

**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

DATE: January 24, 2000

PRESENT: Brian Greenia, Chair; Steven Leach; Donald Anderson; Lee Sturtevant; Phil Locke

ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Bill Moulton, Richard Keith, Bud Geary, Wally Reeve, Dave Godfrey, Mary Ann Wilson, Carol Bradley

GUESTS: Amy Noyes, Steve Jeffrey, Paul Markowitz, Kathleen O'Neill, Ed Manning, George Gruner, Lucinda Gruner, Karl Eiriksson, Jr., Gordon van den Noort, Abigail van den Noort

Brian Greenia opened the Regular Meeting of the Morristown Selectboard at 6:00 PM.

AA REPORT:

MINUTES:

The minutes of the last Selectboard meeting were approved, with the following changes made: the last sentence under the Health department heading was stricken. The work 'vehicle' was added in reference to re-wiring for the Morrisville Fire Rescue Unit. The motion for funding of Green Up was changed to read 'this' year, instead of 'last'. Guests' name corrections were made, and the reference to General Government funds was amended to quote the figure of \$91,000, not \$99,000. Motion to approve was made by Don. Second motion made by Lee. Passed.

HIGHWAY:

Bill stated that the cars left in the middle of the parking lot next to the Rescue building must be moved to a corner, in order for the plows to be able negotiate the area. He requested that this be conveyed to the Rescue staff.

A motion to authorize the purchase of a water holding tank, not to exceed \$365, was made by Lee.

Second motion made by Phil. Approved. Bill will follow up on the water tank at the next meeting. He informed the Selectboard that he would be out until next Wednesday.

POLICE:

Richard stated that it had not been busy. There were 160 calls made, and no transports.

He informed the Selectboard that Ryan Bjerke was attending School Officer Resource Training, with Phil Lovely.

The Public Safety Building flooring will be put to bid.

A \$500 check was sent to the Police Department from a private citizen, with the use stipulated to benefit the officers. The Selectboards' consensus was to return the check, which was made out to 'The Association of Morristown Police Department'. Don added that options for donating for specific causes might be included in a letter to the individual making the donation.

RESCUE:

Bud stated that all of the members who started EMT training were still enrolled.

In follow up to the Selectboards' request to look into 'jumpers' on the days that Lamoille Ambulance Service are covering in the area, Bud stated that he will ask the entire squad their opinion. He is fairly certain that they will be in agreement with this idea.

Bud stated he has new volunteer applicants under review.

He mentioned that heating in the Rescue Building is uneven, and Lee stated that he would look into this. (Lee has brought in an electric heater for the Administrative Assistant's use, for now).

HEALTH:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

FIRE:

Wally stated that three new candidates are in training. Their applications will be voted on in February.

There were fifteen calls during the past two weeks.

Tanker #1 still needs paintwork.

Lee made motion to purchase two new Motorola radios; at a cost expenditure not to exceed \$1,400.

Brian made second motion. Passed. (Don opposed).

PLANNING/ZONING:

The Selectboard responded to a written request from the Planning Commission to remove Wendyll Behrand from the Commission. Steve put forth a motion to this effect. Lee made second motion. Passed. The Planning Commission recommended that Bill Henchey be put in her stead. A motion to approve the appointment of Bill Henchey was put forth by Lee. Steve made second motion. Passed.

inventory assessment for the Town. This could be arranged through the VLCT at a rate of \$60 per hour.

Barbara Farr spoke on behalf of CREW. It was decided that she would contact the Lister's Office to make sure of the proposed tax rate for the CREW property. If the rate were not significantly increased from last year, as no improvements have yet been made, Barbara would withdraw a request for property tax-deferral. The future of the CREW property was discussed, and Barbara informed the Selectboard that as yet, the only plans in place were to create a skating rink and recreational trail system at the location.

Paul Markowitz presented information to the Selectboard about the Montpelier Conservation Commission, as an example of how the Commissions function. Both he and Kathleen O'Neill presented an overview of the Commissions currently involved in Vermont. It was noted that Conservation Commissions rarely manage land. They more often help to facilitate the acquisition of lands and easements, like the Lepine sisters' donation of the Oxbow area to the Town. The proposed Commission would need to act through the Selectboard, and obtain their blessing first. The focus of the Commission would be primarily on preserving the rural landscape, open-space study, such as deeryards and farmland, education and research. Paul presented the North Gate Park in Montpelier as an example of Commission undertakings. He noted that the formation of the Park was entirely privately funded. Kathleen also stated that the group was not asking the town for a monetary appropriation.

Brian asked if a Conservation Commission could testify, for example, on behalf of an organization such as the Lamoille Solid Waste Resource Management. Paul said that this could occur, if the Selectboard approved first.

Paul noted that approximately one third of Vermont Towns have Conservation Commissions. Peggy Struhsacker mentioned that efforts such as Green Up, waterway clean up and water shed study, stream bank plantings to help prevent erosion, and other natural resource projects could be handled by a Conservation Commission. Don mentioned his concerns of duplication of efforts between a Commission and the Morristown Planning Commission. The group stated that they had first obtained the sanction of the Planning Commission, and would not be involved with zoning and planning decisions on an individual basis. Bud Geary mentioned his involvement with a Conservation Commission in Connecticut, and that they did actively participate in those processes.

The group recommended that the Selectboard appoint preferably up to nine candidates, and not less than three, in place as an Advisory Board. All positions would be on a volunteer basis. A notice will be placed in the paper before the meetings. Meetings would take place at the Municipal Conference Room, and the Minutes would be forwarded to the Selectboard. The first proposed meeting as a working commission would take place at 6:30 p.m. on February 3rd. Brian stressed the need for the group to communicate with the Selectboard (especially by furnishing copies of the minutes). Lee made motion to appoint a Morristown Conservation Committee, provided that the Selectboard determine the appointments for the Advisory Board to oversee the Commission. Brian seconded the motion. Passed. (Steve and Don opposed).

The Oxbow Tent Committee requested the use of the Oxbow land for an annual event to take place from August 12th through the 20th. George Gruner thanked the Selectboard for their consent to let the group use the Oxbow property last summer, and asked for ideas about improving the event, and for any concerns. Seventeen churches in the area are participating in the event, with the aim being to benefit society and especially the family unit. Brian asked the group which Church would act as the contact, and assume responsibility for the event. George thought the Cornerstone Four Stone Church in Morristown should be the designate. Don brought up the movement of rocks and vehicles on the field last year. George mentioned that having someone continuously on the grounds would help alleviate such problems. Lee asked if the group had adequate parking last time, and George said yes. The Selectboard asked that the group use the lower level of the field, to avoid damage to the soccer fields. A copy of the Town Policy for Land Use was given to the group. The state and local Police Departments will be notified by the group, prior to the event.

Don made motion to approve the Oxbow Tent Committee usage of Town Land from August 12th to August 20th, 2000, and to waive any retainer fee. Phil made second motion. Passed.

Scott Corse told the Selectboard of the recent lease arrangement of an electric Ford pick-up truck by Morrisville Water and Light. He also mentioned that the purchase pricing of power increased, during the recent cold snap.

A meeting date was tentatively scheduled for the joint meeting between the Morristown Schoolboard and the Morristown Selectboard. [The final date is February 22, 2000]. The meeting will take place at the Elementary School Library at 6:30 P.M. The Selectboard advised that a public notice be placed in the newspaper for two weeks.

Don brought up the icy conditions on the sidewalk by new Post Office.

Mary Ann Wilson discussed the progress of the Morrisville Downtown break-out group from the public forum.

The request to tally results from a questionnaire, concerning same sex marriage, which was sent to the