SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MARCH 9, 2023

Members: Judy Bickford*, Bob Beeman, Don McDowell, Travis Sabataso, Laura Streets

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Dennis DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Paula Beattie*, Human Resources Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Mitzi Fleming, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer; Anna McCormick*, Recreation Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: David Ring, David Campbell, Dennis Smith, Ron Stancliff, Tom Cloutier, Cynthia Cloutier, Thomas Dunavan, Nancy Dunavan, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Gary Briggs, Martin Green, Laura Green, Ed Loewenton*, Kathy Chaffee*, Bob Bortree

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER
Bob Beeman called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:00PM at the Tegu Building.
Don McDowell will chair the meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS
None

APPROVE MINUTES
None

SELECTBOARD ORGANIZATION

1. **Elect Chair**
   Don McDowell nominated Judy Bickford as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Bob Beeman. Laura Streets nominated Don McDowell as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Travis Sabataso. Bob Beeman, Don McDowell & Judy Bickford voted in favor of Judy Bickford. Travis Sabataso & Laura Streets voted in favor of Don McDowell. Judy Bickford was elected as chair (3/2). Travis Sabataso Nay, Laura Streets Nay
2. **Elect Vice-Chair**
   Motion made by Laura Streets to nominate Don McDowell as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Bob Beeman. Motion carried (5/0).
3. **Appoint Department Liaisons**

The process for appointing liaisons to the different departments was discussed by the Selectboard members and the following appointed:

Don McDowell, liaison for the Highway Department
Judy Bickford, liaison for the General Government
Travis Sabataso, liaison for the police.
Laura Streets, liaison for the EMS Department.
A liaison for the Fire Department will be tabled for now.

4. Town Appointments

The process of appointments was discussed and appointed:

Appointed Officers:
Emergency Mgmt Coordinator - Eric Dodge
E-911 - Abbie Griggs
Animal Control Officer - Morristown Police Department
Pound Keeper - Vacant
Agent to Convey Real Estate - Chris Young/Dennis Smith/Joie Marshall
Fence Viewer - Duane Sprague
Green Up Day Coordinator - Brent Teillon
Tree Warden - Fran Sladyk
First Constable - Brian Tomlinson

Boards and Commissions:
Planning Council - Etienne Hancock
Planning Council - John Meyer
Development Review Board - Susanna Burnham

Motion made by Bob Beeman to appoint all as presented. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

5. Set regular meeting schedule

Don McDowell suggested that the board continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 5:00pm. After discussion by the board and community members, 5:30pm was selected as the meeting time.

Motion made by Don McDowell to set the Selectboard Meetings for the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 5:00pm at the Tegu Building Community Meeting Room. Motion seconded by Bob Beeman Motion failed (2/3). Don McDowell Nay; Travis Sabataso Nay; Laura Streets Nay.

Motion made by Travis Sabataso to set the Selectboard Meetings for the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the Tegu Building Community Meeting Room. Motion seconded by Bob Beeman Motion carried (5/0)

6. Set locations for posting meeting notices

Motion made by Judy Bickford to set the location for meeting notices at Morristown Post Office, Morrisville Water & Light, Morristown Centennial Library, Morristown Website, and Tegu Building window. Motion seconded by Bob Beeman.

Discussions also involved posting on the Front Porch Forum (FPF).

The vote on the motion failed. (2/3) Travis Sabataso Nay; Laura Streets Nay; Don McDowell Nay.

Motion made by Travis Sabataso set the location for meeting notices at Morristown Post Office, Morrisville Water & Light, Morristown Centennial Library, Morristown Website, Tegu Building window, and Front Porch Forum to include full agenda and zoom link. Motion seconded by Laura Streets.

The vote on the motion carried (3/2) Judy Bickford Nay; Bob Beeman Nay

7. **Set town's newspaper of record**
   Motion made by Judy Bickford to set the town's newspaper of record as News & Citizen. Motion seconded by Bob Beeman. Motion carried (5/0).

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review & sign the warning for the April 18, 2023 Special Town Meeting**
   Sara Haskins presented a draft warning for the April 18, 2023 special town meeting that includes three articles; the petitioned article to move all budget articles to Australian ballot plus the two articles voted on by the Selectboard to move voting all officers and all public questions to Australian ballot.

   Motion made by Travis Sabataso to approve the Town of Morristown special meeting in its entirety. Motion seconded by Laura Streets.

   Eric Dodge shared that the article regarding the construction of sidewalks on Jersey Heights is not on the revised warning as recommended by Attorney Barlow. The climate surrounding the budget and the fact that article 5 failed, even though all votes did not count during the March 7, 2023 election due to a typographical error, it has been recommended that the Selectboard focuses on passing the budget in the coming weeks. Sara Haskins explained that this warning must be voted on during a traditional floor meeting as required by state statute. Community members questioned reaching out to the state to change election laws. Judy Bickford shared that she has written to State Representatives in Montpelier but unfortunately, changes take time.

   Judy Bickford moved to call the question. Motion to call the question carried. (3/2) Travis Sabataso Nay; Laura Streets Nay.

   The motion to approve the Town of Morristown special meeting in its entirety carried. (5/0)

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE WARRANTS

None

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Bryant Pond site walk was conducted last week to construct a parking lot. On March 20th agenda, bid results will be brought to the Selectboard.

Senator Peter Welch will be in town on Friday March 10th to visit Power Play, Thompsons Flower Shop, Morrisville Food Co-Op and the new Village Apartments.

Phase II construction is complete in the Tegu Building. A wall is being constructed in the former finance room, creating two separate office spaces on the first floor to accommodate Rec Coordinator and Community Dev Coordinator. Donnie Blakes Team has done incredible work.
Recognize the BCA and the Clerk's office for an outstanding job during the election.
Thanks Brian Kellogg for his service as a Selectboard member for many years, fire department member and animal control officer.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Travis Sabataso - As a new member to the political arena, he will continue to work hard to ensure his message is captured by everyone the way he intends it to be received.

Laura Streets -Thanks to everyone that helped to get her elected. Highly values citizen input and would invite civility and respect to the meetings.

Judy Bickford - Thanks Brian Kellogg and will miss his institutional knowledge. Welcome Laura and Travis to the Board. Thank you to Don for chairing the meeting tonight. Thanks Bob and will miss him as well. Bob brought knowledge of many experiences with Police, Fire, and Highway to the board.

Don McDowell - Appreciates Brian and will miss him. Thanks to Bob and will be sad to see him go as well. There is tremendous respect for the folks that work for the town. Must get a budget passed and move forward. Towns' people have spoken loud and clear.

Bob Beeman - Announced he would be stepping down immediately. Hopes the town can come together and pass a budget that is good for all. Bob stated that he has always been the guy that says what's on his mind and stands behind his words.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Community concerns requesting that the town throw the budget into austerity for a year, hard to vote not knowing the value of homes, moving forward with positivity, and appreciation for Bob and Brian. There was safety concern over a bridge at Morristown Corners and a suggestion to name the bridge after Brian Kellogg, and a concern over the possible excavation of rock blasting at a site near Cochran Rd/Route 100. Capt. Denny Digregorio reminded the board that he would need to be reappointed as Fire Chief. This was missed inadvertently and will be an agenda item at the next Selectboard Meeting.

Anna McCormich introduced herself as the Recreation Coordinator for Morristown and is proud to work for the Town of Morristown and appreciates Eric Dodge's leadership.

Sara Haskins wants to thank Mitzi and Elizabeth and BCA as well as other folks that helped out with the recent election.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Travis Sabataso. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm
Submitted and filed this March 14, 2023 .
Judi Alberi, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.