TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

DATE: **January 10, 1999**

PRESENT: Brian Greenia, Chair, Steven Leach, Donald Anderson, Lee Sturtevant
ABSENT: Phil Locke
DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Bill Moulton, Richard Keith, Bud Geary, Wally Reeve, Dave Godfrey, Mary Ann Wilson
GUESTS: Bud Wilson, Amy Noyes, Donald Hill, Todd Yando, Bud Wilson,Sonny Demars, William Spear, Kathleen O'Neill, Heath Eiden, Peggy Struhsacker, Marci Young

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

AA REPORT:

MINUTES: Lee made Motion, to approve the previous Minutes with the noted change of: "Spalding's", to replace "Wilson's" in the Highway Report.

HIGHWAY:
Bill asked that Mike Morrow at Lamoille South Waste Management be contacted, regarding the State Merry Mulch Program, for Christmas tree disposal.
He stated that the stones in the Town right-of-way on Fountaine Hill had been moved.
The Claim Letter presented for signing through the Vermont Agency of Transportation,concerning the Cady's Falls Road, is being reviewed. (At this time the Selectboard agreed to sign only the Sterling Bridge document, for funds totaling $75,000; to be issued to the Town for work completed. The motion to sign this release was put forth by Lee, seconded by Don. Passed.)
A motion to sign three compensation time authorization forms for Bill Moulton (submitted by Carol Bradley) was proposed by Don. Seconded by Lee. Passed.
Steve asked the Administrative Assistant about the status of funds [$1,624] left in the contract through the USDA Farm Service Agency, [which expires September 30, 2000]. It was agreed that this would be followed-up with Bill.
POLICE:
Richard Keith gave a brief report, and stated that there were 150 calls during the last two weeks, with no transports. He mentioned that it has been slow, and that he will be attending a State Police conference with Don Anderson on Tuesday. The only apparent Y2K related glitch he has found concerns the video surveillance camcorder, which was purchased through a grant, and will be handled accordingly, through the State of Vermont.
RESCUE:
Bud gave a favorable report, and stated that one weekend out of the four, (previously being handled by Lamoille Ambulance Service), has been resumed by the Rescue Squad. More drivers are in the training process.
Bill Moulton has attended to the Rescue building's driveway drainage.
Bud mentioned that house numbers in the area are often not clearly posted, or posted at all. He wants to have efforts made to rectify this situation; as the numbers must be posted, at least three inches high.
HEALTH:
David Godfrey stated that the trash on Mansfield Avenue had been cleared away.
He addressed the situation regarding Larry Sweetser's property, and stated that E. coli had been determined at the site. His recommendation is that a new well should be drilled, as the spring site is in a bad location. The State will be sending a copy of one additional test result. David also mentioned his concerns about another property, which is connected to the same system.
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:
FIRE:
Wally gave a general report, and introduced newly elected Officers, with the exception of Jeff Limoge (elected First Assistant Fire Chief) who was unable to attend. Bill Spear was named Second Assistant Fire Chief; Brad Wilson was named Lieutenant; along with Donald Hill (elected Captain); and Todd Yando (Lieutenant).
Wally advised the Board, in advance, that he would be presenting proposals pertaining to re-wiring, a replacement radio, and improvements.
ZONING:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Mary Ann stated that the Town Clerk's Office had been quiet, and that the staff is currently working on Dog Licensing.

The request from Ken Sweetser for $50 to be granted towards Resource Conservation efforts was discussed.

The Annual Report was submitted and outlined by the auditing firm of R.L. LaVigne. Only two discrepancies were noted. Both the Selectboard and the auditor gave Carol Bradley credit for her excellent management in handling the finances and records.

It was surmised that the only concern not rectified, at the present, concerns the management of loans; specifically the start-up of a payment schedule. Jean Girard suggested implementing a checklist to help keep track of loan timelines, and scheduled notice, with possible follow-up by the Selectboard. (Steve agreed to facilitate this).

During the presentation, it was noted that the funds concerning the Duhamel Pit fund (currently at 4.3% in the General Fund) could possibly be gaining a higher interest rate. Jean suggested looking into AAA bonds or securities which may yield as high as 8 – 10% returns. She made it clear to the Selectboard that her cautionary advice from last year did not specifically imply the Duhamel funds (although she was pleased to see that, overall, the Town funds have been well secured during the past year).

The revolving loan fund at $150,000 was mentioned, as being accessible, due to the re-payment of outstanding loans.

Jean also cautioned against accruing too little funding in the Leave Rates category. (Currently held at $41,000). This reasoning included comparing benefit schedules for employees, in order to safeguard against the possibility of need for more available cash on hand. (Specifically, if several employees retire all at once, etc.).

The years' tax-collections have increased significantly from last year.

It was noted that budget proposals for last year did not include grant in-kind (or percentage), pay-offs, although the revenues from these grants were also not projected.

Jean stated that she was pleased to see that previously unsecured monies now were. The 6.1% figure concluded an overall stable return rate.

Long-term debt increased $10,000 from last year.

No expense corrections were found, and again kudos was extended to Carol Bradley for this. The largest breakout figure concerned the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assistance) figures; with $98,000 divided between Inter-Governmental and FEMA monies. (The auditors agreed to send a report to be included in the Town Report to detail this information).

Steve Leach agreed to check into the Duhamel account and rates, and the bracketed amount of $91,000 available for transfer to the escrow account.

Mary Ann Wilson also agreed with the idea of looking into setting aside funds to sustain possible retirements and 30 day termination funds accrued, all at one time. Jean suggested looking into long-term and short-term employee expectations.

Steve concluded by thanking the auditors, and reflected that this is the sixth year of services by R.L. LaVigne for the Town. He asked that note in the Minutes be taken of Carol Bradley, and thanks be given to her for all of her hard work.

Marci Young was present to represent the Morristown/Morrisville Green-Up efforts and Green Up Vermont. She has made contact with Monty Mason, and ascertained that he is not interested in acting as Coordinator. She stressed the need for new volunteers. Marci expressed her long-term goal of litter prevention education. It was decided that Lamoille Regional Solid Waste be contacted, to see if the Green-Up garbage efforts would again be funded. It was also decided that of the $1,000 allocated to Green Up for the next fiscal year; $300 would be issued to the Green Up Vermont coordination efforts on the Statewide level. A motion to this effect was proposed by Lee. Seconded by Brian. Passed.

Marci requested that the Green Up banner be hung up three weeks in advance of the event, and at Town Meeting. It was agreed that arrangements would be made, and a press release would be issued.

NEW BUSINESS:

A proposed Land Use Policy, pertaining to the Oxbow property, was reviewed. It was concluded that this Policy should be altered and ratified at the next regular Selectboard Meeting. Brian stated that a designate of the Selectboard could also handle the permission process. The following changes, initiated by Don, would use the Gravel Pit use policy as a model, and include: no motorized vehicles, a non-responsibility for injuries (disclaimer), enforcement as regulated by the Selectboard and the Police Department, and that a copy of the Policy be posted at the Oxbow. Lee also proposed that a fee (such as $250) would be held as a deposit for any resulting refuse or damages.

One of the four groups formed out of the "Morristown – Our Town" forum was received by the Selectboard. Their spokesperson, Peggy Struhsacker, requested permission from the Selectboard; in order to form a Conservation Commission.

She discussed the evolvement of the 20 member group, and noted that any appointments would be based on a voluntary advisory capacity, with sanction by the Selectboard. Brian expressed his concerns about

keeping informed of the group's activities, and was reassured that the minutes and agenda would be given to the Selectboard, on a regular basis. The Selectboard agreed that the group could meet in the Municipal Conference Room on the First Thursday evening of each month, tentatively at 6:30 PM.
Peggy informed the Selectboard that the group has previously met with, and been given the sanction of, the Planning Commission. They are publicizing the meetings in *The Transcript*.
Peggy and the others stressed the importance of working openly with the Town in all aspects of its capacity, and the Selectboard agreed to address the group (with a response to their request) at the next Regular Meeting.
Marci Young asked that the Water and Light Department be contacted, regarding a dead Elm tree between the Needle Eye Road and the LaClaire Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve requested that a letter similar to that which had been given to the Village Trustees (concerning water run-off towards the Lamoille River), be sent to the DRB and the Planning Commission.
Sonny Demars represented the Village Trustees, and discussion took place regarding Streetlight maintenance. Sonny gave the Selectboard an update on progress made to transfer property. It was decided that the Noyes House and the Golf Course properties would be discussed at the next Village Trustee Meeting.

Motion was made by Brian to exit the Regular Meeting and move to Executive Session, at 8:40 PM. Seconded by Lee. Passed.

Don proposed a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:15 PM. Seconded by Brian. Passed. (No decisions resulted from the Executive Session).

PAYROLL/BILLS:

Warrant #00-02 ($56,113.58), for invoices dated 1/10-1/11/00; and Warrant #00-01 ($1,778.28), for Payroll related invoices dated 1/5/00, were proposed for payment through a motion made by Don, and seconded by Lee. Passed.
The Payroll warrant for the pay period ending 1/1/00 was proposed for payment through a motion made by Lee, and seconded by Don. Passed.
Motion was made to approve for payment the Recreation Warrant #00-01 ($110.00), for unpaid invoices, by Brian. Seconded by Don. Passed.

Lauria van den Noort, Scribe
Brian Greenia, Chair
Minutes filed 1/13/99

Minutes not approved