported that the draft of the Pleasant View Cemetery Bylaws is approximately 90% complete and will be done soon.

An Enhancement Grant for Storm Water is something new that the Town will be involved with soon. A letter will need to be drafted to apply. The areas with the most concerns are located in the north end of town from Route 15 down along a ravine to Professional Drive as well as near Harrel Street and down near the Brooklyn Street sidewalk project. Jim Pease, a town resident who works for the Agency of Natural Resources will be involved in this project. The cost for this project is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 with the Town responsible for 20%. Mr. Pease and a conservation group have done research of the storm water runoff problem and he has been in contact with Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers Inc. He will be on September 3rd agenda to discuss the issue with the Board, as September 4th is the deadline.

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OTHER BUSINESS

The Administrator discussed the memorandum from the Highway Superintendent in reference to the '88 Dump Truck. After much discussion it was determined it would be best to sell the truck, possibly through the State auction. The Town Administrator recommended the Town expend \$25,000 of the \$250,000 slotted for a new MFD reel truck, to purchase a used water truck and spend the remaining \$225,000 for a new truck. The Board recommended to have a mechanic look at the water truck and asked the Administrator to handle.

The Sand Screen has been sold and the Town has received payment.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by James Paige, the Board adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Barbara Cochran, Scribe
Minutes filed 08/08/02

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

Minutes approved

Date