State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2005

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Cathy Voyer, and Shaun Bryer

Department Heads: Francis Taginski, TA, Chief Richard Keith, Mary Ann Wilson, Carol Bradley

Guests: George Cormier, Bob & Wendy Parrish, Marilyn Litchfield, Donahue Duckwood, Buckwheat, Arden Noyes, Tim Sullivan, Krister Adams, Harold Stevens, Becca Reggio, Jean Girard, and Steve Rae

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

**GUESTS**

***George Cormier***: Provided a brief background on the issue of changing the current tax payment period from two payments to four as discussed at the 2004 Town Meeting. George indicated the change would hinder the School District from taking advantage of arbitrage borrowing and the District is opposed to the change. Buckwheat asked why if changing to four payments is not good idea, then why did Stowe make the change. After further discussion the Board by consensus felt it was in the best interest of the Town to remain with a two tax payment policy.

**Harold Stevens**: Attorney representing the residents on Campbell Road addressed the Board requesting the Town accept the Campbell Road prior to the previous set date of February 17th. After discussion the Board requested the paperwork be prepared for the board meeting of January 17th that would officially open Campbell Road and have the Town begin winter plowing directly thereafter.

***Becca Reggio:*** Residents of Park Street Extension requested the Board authorize the Street Department to begin plowing the sidewalk. Discussion was held on the issues that would inhibit the Town from performing sidewalk plowing and resulting property damage/repairs to lawns and trees. Following a requirement by the Board that a release be signed by all affected property owners (agreed to) the Board directed the Town Administrator to provide plowing of the Park Street Extension sidewalk once all the release forms are completed.

**Tim Sullivan**: Mr. Sullivan requested the Town accept the survey results for a property adjacent to the Town Forest upon reviewing the materials submitted to the Board. After a brief discussion Chairman Greenia stated the Board would review the materials and request with staff and notify him of their decision at the next meeting.

**Krister Adams**: Discussed a VCDP grant application for the Pinecrest Mobile Home Park. It was noted Mr. Adams had warned a public hearing for January 17th by the Board without its approval and wished to have the Board endorse an implementation grant for $500,000. The Board, following discussion, instructed Mr. Adams that the hearing on January 17th will be cancelled and any further decisions to apply for additional grants on Pinecrest will have to wait until the results of the Planning Grant are reviewed.

***Audit Presentation:*** Jean Girard from R.F. Lavigne & Company provided a review of the FY04 audit along an explanation of the new GASB 34 reporting requirements and management letter. Jean reported the Town was in a good financial health and Carol Bradley did a tremendous job preparing the schedules and financial information to be audited.

**Following discussion, Shaun Bryer made a motion to accept the FY 2004 audit. Jim Paige seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

MINUTES:

***On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by Cathy Voyer, the Board accepted the Minutes of December 13th and 20th as presented. Motion passed unanimously.***

MAPLE STREET PROJECT: Tag provided background and information prepared by Paul D. McGinley following a meeting with Scott Johnson on construction estimates for the project. It was noted that the Town's share of the project has grown to nearly $700,000 and the project has changed form a water/sewer line replacement project to a road beautification project.

**Following discussion, Jim Paige made a motion to discontinue consideration of the Maple Street Project. The motion was seconded by Shaun Bryer and it passed unanimously.**

TOWN REPORT: Tag provided an update on the status of the Town Report. Discussion was held on the cover and dedication.

BUDGET/WARNING: Discussion was held on the new format of the Warning and Articles. Options for the Library/Municipal building project were discussed along with purchase of the Cole/Alexander parcels. A funding request for Recreation was apparently missing. The status of the Rescue Building project was discussed and Tag was asked to ensure the financing, grant applications and design were on track. The Board discussed using some of the Fund Balance and an estimated increase in the Grand List to balance the current expenditure budget without further cuts. Tag and Carol Bradley will check the figures and contact folks regarding the Recreation budget request.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Property Valuation Appeal: The Board reviewed a request from the Listers to appeal an equalization determination on Electric Utilities.

**Following discussion, Cathy Voyer made a motion to sign the appeal letter as prepared by the Listers. Jim Paige seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

UNSAFE BUILDINGS: Shaun asked about the Town's authority to regulate unsafe or abandoned buildings that are considered a health hazard.

CEMETERY: Brian Greenia provided information from a recent meeting on the Pleasant View Cemetery. Discussion was held on work that needs to be done on compiling a burial index, need for a Sexton as well as a water project. Tag indicated he was asked to assist with bids for a contractor on the water line project.

**Following discussion, Bryan Greenia made a motion to allow up to 100 hours of work by Francis Favreau at his current rate to catalog the errors and omissions of burial sites within the Pleasant View Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Cathy Voyer and it passed unanimously.**

## WARRANTS

***On a motion by Jim Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board approved the warrants as presented on the memorandum dated 01/03/05.***

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Tag provided an update on complaints about over sized sand particles used in the Village area, a fire truck pump issue, water problem at the Town Garage, and his first week on the job.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Brian Greenia made the Board aware of the up-coming County budget meeting on January 13th.

Steve Rae discussed the Town Forest and the involvement of the County Forester.

Shaun Bryer distributed copies of the revised employment agreement for Francis Taginski, Town Administrator.

**Following discussion, Cathy Voyer made a motion to approve and sign the contract with Francis Taginski as Town Administrator. Jim Paige seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

## ADJOURN

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board adjourned their meeting at 9:20 PM.***

Respectfully submitted and filed this 3rd day of January, 2005.

Francis Taginski, Town Administrator

Minutes Approved _______________ Date _______________