



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2023

Members: Judy Bickford, Don McDowell, Laura Streets, Travis Sabatase*

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent; Dennis DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief; Mitzi Fleming*, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Gary Sinnott, Susan Sinnott, Dave Campbell, Tom Cloutier, Brent Teillon, Susan Bailey, William Bailey, Jamie Jaret, David Ring, Scott Thompson, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Leonard Wing, Kristin Marriott, Yvette Mason, Bill Westerman, Kathy Demars, John Meyer, Ron Stancliff, Martin Green, Laura Green, Richard Craig, Matt Holderman, Evelyn Throne, Jerry Throne, Charlie Burnham, Ed Wilson, Mary Ann Wilson, Bev Mitchell-Koch, Fred Mitchell-Koch, Caleb Jarvis, Kevin Griggs, Barry Russo, Steve Rae, Brooke Scatchard, Ed Loewenton, Kathy Chaffee*, Josh Goldstein*, Bob Bortree, Steve Hemmingway*, Nancy Banks*, Joanne Davis*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:40PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Reschedule #9 Oxbow Park Applications to April 3, 2023

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes 2-27-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of February 27, 2023. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatase. Motion carried. (4/0)

2. Approve Minutes of 3-9-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

3. Approve Minutes of 3-15-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of March 15, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lamoille Fibernet CUD update

Lamoille Fibernet CUD representatives, Jane Campbell and John Meyer, presented to the Selectboard on the The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). Every town that commits a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to CVFiber will see their grant matched by the VCBB. Every dollar of grant and match will go toward broadband within the granting town's borders. VCBB has opened its offer for towns that commit up to \$100,000 to CVFiber. The deadline for the agreement is May 1st.

Broadband is an allowable use of ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds but not taxpayer dollars. This is a way to show your support, accelerate the build-out in your community, and promote affordable service for your residents. The Selectboard authorized ARPA funds to be used for operating expenses per the Federal Government so there are no longer ARPA funds available for this matching grant.

Motion by Don McDowell to reappoint Jane Campbell with alternate John Meyer to the Governing Board of Lamoille Fibernet Communications Union District for the term ending on the last day of April 2024. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. 4/0

2. Select bid for Bryan Pond parking lot project

The board will move to Item 4 as Tyler was running 5 minutes behind.

Tyler Mumley presented bids received for the Bryan Pond Road Parking Lot to the Selectboard. Grimes Inc. was the lowest bid and Tyler expressed confidence in Grimes Inc.'s ability to do the work. Grimes Inc. is a very reputable company and has done work with Tyler in the past.

Motion made by Don McDowell to accept the bid from Grimes Inc in the amount of \$43,929.00 for the Bryan Pond Parking Lot project. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatase. Motion carried (4/0).

3. Discuss RFP for Walton Road bridge

VHB, a Structural Engineering firm, did an evaluation of the Walton Rd bridge in late 2022. The results were presented to the board by Tyler Mumley. The report summary outlined 3 different options, from replacement of half the bridge deck, greasing girders, concrete repairs and installing membrane and pavement to the deck.

Tyler recommended to the board to do a combination of option 1 and 2. VHB has also recommended that they do an indepth engineering analysis of the entire structure which will cost \$10,000 - \$15,000 and take 4-6 weeks to complete. The bridge is on borrowed time and this needs to be done. Voters authorized borrowing \$510,000 for this project last year. There is money from 2019 Halloween storm from FEMA and already existing funds from the bridge reserve.

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the proposed work of combining alternates 1 & 2 options for the work needed for Walton Rd Bridge. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Laura Streets to spend approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 on a detailed engineering analysis conducted by VHB in the next 4-6 weeks as a sole source vendor. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

4. Appoint DRB Alternate

DRB recommended Lenny Wing be appointed to the open DRB Alternate seat on Feb 22, 2023. Lenny Wing expressed his interest and spoke about the fact that he has been a resident of Morrisville for 15 years and felt it was his time to get involved. Morrisville Water & Light Village Trustees appointed Lenny Wing at their recent meeting.

Motion made by Don McDowell to appoint Lenny Wing. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

There was some discussion regarding no term limits being set for the alternates.

5. Appoint Pound Keeper

Jason Luneau will speak with Jeff Foss' nephew as he indicated that his nephew might be interested. This item is tabled till next Selectboard Meeting.

6. Appoint Fire Chief

Captain Dennis Digregorio would like to continue as Fire Chief. He needs to be appointed every 2 years.

Motion made by Don McDowell to appoint Dennis Digregorio as Fire Chief. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

7. Appoint Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator needs to be appointed every 3 years.

Motion made by Don McDowell to appoint Todd Thomas as Zoning Administrator for a term of 3 years. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

8. Appoint Planning Council Member

Morrisville Water & Light Village trustees appointed Wally Reeve to the Planning Council through 2026. Wally was in attendance and expressed to the board that he has lived in Morrisville for his entire life, minus a few years serving our country, and was a Firefighter for 30 years here. Happy to now serve in this capacity.

Motion made by Laura Streets to appoint Wally Reeve as a Planning Council Member. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (4/0).

At this point, Tyler Mumley was prepared to discuss Items 2 & 3.

9. Reschedule April 17th to April 24th - Special Town Meeting April 18th

Motion made by Travis Sabatase to reschedule April 17, 2023 to April 24, 2023 at 6pm. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

10. Discuss Appointment vs Election of Selectboard vacant seat

The Selectboard has the choice to appoint or elect a new member to the vacant seat created by Bob Beeman's departure. The board has varying opinions on how best to handle the vacancy. Due to the

timing involved in filling the vacancy, the board has decided to continue with a previous decision of appointing a member.

There is an ad in the News & Citizen, Front Porch Forum, and the Website letting interested parties know how to apply. Applications close on April 3rd at 4pm. Interested parties will be scheduled for an interview with the board.

Motion made by Don McDowell to move forward with the process of appointing a replacement for Bob Beeman with applications due by April 3rd at 4pm . Motion seconded by Travis Sabatase. Motion carried (4/0).

11. Budget Revisions

After many comments from the board and citizens, Eric and Tina Sweet have been asked to get the budget to 14% if possible and bring it back to the board on April 3, 2023 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0). Travis Sabatase abstained.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report this week.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Travis Sabatase - Nothing to report this week

Laura Streets - Meeting with Bill Mapes, EMS Chief

Don McDowell - Good, nothing more this week

Judy Bickford - Good, nothing more this week

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Many concerns over the high budget were expressed during budget review.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session

Don McDowell made a motion to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved, at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Don McDowell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). To include the Town Administrator, Eric Dodge and HR Director, Paula Beattie. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Don McDowell made a motion to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge of pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution, to which the public body is or may be party, will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Don McDowell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the pending or probable

litigation or prosecution under the provisions of Title 1 section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes, to include Town Administrator, Eric Dodge. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Submitted and filed this March 24, 2023 .

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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