State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2003

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

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Mary Ann Wilson, Richard Keith, Bruce Kelley, Dot Cook and Wally Reeve

Guests: Ashton Allen, Rebecca Morrow, Mike Stafford, Graham Govoni, Sandi Utton

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

GUESTS

People's Academy sophomore Ashton Allen requested the Selectboard sponsor the proposed Vermont Recreation/Trails Program grant application to upgrade the trail at the school to make it handicap accessible. Ashton explained that he felt it necessary to refurbish the trail, as currently there are five or six students who attend school in wheelchairs that have no access to the trail.

A conditional use determination will be required due to it being in a wetland area, and Ashton advised the Board he has already been in touch with Shannon Morrison of the Vermont Wetlands Office. He credited Sheila Tymon and Robert Beech, both school advisors as well as State Environmentalist Chuck Mitchell for their guidance and suggestions. Ashton stated that Mr. Mitchell suggested stay-mat be used for the surface material, as the runoff would not affect the pond in any negative way, as it is permeable and it wouldn't act as a dam.

Ashton explained that this is his second attempt to fund the project. He applied for other grant funding last year as an individual, not realizing this type of project required backing by a municipality. Ashton acknowledged all of the help and guidance Mike Stafford has given him, and thanked him for his continued support on the project.

Cost estimates to date are approximately $10,000, which include rental of equipment for moving material, trenching and installing culverts, road fabric, gravel, stay-mat and barriers. The grant requires a 20% match, which could be in the form of materials such as gravel donated from the Town pit. The project will require approximately 137 – 150 yards of gravel, and at the current rate would be about $1,800. Ashton is hoping to recruit volunteer labor, which also can be counted as part of the match.

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard agreed to be the lead for the Vermont Recreation/Trails Program grant application to upgrade the school trail to handicap accessible status.

Mike Stafford, Rebecca Morrow and Ashton left at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

On A motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard unanimously approved the December 16, 2002 minutes as presented.

FINAL BUDGET REVIEW:

At their last meeting, the Selectboard made cuts to every department's budget in anticipation of the affects of the upcoming reappraisal results. Revised budget sheets were distributed and department heads were given the opportunity to attend this meeting to plead their case if cuts were made to a particular account they felt should not have been cut.

Morristown Rescue

MRS President Dorothy Cook, Graham Govoni, MRS BOD member and Operational Lead Sandi Utton were present. Their main concern regarding the budget cuts was the (12) hour per week part-time position to do janitorial work at the building and clean and stock the ambulance while providing on call coverage for daytime shifts that had been eliminated. The expense to cover these hours would be $4,680 per year. There was $1,900 in the budget to cover janitorial wages, so the difference was an additional $2,780 in wages, plus employer taxes that would be necessary to cover the total cost.

The Selectboard asked if MRS could find the money in one or more other accounts that could be used for this expense. $800 had been budgeted for a new refrigerator and $500 for new cabinets that they felt could be eliminated. Mr. Govoni stated he had a refrigerator he was willing to donate to MRS. $2,500 for the purchase of a new computer for the MRS office was questioned, as a computer, or possibly two from the Town Offices had been sent up to Rescue. It was stated that the computer that had come from Carol's office was the one the volunteers use for Internet service or games while on call. There seemed to be some confusion as to which computer was taken to MRS from the Town Offices as one was only two years old and was intended for the MRS office. The office computer currently in use is a collaboration of components donated from different places used for word documents as well as spreadsheets to track training etc. and needs replacing.

MRS representatives stated they did not need the whole $2,500 budgeted for a new computer. They felt they could safely deduct $1,300 from that line item in the budget. Wally Reeve recommended they contact Bill Kimball for a computer under the State contract. Sandi also said they would be applying for any possible grant funding.

Other issues discussed included the defibrillator for the second ambulance. There is $3,000 in the budget for a refurbished unit. Building repairs, i.e. new roof and furnace replacement were also discussed briefly. It was determined that it may be best to wait before investing too much into a building that may or may not be adequate in the next few years. Graham, Dot and Sandi left at this time.

Highway Department

A December 26, 2002 memo from Superintendent Bruce Kelley regarding the budget cuts was reviewed. The Superintendent recommended cutting $40,000 from the **Class III Paving** in lieu of the one-ton plow truck from the **Trucks and Equipment** account. The intent was for the Fields & Parks crew to use the existing truck, and by delaying the purchase of a new vehicle would leave F&P dependent on the Highway Department to tow their trailer and mowing and landscaping equipment around during the summer. He also felt that in the likelihood of additional plowing at the Jersey Heights Development next winter, this extra plow vehicle could be utilized. The cut in **Class III Paving**, approximately ¾ of a mile was not a major problem at this time.

Jim Paige questioned Bruce about the sanding at the middle school, as it was very icy. Bruce stated that the Highway Department did not sand that area; the school's contractor Mr. Audy did it. It was also determined that the issue with the fence at the Church was not a Highway Department problem, but caused by the snow being pushed across the road from the graded school.

Mark Struhsacker thanked Bruce for his quick response to a question he had had one day last week.

Fire Department

Chief Reeve expressed his concerns over the cuts made to the Fire Department budget. The two accounts he was most concerned with were *New Equipment* under **Communications** and *Building Improvements* under **Maintain Fire Station**.

Wally stated he needed the full amount in the *New Equipment* line in order to purchase the $4,200 dual head radio for the new truck and still have funds to be able to replace portable radios and pagers when needed. When the Board questioned why the need for a dual head radio, Wally explained the need for two frequencies in order to communicate with other firefighters at the scene as well as one for communicating with dispatch etc.

Wally explained that he had already postponed the new shower construction from this year in order to use those funds to purchase the $9,000 truck from St. Albans. If the Board chose to cut the *Building Improvement* account by $3,000, he would not be able to construct the shower and replace the door that was budgeted for. After discussing the two issues, the Selectboard agreed to include the requested funding for the radio, but not the shower. However, they did agree if there was a surplus in this year's budget, the shower could be built.

The Board Chair inquired of the Federal Emergency Grant (Homeland Security) program and asked if all of the emergency departments were working together on this. Wally said the meeting was this Wednesday and he planned to attend. He further stated that he would be applying for a grant to purchase a dual band radio for the Fire Department's Rescue truck, as the Vermont Department of Public Safety would like every Rescue vehicle in the State to have one in it. It may be possible to make this radio portable.

The Chief also stated that he might be able to acquire, at no cost to the Town, a Decontamination Trailer thru Federal Grant funding, but he has no place to put it. He needs a bay to store it in.

The Fire Chief informed the Board of a possible joint venture between Morristown and Hyde Park where during the day when they are short staffed, both departments would respond to active structure fires in either town as well as for high life hazard automatic alarms such as are in schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

Wally expressed his thanks to the Highway and Police Departments for their help on New Years Day. Wally left at this time.

Municipal Facilities Study

Board members Sturtevant and Struhsacker both opposed adding $15,000 to continue with the Municipal Facilities Study. Member Bryer stated that he felt when this was discussed last there were more members in favor of budgeting for it than against it. Chair Greenia stated he felt comfortable including this in the budget. He said the study has been publicized and the Board should be able to answer questions when asked, and without studying the Town's needs further, the Board will not be able to give those answers.

Member Paige stated that sometimes things become a priority when you realize you should have done it.

Town Clerk Mary Ann Wilson explained that the Town has missed two opportunities already because we didn't have a plan. She recommended including the funds in the budget and the voters could cut it at Town Meeting if they so choose.

OTHER BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Insurance - The Administrator reported that insurance was lower by $6,850 from what was previously estimated.

Library – Due to financial losses, the Morristown Centennial Library's request of $86,000 was $13,000 +/- more than last year's request. At the last Selectboard meeting, the Board discussed budgeting $75,000 for the Library, which still exceeded last years figure. After further discussion, it was recommended to include $75,000 in the General Government Budget for the Library and have a separate article for the additional $11,000.

The Board asked the Administrator to talk to Mary West regarding the matter.

Separate Articles – The Board agreed to incorporate all outside appropriation requests into one article, unless a change is made to one.

HIGHWAY PURCHASE REQUEST:

In a memo to the Selectboard, Superintendent Kelley requested to purchase a Power Eagle Model 41-530 Pressure Washer for $4,295 to aid in cleaning Highway vehicles as well as culverts. This unit is necessary cue to the lack of water at the Town Garage. He presented three quotes for review along with his recommendation. The Power Eagle salesman has allowed the Highway Department to "try it out" for the past couple of weeks to see if it will suit their needs.

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by Lee Sturtevant, the Selectboard authorized the purchase of the Power Eagle Pressure Washer Model 41-530 for $4,295.

Bruce Kelley thanked the Board and left at this time.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator had given his thoughts regarding the budget to the Board in a memo, as well as an update on the Maple Street Project. Two options were provided on the Maple Street Project construction, but after reviewing the alternatives, errors were found and need to be corrected before a definite figure can be established. Paul has sent a letter to Scott Corse with copies to Alec Tuscany and Aaron Martin regarding the project. He recommended the Selectboard and Trustee Chairs agree on a date for the two Boards to meet on the subject.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

MPC APPOINTMENT:

The Selectboard acknowledged the recommendation to appoint Peter Wright to the Morristown Planning Commission and took the following action.

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard appointed Peter Wright to the Morristown Planning Commission.

EQUALIZED GRAND LIST & VERMONT COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES:

The Administrator presented the Listers' recommendation to petition for a redetermination of its Equalized Education Grand List and Coefficient of Dispersion and the Board took the following action.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard unanimously voted to allow Brian Greenia to sign the "Petition for Redetermination" on behalf of the Selectboard.

The Selectboard requested the letter and attachments be sent certified with return receipt.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mark Struhsacker had a concern regarding excessive snowmobile use on Cole Hill Road. He felt machines were using the road as a main throughway, not just to access VAST trails. James Paige also had a concern of snow machinists accelerating at road crossings causing excessive amounts of snow to spray all over the roads. It was determined that someone should talk with Min Cote of the snowmobile club. The Administrative Assistant was asked to bring the list of roads approved for snowmobile use to the next meeting.

WARRANTS
On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated 01/06/03 were unanimously approved. (Attached)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR (continued)

SELECTBOARD ANNUAL REPORT
The Board approved the draft Selectboard Annual Report. They commended the Administrator and the Administrative Assistant for preparing a well-written, detailed report of the years events and asked for the final copy to be presented at the next meeting for their signatures.

LVRR ENGINE HOUSE
The TA reported having received notice that the local business that inquired about storing materials at the Engine House Property is no longer interested.

WATER TANK
The Highway Department plans to put the old Fire Tank onto the Highway truck body, as the old water tank needs about $700 worth of work to fix the leaks. We have had an offer of $600 for the old tank, what is the Selectboard's decision?

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard authorized the sale of the tank for $600.00.

MORRISTOWN STP EH01(28) ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
The Town has received the Agreement for Professional Services for the Morristown STP EH01(28) Portland Street sidewalk project from Lamoureux and Dickinson Inc. for approval.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Lee Sturtevant, the Board authorized the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement for Professional Services for the Morristown STP EH01(28) Enhancement Project on behalf of the Selectboard.

WABUN AVENUE SIDEWALK REQUEST
The TA has received a request to plow the sidewalk on Wabun Avenue from resident Robert Wadds. After discussing the matter, the Selectboard instructed the TA to have the Highway Department plow the sidewalk as requested.

OTHER BUSINESS

MCPIP
The TA informed the Selectboard that the Morristown Community Playground Improvement Project (MCPIP) Committee's request would be on the next agenda.

PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION
Shaun Bryer informed the Selectboard of his recent conversations regarding Adelphia and the Public Access Television situation. He also has talked with representatives from the School.

OPEN DISCUSSION

MRS LIAISON'S MEMO TO THE SELECTBOARD
Shaun Bryer discussed the various issues listed in his memo to Selectboard Members dated January 2, 2003 pertaining to Morristown Rescue, which included computers and internet access, hiring of a consultant, transports, billing and recruitments.

TOWN REPORT
The Selectboard considered the two recommendations for the dedication of the Town Report and made their decision. The TA will call the Editor to request he write the dedication.

NEXT MEETING
A notice will be sent to the local Legislators reminding them of the invitation to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss grants.

MPD TRAINING
Chief Keith informed the Selectboard he was very happy with the progress of the new part time officer. Chief Keith is trying to enroll him into the full training program in February, if there is an opening, otherwise it will be August before he can start his training.

VT/REC TRAILS PROGRAM PRESENTATION
The Selectboard again commented on what a super presentation from Ashton Allen this evening.

BUDGET REVIEW (continued)
After much discussion, the Selectboard took the following action.

On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard approved the Budget with the changes made this evening.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 9th day of January 2003

Barbara Cochran, Scribe

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

____________________________ ____________
Minutes approved Date

Memorandum

To: Selectboard

From: Carol L. Bradley, Bookkeeper

Date: 01/06/03

Re: Warrants presented for Board Meeting on January 6, 2003

General Fund:

Warrant #01-81– PR Related Invoices from pay PPE 12/18/02	$ 6,799.64
Warrant #01-82- PR Related Invoices from PPE 12/31/02	$32,506.12
Payroll Warrant for pay period ending 12/14/02 -Pd 12/18/02	$ 36,234.61
Payroll Warrant for pay period ending 12/28/02 – Pd 12 /31/02	$31,516.75
Warrant #01-83 – AP unpaid invoices due 01/07/03	$89,781.61
Warrant #ML-6 for 12/01/02-12/31/02	$49,633.95

Other Funds: