



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MAY 1, 2023**

Members: Judy Bickford, Don McDowell, Chris Palermo, Travis Sabatasso, Laura Streets

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; Todd Baxter, Detective Lieutenant MPD; Anna McCormick, Recreation Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tom Cloutier, Martin Green, Chris Doyle, Jerry Throne, Evelyn Throne, Gary Briggs, Selina Rooney, Kenny Grimes, Sue Grimes, Ron Stancliff, Paul Green, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Ed Loewenton, Harper Phillips, Lee Labier, Yvonne Mason*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Accept resignation of Town Administrator

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 4-3-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of April 3, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0) Chris Palermo abstained.

2. Approve minutes 4-4-23

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the minutes of April 4, 2023 with amendments. Motion seconded by Don McDowell Motion carried. (4/0) Chris Palermo abstained.

Travis Sabatasso requested his vote on "Other Business - Possible Executive Session" be corrected to "aye" as he disagreed with a closed interview but voted aye on the vote.

Jamie Brewster read a statement that would be included in the minutes.

3. Approve minutes 4-6-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of April 6, 2023. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatasso. Motion carried. (4/0) Chris Palermo abstained.

4. Approve minutes 4-19-23

Motion made by Travis Sabatase to approve the minutes of April 19, 2023 with spelling corrections. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

5. Approve minutes 4-27-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of April 27, 2023. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss bids Walton Road bridge

Tyler Mumley, Mumley Engineering presented the board with the bids for the Walton Road Bridge restoration project from Blow & Cote and Walker Construction. The RFP was sent to 8 different companies and only two presented bids back to Tyler. The two bids were very comparable in the scope of work required, with the major difference being the cleaning and greasing of the steel girders. Walker Construction was much higher in that part of the project. Tyler is still waiting for a load bearing capacity analysis to come back from VHP. The bridge could possibly be out for approximately 4 months. There is money in the budget for this bridge, along with a structure grant and funds voted on by the citizens.

Tyler Mumley recommends going with Blow & Cote pending the VHP analysis.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the Blow & Cote bid for the contract price of \$513,934. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Discuss adopting Selectboard Rules of Procedure

The board reviewed the draft version of the Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Travis Sabatase had several suggestions that were well received by other board members. Changes will be implemented to the document and reviewed at the May 15th SB Meeting. Selectboard and community members would like to see all debates remain civil and respectful.

3. Accept Eric Dodges Resignation

It is with a heavy heart that the Selectboard accepted Eric Dodge's resignation as Town Administrator. The board members spoke of Eric's unconditional love for the Town of Morristown and his ability to guide the town with a very thoughtful and steady hand. Eric's vision, vigor, street smarts and institutional knowledge leave big shoes to fill. The Selectboard was left speechless.

Motion made by Laura Streets to accept Eric Dodge's resignation letter as Town Administrator. Motion regrettably seconded by Travis Sabatase. Motion carried (3/1). Chris Palermo voted Nay. Judy Bickford abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review Class IV Road Policy

Eric Dodge presented the board with a draft version of Class IV Road Policy. In using the Town of Stowe policy as a template. Eric suggested adding in some language for agricultural use, but this would make a good starting point. Discussions from concerned citizens mentioned definition of registered vehicles, bridge repairs, road maintenance, load bearing capacity concerns, the standard by which a road is maintained by, along with notifying abutters of requested work.

Eric Dodge will make edits and bring back the document on May 15th for review.

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (5/0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Thank you card from Senator Welch

A thank you card from Senator Welch was received.

There is money in the 22-23 budget for paving, so Pike is slated to put a finish coat on Garfield Rd and pave the Municipal parking lot late May to early June. The park and ride on Bridge street will also be paved along with a shim coat on Center Rd.

On May 9th there will be a Red Cross walk through to shelter sites in Morristown.

The Duhamel gravel pit is still awaiting the permit but it is coming. There will be an on-site meeting scheduled sometime in the future.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Travis Sabataso - Thank you to Chief Luneau and the MPD for their work April 20-22nd

Laura Streets - Apologized for unprofessional outburst during the April 19th SB meeting and, more specifically, to Anna, for unjustly targeting her.

Judy Bickford - Apologized for not controlling the outburst at the April 19th SB Meeting

Chris Palermo - Echo Travis Sabataso thank you to the MPD - Eric Dodge spent a tremendous amount of time keeping the SB in the loop - also made sure the folks working were fed breakfast/lunch/dinner

Don McDowell - Eric Dodge's resignation is such a huge loss to the Town of Morristown. A huge shout out to the MPD for their leadership and work. Best wishes to Brian Tomlinson and his family and colleagues. Went to the Duhamel pit with Eric Dodge recently and mentioned the need for the Class 4 Road Policy for our farmers and others.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Community concerns were very quick this evening with a mention of too many apologies going on and so let's work together. Huge thanks to the MPD for their work April 20-22.

Jamie Brewster mentioned that he is supporting the budget being voted on June 6th.

Chief Luneau expressed his thanks to all that worked during the April 20-22 incident and a huge thanks to Eric Dodge for feeding the 40 folks that worked.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sara Haskins - thank everyone for the election - more than doubled participation - voters for patience International Clerks week this week assistant ???

1. Executive Session - Personnel

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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 Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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 Town Administrator, Eric Dodge, Human Resources Director, Paula Beattie, Recreation Coordinator, Anna McCormick, Chief of Police, Jason Luneau, and Ron Stancliff. Motion seconded by Travis Sabataso. Motion amended to include Detective Lieutenant, Todd Baxter. Motion Carried. (5/0)

2. Executive Session - Legal

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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. (5/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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 Travis Sabatasso. Motion Carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to come out of the executive session. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatasso. Motion carried. (5/0)

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

Submitted and filed this May 5, 2023 .

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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