State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MINUTES — MAY 12, 2003

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

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Chief Richard Keith and Chief Wally Reeve

Guests: Representative Shap Smith and Sarah Gluckman

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

GUESTS

REPRESENTATIVE SHAP SMITH:
Rep. Smith questioned if the letter from AOT Secretary McDonald regarding the Railroad *box culvert* issue was sufficient. He will give a follow up call to see what the plan is.

Other discussion included *rail banking* of the line from St. Johnsbury to Morrisville as well as Morrisville to Swanton seems to be moving forward. Rep. Smith said the bill is currently before the Senate. He further explained that rail banking puts the easement rights into a bank, so they do not revert back to the property owner. VAST is very interested and is pushing for the entire line to be banked. The rail bed could possibly be used for snowmobiling in the winter and a bike trail in the summer. The State was hoping to put the project out to bid this summer, but realistically it will probably be next year. The total of 96 miles of rail could possibly be turned into recreational trails, which would be good for Morrisville as its at the center of the line. Chief Keith arrived at this time.

As for *Education Funding*, Rep. Smith said the House has plans for \$40 - \$70 million dollars (in today's figures) in property tax relief, but he was not sure what the Senate was doing as their plans wouldn't be out until Tuesday. The House's plans would result in a 30% reduction in taxes for 2005 based on today's budget figures. With increases in School budgets, it could be closer to 10%. They are discussing ways to control costs. The funding plan for next year has approximately a \$239,000,000 transfer plus an additional \$20,000,000 from *sales tax* from January until July 2004.

Board member Paige asked why it takes so long to get down to business. Rep. Smith stated that after being there for four months he didn't know the answer, but he felt there was a transition period for the new administration and education funding is a difficult issue.

Local Zoning #117 is an important issue that Rep. Smith hopes it will get addressed this year.

Representative Smith reported that when he met with Senators Bartlett and Mazza, they indicated that the $100,000 request for Highway funding was in the budget. Sarah Gluckman arrived at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:
On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by James Paige, the Board approved the minutes of April 28, 2003 as presented.

PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION AGREEMENT:
A mutual agreement between Lamoille Valley Community TV and the Green Mountain Technology Center regarding community television for the greater Lamoille Valley was presented for the Board's approval.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board voted to endorse the agreement between the two parties and send a letter to both acknowledging their endorsement.

PORTLAND STREET STP EH01 SIDEWALK PROJECT:
The Town Administrator provided a map of the proposed project. He explained the plans to both the Selectboard and other interested parties. Wally Reeve arrived at this time. The right of way to the Oxbow property, given by Morrisville Lumber to the Town was discussed and clarified as to location.

Member Paige expressed his concerns regarding safety issues pertaining to an undefined sidewalk, which could be hazardous to pedestrians trying to reach the Oxbow property. It was decided that the Town Administrator would coordinate a time to meet with Mark Loati and review the project along with Mike Stafford of the Trails Committee and Selectboard Chair Brian Greenia. Member Struhsacker expressed his interest in attending the meeting as well.

HEALTH OFFICER POSITION:
The TA informed the Board that Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator for Morristown has agreed to assume the responsibilities of the Health Officer. Discussion included: records of prior health issues, formal resignation of Mr. Godfrey and how compensation for the position has been handled up to date. Chief Keith informed the Board that Mr. Godfrey has notified his office that he has moved to the Town of Holland.

On a motion by Brian Greenia, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board requested Mr. Godfrey's resignation as Health Officer in writing and that any records pertaining to Town business be turned in to the Town Offices.

The Town Administrator will follow up on any prior issues that may have been in process.

JUNK ENFORCEMENT ISSUES REVISITED:

On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board authorized the Zoning Administrator to issue an enforcement letter to the last party on the list submitted at the last Selectboard meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MFD BUDGET BALANCE REVIEW:
Chief Wally Reeve requested to spend funds in the MFD budget (from various accounts) on the following purchases: new hose not to exceed $2,400; (4) nozzles at $703.50 each for a total of $2,814; (3) nozzles at $538.75 each for a total of $1,616.25 and $1,900 for a hose tester that was discussed at a Selectboard meeting a couple of months ago.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board authorized up to $8,800 for the purchase of new hose, nozzles and hose tester.

The Town Administrator was authorized to sign the purchase order.

Chief Reeve stated that training for the Department has begun for the hazardous trailer usage. Other discussion included funding for Communications, possibly to purchase two additional home bases, to be located at the Police Department and the Town Administration Office. Chief Keith stated he didn't know where Morristown stood on various grant applications that had been submitted jointly as a County effort. He further stated that the dual band radios in the two Ford Explorer cruisers have worked excellent and allows the officers on duty to communicate with other Town Departments.

MPD REQUEST FOR SRF FOR DEA PROCEEDS:
The Town Treasurer has deposited funds received for *DEA Forfeiture Proceeds* into the Town General Fund. Chief Keith has requested to have a "Special Revenue Fund" (SRF) *DEA Proceeds* established to have this money reserved and set aside. More DEA monies are expected.

On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by James Paige, the Board authorized the Fiscal Services Officer to establish a "DEA Proceeds" account and transfer funds already received into such account.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLAN FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS:

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board approved the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highway projects as presented.

RIVER ARTS – LETTER OF SUPPORT:

On a motion by Brian Greenia, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board members were all in agreement to support the efforts of River Arts for community design workshops.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT POSITION:

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by James Paige, the Board approved the recommendation to hire Martin Sulham for the six-month temporary position.

Details pertaining to compensation of this position will be discussed during Executive Session later in the meeting.

LCPC APPOINTMENT VERIFICATION:

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board voted to re-appoint Roy Marble and Fred LaTour to the LCPC Board.

WARRANTS

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board authorized payment of the Warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated 05/12/03. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town Administrator's written report was reviewed. Discussion included the rental of a dozer for use at the Duhamel Pit, evaluation of crosswalk signs, and bridge permit issues regarding Pete Couture's request to operate his business from Cady's Falls while his new building is under construction. The TA reported that both of the Highway crews attended the Field Days in Essex on Thursday. He also suggested Board member, James Paige should attend the June 11th Labor

Relation Seminar pertaining to Union Negotiations. The TA advised the Board of his decision not to actively participate in the negotiations, but would act as advisor only. He did stress the need for two people to be actively involved in the negotiations.

GENERAL OPEN DISCUSSION

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER:
The Administrative Assistant advised that arrangements to use the Senior Center for Monday night Selectboard meetings starting in June had been made. The Senior Center is booked on Tuesday nights and would not be available in the case of a Tuesday meeting due to a holiday.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON COPLEY TRUST MEETING:
The next Copley Trust meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27th at the MW&L facility. The Merchant's Trust Advisor should be asked to attend with recommendations for the $42,000. Previous requests will also be addressed.

MRS – SHAUN BRYER:
Member Bryer advised the Board of an email sent to MRS. He will send a CC: to the Administrative Assistant and Brian Kellogg. Member Bryer will also turn over his binder of MRS Policies and Procedures to Member Kellogg.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board moved into Executive Session with the TA and AA present on personnel matters and to discuss the setting of wages for the temporary Highway employee and new Fields & Parks summer employee.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:18 PM.

On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by James Paige, the Board approved the wages as discussed in Executive Session for Martin Sulham and Mike Day Jr.

ADJOURN

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board adjourned at 8:20 PM.

MORRISTOWN
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Respectfully submitted and filed this 16th day of May 2003.

Barbara Cochran, Scribe

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

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Minutes Approved Date