MORC Committee Meeting Minutes September 23, 2010

Present: Committee Members Dave Sherman, Penny Jordan, Mike Vallencourt, Dick Bauman, Tim Thompson, Bill DeSena, and Jean Ginn Marvin. Ex Officio Committee Member: Mike McGovern

Absent: Glenn Kersteen , Mary Ann Lynch

As Chairman Glenn Kersteen was unable to attend the meeting, Dave Sherman was appointed Chairman pro tempore. Chairman Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Mike Vaillancourt made a motion that we accept the minutes from our June 1, 2010 meeting. Penny Jordan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Thompson brought up the minutes from 4/15/10. He stated that they misquoted him. Tim also stated for the record that he is not looking to replace our police department with the Sherriff Department. Manager McGovern said that he would make the correction in the record and e-mail it to Tim Thompson for approval.

Chairman Sherman asked if the Committee wished to press forward and complete our charge or if we want to disband and provide the Council with some form of our draft report.

Mike Vaillancourt said that he would be disappointed if we were not to complete our task.

Penny Jordan stated that as we didn’t have agreement as to our goals it has made it difficult to complete the task. She suggested that we give the Council what we have and move on.

Dick Bauman agreed with Penny. He felt that while product is incomplete it does represent what we have tried to do. Public input is documented. Dick doesn’t feel that additional discussion will achieve anything and additional time spent would not improve report.

Jean Ginn Marvin agreed with Penny and Dick and suggested we send the council a report that states we were unable to complete the task we were given.

Tim Thompson pointed out that the Council also took on several of the issues MORC was studying and that sometimes there was a duplication of efforts. He went on to say the Council should receive copies of all surveys from the public as well as make suggestions as to how this type of report could be better completed in the future.

Dave Sherman suggested we give the Council ideas of what worked and what didn’t.

Bill DeSena agreed with the majority. He felt that we never established a clear direction. He said MORC was a great idea and that he would endorse abandoning the project as we do not have the expertise to complete the task. He would recommend is there were to be a similar project in the future that the Committee be given a professional to help ask appropriate questions. He felt the MORC Committee bridged the one town concept. He said it is easy to draw incorrect conclusions from the outside looking in. He went on to say our committee needed less town oversight and more independence. He thought the original idea was to reach out to citizens and find out what they wanted. He felt we did a poor job of explaining to town workers what we were trying to do and that the town employees were needlessly upset by our questions.

Chairman Sherman stated that we would have to spend many hours to create a document that would be of little worth. He asked if everyone would be OK with submitting a draft as well as the survey.

Dick Bauman stressed we needed to clarify that there are recommendations and findings in the report that not everyone is in agreement with.

Bill DeSena suggested that we focus on the survey and state that there was limited participation and that we focus on themes that were recurring.

Chairman Sherman asked how we would like to draft the letter.

Penny Jordan suggested a small group create that draft and then it be circulated for other committee members input. She stated the task would be too difficult for a large group.

Chairman Sherman stated he felt we were charged with too large of a scope, that we did not have enough expert help or consensus on our agenda.

Bill DeSena said he felt the scope was not too large. He also believed we needed to spend more time in other towns getting information.

Penny added that she felt Bill was discussing process, not scope.

Tim Thompson said he thought the problem was both process and scope. Tim said that he personally had difficulty getting information and gathering data for a variety of reasons.

Penny Jordan pointed out that as we didn’t have a methodology so it was impossible to complete the objective. She felt this was a result of a lack of project management skills.

Dick Bauman suggested that if the Council were to appoint a similar committee in the future that the committee should be required to provide regular feedback to the Council to insure they are on the correct path.

Bill Desena suggested the public needed to be more informed as to what the committee was doing.

Penny Jordan said she felt a 10 month deadline would have been fine if we had had project management and leadership.

Tim Thompson felt that MORC created a lot of angst and discomfort among the staff and that in the future a process should be put in place to clearly explain what the committee is charged with.

Bill DeSena Said future committees should be required to keep copious notes both at the sub-committee and committee level.

Dick Bauman suggested it would be appropriate to hire a secretary so that notes would be completed in a timely and complete manner.

Tim Thompson then moved that Chairman Sherman use the outline to put together a draft letter that would be circulated among committee members for approval and that we disband MORC and deliver a letter stating such to the Town Council.

Penny Jordan seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Sherman said he felt he could have such a letter out in a week and asked that committee members respond directly to him to avoid online discussion. He went on to say he would include a draft report as well as all copies of the survey in the form of an appendix. He asked if we should have someone quantify or analyze the contents of the survey.

Bill DeSena said that he has gone through all surveys on numerous occasions and had quantified the information. He had generally divided comments in to positive, negatives and general themes.

Penny Jordan suggested that Bill DeSena share his report with each of us and that we review it and respond directly to Bill.

Tim Thompson stated that there were some clarifications that we needed to make. He questioned whether MORC had endorsed the Pay Per Bag System of Trash Collection. Chairman Sherman assured him that MORC only suggested that the Council consider it.

Dick Bauman stated that he has also reviewed all the surveys. Chairman Sherman suggested that we start with Bill’s document and that Dick be able to respond directly to Bill.

A vote was taken on the motion on the floor:

(Tim Thompson then moved that Chairman Sherman use the outline to put together a draft letter that would be circulated among committee members for approval and that we disband MORC and deliver a letter stating such to the Town Council.

Penny Jordan seconded the motion.)

The vote was 6-1 with Mike Vaillancourt casting the lone dissenting vote.

Bill DeSena then thanked Mike for his hard work.

Chairman Sherman thanked all the members of the committee on behalf of the Council.

Manager McGovern said he appreciated the recommendations contained in the Draft Report and noted about 1/3 of them are already being used. He said that future committees should be a bit more focused as our town is a conglomerate of several different businesses (a transfer station, a gift shop, a police department and so on) He said MORC has many good recommendations and that on a go forward basis many will be used. For example Community Services has already implemented on line registration and payments. He thanked everyone again for their service.

Bill DeSena said many people in town have a confused understanding of how little the Council has to say about the school budget and those townspeople need to be better informed as to how this relationship works.

Chairman Sherman than asked members of the public if they would like to speak.

Barbara Dunham said that there is dissent within our town. She suggested that there is a cover up going on and that the MORC Committee (minus Mike Vaillancourt) had failed to do their job. She suggested that we should go door-to-door to get a 100% response. She said MORC opened Pandora’s Box and then closed it. She also asked a question regarding the hook and ladder truck.

Manager McGovern explained what he knew regarding the financing of the truck. Jean Ginn Marvin recalled the town was given a far more expensive truck than they paid for as then Fire Chief Phil McGoldrick was the leader of a Firefighting group and the company that made the truck wanted to present it to him at a National meeting in Texas.

Tim Thompson thanked the Fire Chief and the Police Chief for all their hard work.

There being no other business to come before the Committee Bill DeSena made a motion to adjourn at 8:14pm and Penny Jordan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Ginn Marvin

Secretary pro tempore