SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JULY 3, 2023

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets

Absent: Judy Bickford

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF:Chief Jason Luneau, Interim Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Dennis DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Tricia Follert, Community Dev Coordinator; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief; Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent;

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Sargeant Ron Audet,Tom Cloutier, Yon Perras, Uwanna Perros, Martin Green, Laura Green, Scott Thompson, Jamie Jaret, Susan Sinnott, Gary Sinnott, Tony Cote, Bob Bortree, Sheila Tarbox, David Ring, Charles Burnham, Susanna Burnham, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Sharon Rowell, Ed Loewenton, Kathy Chaffee*, Tracy Patnoe,

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER
Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building.
Don McDowell started the meeting off by reviewing the Rules of Procedure signed by the Selectboard in May 2023.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS
None

APPROVE MINUTES

1. **Approve Minutes 6-20-23**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)
2. **Approve Minutes 6-26-23**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)
3. **Approve Minutes 6-29-23**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of June 29, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve Coin Drop for Lamoille area cancer network August 12th - Tracy Patnoe**

Tracy Patnoe asked the board for approval of a coin drop for Lamoille Area Cancer Network (LACN). August 12th from 9am -1pm in front of the old Carriage House on Brooklyn Street is the date, time and place. This is the 3rd year they have done the coin drop. Laura Streets congratulated LACN for raising $160,000 during a recent event. Chief Luneau expressed no issues or concerns with the proposed coin drop.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the coin drop for August 12th from 9-1 at the old Carriage House. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

2. **Approve hiring a Tech 3 for the Highway garage**

A community member asked, without a budget passed, is this position really needed, and how many folks work for the garage? Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent, expressed the need for this position as one position is not being funded in this year's budget, so 2 people short as of now. Hiring Scott would keep the garage staffed appropriately for now. There are a total of 11 town garage employees with Scott being hired.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve hiring Scott Longe as a Tech 3 step 9 at $27.09 per hour. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

3. **Accept resignation of Selectboard member - Travis Sabataso**

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the resignation of Selectboard member Travis Sabataso. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

Much of the discussion was about the environment that has been created due to the casting blame going on between citizens and board members. Blame is corrosive and does not allow for cohesion. The citizens and board members would like to focus on solving problems and putting emotions and egos away. Travis Sabataso will be missed by the citizens and the board members.

4. **Appoint members to Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors**

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Judy Bickford to the Lamoille County Housing Commission board of directors. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion failed. (2/0) Laura Streets abstained.

The Selectboard is a board of 5 folks, right now 4 folks due to Sabataso's resignation. A quorum for the Selectboard is 3, so for a vote to carry it must be voted in favor by 3.

5. **Appoint Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee representative**

LCPC addresses transportation issues through a volunteer committee known as the Transportation Advisory Committee or TAC, all in an effort to constantly improve upon the transportation system of Lamoille County.

This committee is comprised of representatives appointed by each municipality in the county. Representatives of various modal interests, including transit providers, bicycle, pedestrian and trail advocates, aviators, and more act in an advisory capacity. Discussion topics include grant opportunities, debate on policy issues that affect the regional transportation system, and general information sharing among the municipalities of Lamoille County.

If anyone is interested in serving on TAC please reach out to the Administration office.

6. **Approve Paramedic Preceptor Agreement**

Bill Mapes, EMS Chief, presented an agreement between National Medical Training Center and Morristown EMS (MEMS) which agrees to provide field internships for students that have completed

the clinical and didactic portions of their studies as EMS providers. MEMS has participated in this program with Vermont Technical College, and would like to continue offering this to students interested in this career.

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the Field Practicum Agreement and authorize Bill Mapes to sign. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (3/0)

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Christopher Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Tricia Follert, Community Development Coordinator, reminded folks that the 4th of July Parade is tomorrow from 11am - 12:30pm and then the various organizations around town will have food available and a book sale at the Library. Fireworks will be at the Oxbow around 9pm and music should start around 6:30.
Tricia also spoke about the importance of having folks on LCPC and TAC for our town. Judy Bickford has been a great representative for LCPC.

Chief Jason Luneau has an intern at the Morrisville Police Department (MPD) which is a new and creative way of hopefully recruiting. He is a student at UVM and will be with the MPD through the first week of August.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Welcome Chief Luneau as the Interim Town Administrator to the town.
Chief Luneau wanted to let the public know that the streets would be closed down for the parade between 11-12:30pm from Harrel Street to Brooklyn to Bridge to Portland to Main to Copley Street.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

Chris Palermo inquired as to the Oxbow bathrooms vandalism, which there has . Tricia expressed community makes community. With more police presence and the community gardeners keeping their eyes peeled, we are riding this out for a little while and see how it goes.

Don McDowell attended the Village Street Apartments grand opening. Interested in looking into the Town Manager vs Town Administrator position.

Laura Streets read a statement that expressed her concerns over the Selectboard not presenting as a united front and that she had experienced some of the same insults that allegedly led to Sabataso's resignation.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community concerns surrounded the resignation of Sabataso, 2 folks asked for Chair Bickford to resign, Town Manager vs Town Administrator and the road conditions.
The budget must pass eventually and we need to be careful of the plans to cut funding, which can save small amounts of money now but that will cost large amounts of money in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Christopher Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:37PM
Submitted and filed this July 7, 2023 .
Judi Alberi, Scribe

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