



SELECTBOARD MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2003

Members Present: Brian Greenia, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Lee Sturtevant

Members Absent: James Paige

Department Heads: Town Clerk Mary Ann Wilson, Police Chief Richard Keith, Zoning Administrator Mark Leonard and Lister Lynn Miller

Guests: Village Trustee Richard Sargent, Brian Kellogg, Steve Rae, Mike Miller of LCPC, Kevin Lane and Tom Vickery

Chair Brian Greenia called the joint Town and Village **Town Plan** Hearing to order at 6:02 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light Facility.

TOWN PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Morristown and the Village of Morrisville held a joint public hearing regarding the Morrisville/Morristown Town Plan 2003. Mike Miller of LCPC, who was contracted to assist the Morristown Planning Commission write the revised plan was on hand to answer any questions from the public or officials. Zoning Administrator Mark Leonard was also present to answer questions and explain Zoning issues. No members of the Planning Commission were present.

Discussion included deeryards, logging issues and regulations, as well as fragile areas. It was explained that deeryards were regulated by the State, not local bylaws or plans and it all comes down to enforcement. Lynn Miller and Tom Vickery arrived at this time.

When asked, "*What should a Town Plan do?*" by the Selectboard, Mr. Miller gave an example of the north end of Town's infrastructure, i.e. water, sewer etc. and stated the Plan should contain what the Town would like to see happen over the next five years.

When Selectboard Chair Greenia asked if Town Highway policies and procedures should be included in the plan, Mr. Miller replied that all transportation could be included, including public transportation, access policies and standards.

Member Sturtevant inquired how often a Town Plan should be reviewed and how much it was used. Mr. Miller voiced that they are striving for Town Plans to be more of a living document instead of just sitting on a shelf until the next review. He continued that some issues might be revisited each year. Planning Commissions could choose to review three to four issues per year.



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outside of the buildings and have to make assumptions on what is inside. Out of the properties reappraised thus far, they have had only six instances where they were not allowed inside, with about half giving information over the telephone and the remainder stated there had been no changes made. Mr. Vickery informed the Board that all properties in town would receive new values and new grades. He said they are currently in the review process and decisions will be made.

When asked what effect reappraisal will have on the tax rate, Mr. Vickery said the State CLA or Common Level of Appraisal is about 81.4%, but at this point they are anticipating the figure to be lower, at around 77%. Some properties may go up 30%, some may be 40% and some may be 20% with an overall average of 30%. Based on the 2002 State Grand List the Town's education tax rate liability was \$1.84. Based on the same 2002 figures, the liability this year would result in a \$2.13 tax rate. For example, Mr. Vickery stated that based on those calculations, if the Grand List goes up by 30%, it could result in a drop in the education tax rate to \$1.64, which does not necessarily mean lower taxes. If your property has been appraised at a higher value, you could end up paying more in taxes. Overall, the State equalization program is a three-year study and no one really knows what to expect or what changes may be made to it.

All property owners will receive a mailing showing the old list, the new list and how it has affected everyone. Ms. Miller estimated that this information could be available by the end of May. Other discussion included projected number of grievances, the number of estimated grievances that would need to go before the BCA and further. Three BCA members are required to do inspections of property that has been grieved.

Mr. Vickery is pleased with Lynn and the quality of her work. He feels she has done a good job and therefore there will be fewer grievances than the last reappraisal. He doesn't anticipate any problems.

Discussion included the CREW property and a request by Barb Farr for an estimate of what their taxes may be. Mr. Vickery gave examples of similar properties in Montpelier and Waterbury, how the taxation was handled and what the affect could be if CREW were included on the grand list. More Town involvement for the project was encouraged. Chief Keith arrived during this segment of the meeting.

When questioned if ACT 60 funds were solely for education, Mr. Vickery replied no, \$9,000,000 was taken out of the education fund and put in the general fund last year. He said there were no dedicated funds in any budget any place, whether for school, highway etc.



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PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD:

The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of the State of Vermont Public Service Board Docket No. 6811 pertaining to the investigation into a complaint of Kenneth Schramm vs. Frontiervision Operating Partners, L.P. in regards to public access issues.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard authorized the warrants as presented on the Memorandum dated 03/03/03. (Attached)

ADMINISTRATION

AA REPORT:

An update was given on the Town Administrator, as he has been hospitalized. The Selectboard reviewed the two memos from the Administrative Assistant. Member Sturtevant commended the AA for work well done.

SENIOR CENTER FACILITY:

Chair Greenia informed the others of a conversation he had had with Gloria Wing regarding the use of the Senior Center to hold municipal meetings. There would be more room for when larger groups attend the meetings. Other locations suggested were the Elementary Library, the Grange, PA Auditorium or Library or local churches. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Town to hold their meetings in churches and there were concerns of time constraints that could be an issue at the school due to security alarm systems.

Member Sturtevant stated that the lack of a meeting place for Town Boards really shows the need for a Municipal Building. The Board will table for further discussion.

GENERAL OPEN DISCUSSION

NOYES HOUSE DAMAGE:

Member Bryer asked Chief Keith for information about an accident near the Noyes House resulting in damage to the hedge and the parking signs. The property is owned by the Village and leased by the Historical Society. Town Clerk Wilson asked if the Village should submit a claim. The Chief will provide information to Member Bryer.



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potential candidates outside of the meeting place, and new microphones are available for public speakers.

The VFW would be providing lunch at Town Meeting, but there will be no PA Alumni bake sale or coffee and donuts by the Legion.

Mary Ann Wilson requested that all hands be on deck at 7:00 PM for counting. The Administrative Assistant has given copies of the draft newsletter to the Community Development Coordinator for distribution at Town Meeting. Lee Sturtevant felt the Business Survey currently being conducted was done well and hopes the results meet expectations. The Board thanked Lee Sturtevant for filling in for Don Anderson after his illness.

Shaun Bryer reminded everyone of the March 17th meeting pertaining to the Adelphia/Frontiervision issues. Chair Greenia stated that no public access funds were to be distributed without Selectboard approval and requested a letter be sent accordingly. The Board felt a "time out" was in order until the legal action is resolved. Exactly how much money was questioned, who has it and where is it?

The Board discussed the Fourth of July and Firework appropriations and agreed they would include them in the General Government Budget next year.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 6th day of March 2003.

Barbara Cochran, Scribe

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

Minutes Approved

Date

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECT BOARD

PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT NAME

PRINT ADDRESS.

[illegible]