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MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING OF July 23, 2012

Members Present:	Brian Kellogg, Mickey Smith, Min Cote, Steve Rae & Bob Beeman.
Department Heads:	Dan Lindley, Town Administrator; Richard Keith, Mary Ann Wilson, Town Clerk/Treasurer and Carol Bradley, Finance Director.
Guests:	Chris Ransom, Michael & Linda Burnham, Graham Mink, Ed Debor, and David Polow.

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

I. AGENDA CHANGES ADDITIONS

- Add Review & Discuss Invocation at Town Meeting to Old Business

II. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

1. **Dog Bite Hearing:** Michael & Linda Burham, Dustin & Karen Keelty(not present)

Michael & Linda Burnham came to discuss with the Selectboard a dog bite incident that happened at the Mountain View Campground in Morrisville, VT. Another Camper's (the Keelty's) dog bit Mr. & Mrs. Burham's daughter. There were two puncture wounds and a scrape on the side of child's abdomen. The Morristown Police responded to the scene as well as Morristown's Animal Control Officer, Brian Kellogg. The Burnham's daughter and another child were playing nearby and ran by the Keelty's campsite and dog and it lunged at her. The dog was leashed and hooked to a picnic table on the Keelty's site , but Mr. Burnham said that the leash was long which allowed the dog to extend beyond the premise of the campsite. The Burnham's, said that the dog has bitten other people in Milton where they live and also in Colchester at another campground. In the Colchester incident the dog had bitten Mr. & Mrs. Burnham's 3 year old granddaughter. The Burham's feel that the owners of the dog have not taken enough precautionary measures to prevent bites from happening, even though dog was leashed and hooked at the camp site. The Burnham's are worried that someone else will get bitten and it will be much worse and they feel that the dog should be deemed vicious and should be put down.

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Mickey Smith to go into a deliberative session to include Dan Lindley, Town Administrator & Richard Keith, Police Chief. Motion approved (5/0)

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Steve Rae to come out of Deliberative Session. Motion approved(5/0)

Motion made by Min Cote, Seconded by Bob Beeman to require that the Keelty German Shepard be muzzled when off premise at all times. Motion passed (5/0)

This motion is based on Section C of the Vermont State Statute Title 20 V.S.A §3546 Chapter 193 Domestic Pet or Wolf Hybrid Control

(c) If the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid is found to have bitten the victim without provocation, the municipal officials shall make such order for the protection of persons as the facts and circumstances of the case may require, including without limitation, that the domestic per or wolf-hybrid is disposed of in a humane way, muzzle, chained , or completely confined. The order shall be sent by Certified mail return receipt requested. A person who after receiving notice fails to comply with the terms of the order shall be subject to the penalties provided in section 3550 of this chapter.

The administration office will send a letter to the Keelty's by certified mail as well as to the Town of Milton and will also CC Michael & Linda Burnham.

2. **Chris Ransom-** Wanted to know if the Town has checked into sealing cracks instead of repaving. Dan said that they don't have the means or materials of cleaning and cutting the cracks and filling them, and some of the materials that were once used to fill cracks is no longer allowed. Chris also wanted to know if the stairs on the side of Norm Nepvue building could be fixed and shoveled off in the winter time. Min Cote stated that the stairs were not the property of the Town and were owned by Norm Nepvue.

III. <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>

1. **Request from First Congregational United Church of Christ-** the First Congregational Church sent a letter to the Town asking to have an invocation at the start of the Town Meeting. Dan asked Dave Polow to come before the Selectboard as the Town Moderator and Mary Ann Wilson as the Town Clerk/Treasurer to discuss the possibility of having an invocation prior to Town Meeting. David mentioned that he went to the Annual Moderators Workshop hosted by VLCT and their Attorney made a strong suggestion to stay away from having an invocation. There is currently a case pending in Franklin County where a woman brought charges against the Town of Franklin for having an invocation. The Selectboard agreed that while it would be a nice start to our Town Meeting they didn't feel that they could allow it due to the current legal situation and the Town's liability. Dan will draft up a letter for the Selectboard to review so that we may respond to the Church.

2. Town Server Lease-The Town Staff met with FixPC as requested by the Selectboard to review what they had to offer in terms of a service provider and an equipment lease on a new server and workstations. Although the total price from FixPC was about $7000 less than Symquest. There was quite a variance in the amount of hours to set up the server and workstations. Symquest quoted 80 hours and FixPC only quoted 22 hours. Dan recommended that we go with Symquest. He felt that they were a better fit for the Town for where we are today and where we are going in the technology field. He also stated that because Symquest is "in the business of Technology" that that would be able to proved quicker, better response times than we are currently getting. Carol Bradley, Finance Director stated that while the price tag of the Server and Support from Symquest is high, it includes much more than we are currently getting.

Motion made by Bob Beeman, seconded by Min Cote to approve 5 year lease with Symquest for the Town Server. Motion approved (4/1) Steve Rae Abstained.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Tax Stabilization Request-** Graham Mink is in the process of purchasing the Water & Woods Building and would like the Selectboard to stabilize his taxes for a period of 5 years so that he can concentrate on getting the building updated and getting tenants. The current value is $162, 300.

Motion made Bob Beeman, seconded by Min Cote to approve Tax Stabilization for Graham Mink for a period of 5 years at the current value of $162,300 to start on the date of closing with Graham Mink as Purchaser.

Discussion

Selectboard asked what Graham's plans were for the building. He said he plans to have professional office space on the second floor and hopefully retail on the first floor.

Ed Debor stated that typically there is an agreement with the property owner and the Town to guarantee some sort of economic payback to the Town IE: monetary, jobs etc. Graham agreed that while he would like to guarantee a monetary amount or say that he will create X amount of jobs he can't do that at this time.

The Selectboard offers Tax Stabilization as an incentive to get some of the buildings in the down town occupied and to help business grow.

Motion approved. (5/0)

2. Police Cruiser- It is time to order a new Police Cruiser. Richard has been working with McMahons for the last couple of purchases. This would be a 48 month lease with a $1.00 buyout at the end of the term. The lease price is $35,905.76 with 4 annual payment of $8976.44.

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Bob Beeman to approve a 4 year lease in the amount of $35,905.76 to be paid in 4 equal installments of $8976.44 for a new Police Cruiser from McMahons. Motion approved. (5/0)

3. EMS Support Staff - This is a 19 hour/week position that was advertised in the Transcript. We had two people apply and one interview conducted. Diana Osborn fit the criteria of the job as an EMS Support Staff/Training Officer. Pay scale is currently at $13.25/hr

Motion made by Bob Beeman, seconded by Steve Rae to hire Diana Osborn for 19 hours per week as EMS Support Staff at a pay rate of $13.25/hr. Motion approved. (5/0)

4. Dump Truck- Nathan Barbour has asked to purchase the F350 Dump Body that was due to be traded in. He offered the trade in price of $7,000.

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Bob Beeman to approve sale of F350 Dump Body to Nathan Barbour for $7,000. Motion approved. (5/0)

5. **Infrastructure Reserve-** Dan would like the Selectboard's permission to use approximately $4,000 from the Infrastructure Reserve Fund to have a scoping study done to see if the sewer can be extended on Harrel Street. Currently the sewer stops at the Decart Building and there has been interest from property owners to hook onto the Municipal sewer system. The $4,000 is only a portion of the cost. Village Water & Light is also helping to fund the cost of the scoping study.

Motion made by Bob Beeman, seconded by Min Cote to approve using $4,000 for the Harrel Street Scoping Study from the Infrastructure Reserve Funds. Motion approved (5/0)

6. Library Loan- Mary Ann sent out bids for the Capital improvements at the Morristown Centennial Library in the amount of $300,000 for 5 years to Union Bank, Community National, Peoples United Bank, TD Banknorth, Merchant Bank. She received 3 bids back, Union Bank came back with the lowest rate at 2.07%, Community National Bank was 2.2%, Peoples United Bank came back at 2.75%, TD Banknorth and Merchants Bank did not bid. Mary Ann's recommendation is to go with the Union Bank's bid of 2.07%. Repayment installments would begin in December 2012 with semi-annual payments of $31,625.29 to be paid December 1, and June 1 in the town's fiscal years.

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Steve Rae to finance Library Loan in the amount of $300,000 with the Union Bank at an interest rate of 2.07% for 5 years. Motion approved. (5/0)

7. Village Zoning Administrator Agreement- The Village Water & Light Department has agreed to designate $3500 before taxes & benifits every 6 months for Todd's services to them. The money would flow through the Town/s payroll. This will remain in effect as long as Todd serves as Zoning Administrator to the Town/Village. Ed Debor spoke highly of Todd and thought he was a great assets not only to the Town but to the Village as well and they felt this is what they could work into their budget to help with Todd salary.

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Bob Beeman to accept agreement for Todd Thomas from the Village Water & Light Department to be paid every 6 month and to flow through Town Payroll. Motion approved(5/0)

V. BOARD OF LIQUOR CONTROL

None

VI. TA REPORT

- We will have our Public Hearing onsite for the reclassifying of Part of the Town Forest Road from Class 4 to a trail.
- Met with Jay from Southgate. He will be doing all his shop construction over the winter and will start the reconstruction/repairs of the Steeple in the spring. It should take about 8-10 weeks.
- Cady's Falls Bridge is coming along. They did find 3 gusset plates that may need to be replaced. Will know more when Eric from Calderwood Engineering looks at them.
- Went to the pre construction meeting for the bypass bridge. The State approved a road cut across Rt. 15 so that Howard Manosh can hook onto the sewer line. Howard will

build the line but the Town will be the applicant, which will help move things along. This construction should start in the spring.

- Going to be meeting once a month with Craig, & Penny from Water & Light as well as Todd & Tricia to see what else the Village and the Town can work together on.
- There will be an awards Ceremony for the Arthurs Block Grant on Friday June 27, 2012 at 10 am. Will be held at the Gazebo unless it rain and then it will be in the Tegu Meeting room.
- Open house for Cathy Killian's Retirement on Thursday July 26, 2012

VII. SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Min Cote

- Sidewalks look great.

Bob Beeman

- Will not be at the next Selectboard meeting, will be at the Olympics'.

Steve Rae

- Budget? Carol said she has not done the Financial Statements yet, the Auditors were here last week, there were a few minor setbacks, but everything looks great and a hope to have those out soon.

Mickey Smith

- Where are we at with getting land records and such online. Mary Ann said they are moving forward slowly. Some of the items are charged for according to State Statute. The Listers are trying to work with NEMRC and get their lister cards on the web.

Brian Kellogg

- Town of Braintree is looking into hiring a Town Administrator and is looking for input from the Town. Since it deals mostly with financial information, Carol will take care of the request.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes of 7-9-2012
2. Approve & Sign Warrants

Motion made by Min Cote seconded by Mickey Smith to approve consent agenda as presented. Motion approved. (5/0)

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Bob Beeman to enter Executive Session at 8:10PM for Real Estate to include Town Administrator, Dan Lindley. Motion approved. (5/0)

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Mickey Smith to come out of Executive Session at 8:25PM. Motion approved. (5/0)

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Mickey Smith to adjourn at 8:30PM. Motion approved (5/0)

Respectfully submitted and filed this 25th day of July 2012
Erica Allen, Clerk
Please note that all minutes are in draft form unless otherwise stated and are approved at the next meeting.