TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2002

Members Present:	Brian Greenia, James Paige, Donald Anderson, Shaun Bryer and Mark Struhsacker
Department Heads:	Paul D. McGinley, Bill Moulton, Mary Ann Wilson and Bud Geary
Guests:	Julia Compagna, Min Cote, Cathy Voyer, Gert Lepine, Jeannette Lepine, Mike Stafford, Gary Greaves, Sonny Demars, Lee LaBier, Brian Wells, Amy Noyes, Kate Willard, George Vaupel, George Cook, Dot Cook, Mary Ann Reynolds, Mark Bourdeau, Sandra Utton, Eric Osgood, Brad Worthen, Peter Snyder, Bruce Kelley, Bill Rossmassler, Kathleen Oneill, Peggy Struhsacker, Peter Christie, Ron Stancliff, Barb Farr, Becca Reggio, Sam Guy, Kevin Lane, Heath Eiden, Judy Stein, David Rooney, Charlie Rooney, Selina Alley, Sharon Rowell, Rett Sturman, Heather Haddick, Rick White, Cathy Nimick, Doug Molde, Dan Dougher, Steven Jennings, Carol Jennings, Amy Walker, Pete Liebler, Kathleen Liebler, Scott Corse and Jim Pease

Chair, Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light facility. Scott West had called to cancel, so the Board would conduct other business until the 6:15 scheduled guests.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by James Paige, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 18, 2002 meeting as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

SELECTBOARD LIAISON APPOINTMENTS:

Chair, Brian Greenia appointed liaisons to the following departments: Highway Department - Donald Anderson, Police Department - James Paige, Rescue Department – Shaun Bryer and Fire Department – Mark Struhsacker. He appointed himself as General Government liaison.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard unanimously approved the warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated April 1, 2002. (Attached)

COMP TIME REQUEST

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard unanimously approved the "Comp Time Request" from Bill Moulton for a total of 5 ½ hours worked due to the snowstorm Tuesday, March 26, 2002. (Attached)

At 6:10 PM the Selectboard recessed the Selectboard meeting and moved into the Liquor Control Board to act on Liquor and Tobacco applications.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board voted to accept the Liquor and Tobacco applications as presented and listed on both the March 18, 2002 and April 1,2002 Memorandum from the Town Clerk. (Attached) James Paige opposed the motion.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board moved out of Liquor Control Board at 6:14 PM and resumed the regular Selectboard Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

BEAVER MEADOW BROOK BRIDGE ENGINEERING PROPOSALS:

Two engineering bid proposals were opened, from Charles Grenier ($7,000 & $2,500) for construction inspection and Infrastructure Engineering/Construction Services ($8,000), for the engineering work for the Beaver Meadow Brook Bridge. No action was taken as the Selectboard wanted clarification that the two bids were on the same specifications.

GUESTS

MORRISTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

At 6:17 PM, Brian turned the meeting over to Kathleen Oneill of the Morristown Conservation Commission. Members of the MCC submitted a petition signed by interested parties (to be checked by the TC office), requesting the Selectboard reconsider their decision, not to approve the purchase of the Zeisberg property by the State of Vermont for land conservation.

Kathleen provided maps for the Board's review as well as *possible* pilot payment information. Kathleen stated that the monies available now to purchase this property would not be available to purchase other properties at a later time. When questioned on

the pilot payments, Kate Willard from Forests & Parks explained that the State pays 1% of FMV (Fair Market Value) on municipal taxes for properties they purchase.
Brian Greenia referenced a discussion from a prior meeting that included the average percentage of acres conserved by most towns and that Morristown is already above that average figure. He stated the Town was more concerned with the number of acres in conservation, not the tax dollars lost. He also felt the issue should be discussed by both the Selectboard and the Morristown Planning Commission.

Dan Dougher, an adjacent landowner commented on Mike Audy's 10-point buck taken during deer season from the property and felt that conservation was important to the wildlife. VAST Board member Rick White informed the Selectboard that snowmobiling was second only to skiing for recreational revenues in the state with upwards of $512,000,000 generated income.

The property now hosts VAST Trails, hiking trails, and wildlife habitat and is used by many. Discussion included future use of the property if purchased by the state, would there be restrictions? Kate said the state would get the "local take" before making any decisions. When asked specifically about the continuation of snowmobile use and VAST Trails, she stated that she did not know. It would depend on the bear feeding and location of the bear dens. Kate added that public access, hunting, fishing and trapping would be allowed as it is now. Kathleen added that if the property were sold privately, we would have no control on these issues.

Kathleen again asked if the Board was willing to reverse their decision and allow the State to purchase the Zeisberg property. Brian asked the other members for their opinions. New Selectman Shaun Bryer stated that the original decision was made before he came on board, and he was in favor of the State purchasing the property. James Paige stated that he had had some concerns, one of them being the government getting to involved in issues, which he said he hadn't heard mention tonight but, after hearing testimony this evening he would be in favor of the purchase. Donald Anderson concurred that he now had more information, but was not yet ready to change his mind. Brian asked if the Murray property was to be included in this deal. Kate explained that they were two separate parcels and would be handled separately. Chair, Brian Greenia asked if there was a motion to have the Board reconsider their decision as requested by the Morristown Conservation Commission.

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard moved to reverse their decision not to support the purchase of the Zeisberg property by the State of Vermont and asked Paul D. McGinley to send a letter to the State advising them of the change. Brian Greenia opposed, Donald Anderson abstained. So passed.

MORRISTOWN RESCUE SQUAD BOARD MEMBERS:

Bud Geary, President of the Morristown Rescue Squad (MRS) addressed the Selectboard with the Rescue Board's concerns of where MRS is now, where it is going and form of leadership. They felt there was a lack of communication between the two boards on several issues. One issue being patient billing, the purchase of a second ambulance and its intended use and third, what is the Town's vision for the future?

Mark Struhsacker as Rescue Liaison stated that by billing for services provided, the Town could recoup funds to help defray the cost of hiring a fulltime employee and make MRS as close to self supporting as possible. Another goal would be to keep the interest and enthusiasm in participation increasing, which it has been recently. Sandi's role as a paid employee and whom she reports to was another matter discussed.

The MRS Board felt they were not kept informed of issues, i.e. billing, second ambulance etc. discussed between the Board, Paul and Sandi and wondered where did these ideas come from. The Selectboard responded by saying that these were not new ideas. Brian stated that the MRS Board requested the Selectboard hire a paid employee to do the needed work several years ago and the Selectboard resisted for two years before considering this request. Last year the Selectboard agreed that there was enough work now to justify hiring an employee and was looking to billing for services to offset the expenses incurred. As far as the second ambulance, Brian stated that there had been several instances when our ambulance was in the shop and expenses have been incurred to have Lamoille Ambulance cover for us. Having a second ambulance to cover down time and possibly do local transfers only makes sense.

Jim Paige said now was the time for "timeout" and for the two boards to sit down and work out the necessary details to handle these situations. The Selectboard has received many requests from MRS over the past few years and during this past year, Rescue has been granted more they have ever had. Other discussion included the issue of to whom Sandi was to report to and her job description, which was written by George Vaupel and the Rescue Board. George stated that Sandi was to serve the MRS Board not the Selectboard.

Mark stated that it was obvious that there was a lack of communication, but he pointed out that several of them were present at Selectboard meetings when these issues were being discussed and Bud was as budget meetings as well. Dot Cook knew that billing was being discussed, but not that it was definitely going to happen. Brian stated that the Town Treasurer was the only person authorized to receive funds from the billing practice. Dot was concerned about the software costs and time spent for Sandi to do the billing. Sandi interjected that she was to be trained in the billing process, but other people in the Municipal Office would also be trained. Dot wanted to know where the additional funds needed were coming from. George Vaupel felt they only had $200 in their budget and that was designated for updating their Windows software.

Jim again echoed his earlier statement, that more communication was needed. Brian said that we should now start a process. That also when an organization goes from being totally volunteer to a full time employee, some ripples should be expected. He also stated that the Town relies on Sandi for the day-to-day communications. The Selectboard felt that as they now rely on Paul to handle the daily matters, that maybe the MRS Board should rely on Sandi to handle their daily routine matters. George Vaupel felt that this would put too much responsibility on one person and "could sink a rescue Department". Mary Ann Reynolds, MRS Board member felt that the communications was not good and information from Sandi and Paul was not getting back to the MRS Board.

The recent addition of Wolcott roads tied to the Elmore area was discussed as well as the lack of communication from the MRS Board to the Selectboard Liaison. Brian asked for Sandi to communicate with Paul. Paul felt that this was a problem, as Bud didn't want Sandi talking with him. Paul stated he had received telephone calls from other Rescue personnel and he had referred them to the MRS Board.
Paul also requested the Town receive minutes from the MRS Board meetings.

The two boards agreed that they should sit down together and discuss these issues.

At 8:15 PM there was a five-minute recess.

RAILS AND TRAILS ISSUES

Mike Stafford of the Morristown Trails Committee sent a letter to the Selectboard requesting the Town of Morristown endorse the Trail concept for use of the rail corridor through Lamoille County. Mike provided a copy of Bill H.764 as it has been introduced as well as past studies on the subject.

Brian Greenia stated that last summer Sandy Woodbeck of the Lamoille Valley Recreation and Trails Committee requested the Town support the rail corridor for use as a recreation/snowmobile trail etc. and the Selectboard did not take any action at that time.

Brad Worthen and Peter Snyder of Vermont Railway Inc. asked for time to present their information and could not do it in the five minutes granted by the Selectboard.

Representative Cathy Voyer discussed the language as it is presented in Bill H.764. She also stated that in her opinion, if Chittenden County could not make the rail work, how can Lamoille?

Bill Moulton felt we should stop wasting time. Five years ago there was a meeting in Danville with VAST and the Railroad and nothing ever came of it.

Sonny Demars felt that if the state did not make the decision to turn the corridor into trails now, it would be ten years down the road. He felt the railroad was not feasible and didn't stand a chance to survive. Min Cote and Sam Guy echoed his sentiments.

Further comments included the vast damage to the rail corridor caused from flooding, area business owners declaring they would never ship or receive via rail again and the amount of time spent on discussing the situation of rails versus trails and no action to move in either direction by AOT.

Mike Stafford felt the language in Bill H.764 needed to be reworded. Brad Worthen asked the Board to hold another meeting to allow for further discussion. The Board felt that another meeting would be fruitless and they were ready to make a decision.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard unanimously voted to send a letter to the State of Vermont stating that the Town of Morristown opposes the concept of the Railroad for the total corridor length and does endorse the Trails concept.

At nine o'clock, the Selectboard decided to postpone various agenda items until the next regular meeting in two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

HIGHWAY GRANTS:

There were two grant applications presented for Selectboard approval.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard voted to apply for the Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program grant and approved the application as presented. (Attached)

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Donald Anderson, the Selectboard voted to apply for the Town Highway Structures Program grant and approved the application as presented. (Attached)

LRSWMD APPOINTMENT:

On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard unanimously approved the nomination of Mac Miller to serve as the Morristown Representative to the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District.

Brian Greenia asked Mary Ann Wilson to sign as Town Clerk on the nomination form.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by James Paige, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:11 PM on a Personnel Matter to include Bruce Kelley, Paul D. McGinley and Barb Cochran.

On a motion by Donald Anderson, seconded by James Paige, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:20 PM.

A contract for the Highway Superintendent position was offered to Bruce Kelley of Milton. Bruce will decide and report back to the Town Administrator with his decision.

ADJOURN

On a motion BY Donald Anderson, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:26 PM.

Barbara Cochran, Scribe
Minutes filed 04/04/02

Minutes to be presented for approval at the next Selectboard Meeting on April 15, 2002.

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Minutes Approved Date