



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2023

Members: Don McDowell, Chris Palermo, Laura Streets

Absent: Judy Bickford

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Chief Jason Luneau, Interim Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Paula Beattie*, Human Resources Director; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Ron Stancliff, Uwanna Perras, Yon Perras, Kristin Marriott, Tom Cloutier, Richard Craig, Yvette Mason, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Marc Cote, Laura Green, Christy Snipp, Chris Clement*, Kathy Chaffee*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:31PM at the Tegu Building.
Judy Bickford is traveling until September.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Add under new business:

Approve hiring Addison Schroeder as a part time EMT
Approve hiring Derek Choate as a part time EMT

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 8-7-23

***Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 8-7-23. Motion seconded by Laura Streets.
Motion carried (3/0) with amendments.***

New Business item 3:

Change the motion carried to 3/0/1

New Business item 7:

Add to remarks:

Don McDowell would like to encourage folks that are asking the town for money or to waive permit fees and such, that someone from that organization with the request send a spokesperson to the Selectboard meeting to answer questions that the Selectboard or citizens may have.

2. Approve minutes 8-14-23

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 8-14-23. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Change Selectboard Mtg 9-5-23 to 9-11-23

The Selectboard would like to change the date of the September 5th meeting to September 11th due to the fact that we will have a new member, possibly two new members, and the Chair, Judy Bickford and Co-Chair, Don McDowell, are both out of town for the September 5th meeting.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to move the September 5th meeting to September 11th and authorize Don McDowell to sign warrants the week of September 5th. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0).

2. Discuss Walton Road bridge project

Marc Cote attended the meeting to discuss the need to move the Walton Road Bridge project to April 15, 2024. Due to lack of supplies and the huge demand for repairs due to the unfortunate flooding that occurred in Vermont. Marc feels the bridge is structurally sound and there is no reason it should fail. The project will take 120 days and going into winter working on the bridge is not advisable. Funds and grants are all set until late 2024. The Selectboard was in agreement that this would be a good idea.

3. Approve Pike Industries to pave Center Road, Morrisville Park & Ride, and Pleasant Street Parking Lot

In April of 2023 a bid was accepted for Pike Industries to pave Center Rd, Park and Ride on Bridge Street and the Pleasant Street parking lot. A formal motion needs to be done for auditing purposes.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the bid from Pike Industries to pave Center Rd, Park and Ride, and Pleasant St parking lot for \$116,445. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried 3/0).

4. Approve fireworks application from Northstar for Bishop Marshall school celebration 9-29-23

Northstar fireworks have submitted a permit to display fireworks at the Bishop Marshall School (now known as All Saints Catholic Academy).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the fireworks permit for Bishop Marshall School submitted by Northstar and approve Don McDowell to sign the permit on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0).

5. Appoint Dan McLaughlin to Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)

Dan McLaughlin indicated to the Selectboard a few weeks ago he would be interested in being appointed to the LCPC as a Morristown representative along side Judy Bickford. Dan took the opportunity to speak with LCPC and get a better understanding of what the board is looking for in its representatives and Dan is very interested in being a part of this board. Dan spoke to the Selectboard regarding his background as he was on the regional planning committee during the time he resided in Massachusetts, so he came with some experience.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Dan McLaughlin to the LCPC Board for a one year term. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0).

6. Appoint Angela Cote to the Morristown Conservation Commission

Ron Stancliff appeared before the Selectboard to ask that they appoint Angela Cote to the Conservation Committee to take Kristen Connolly's place. Angela has attended Conservation Committee meetings and read the by-laws.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Angela Cote to the Conservation Committee with a term ending March 2024. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0).

7. Approve the hiring of Jason Tallman as a fulltime EMS

Bill Mapes, Chief of EMS, presented some new hires for the Selectboard's approval. Jason Tallman has been part-time for 11 years and applied to backfill a full time slot. He is completed 50% of his testing for an AEMT. Would like to take him on full time on the condition that he finishes his testing and becomes National Registered in Vermont.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve hiring Jason Tallman as a fulltime EMT at \$20.92 with the condition that he will obtain his Nationally Registered, Vermont Licensed Advanced EMT within 12 months from the date of fulltime status with a start date of September 4, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

8. Approve the hiring of Addison Schroeder as a part time EMT

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve hiring Addison Schroeder as part time AEMT at a rate of \$19.42 per hour with a start date to be determined. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (3/0).

9. Approve the hiring of Derek Choate as a part time EMT

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve hiring Derek Choate as part time EMT/Paramedic at a rate of \$20.48 per hour with a start date of September 4, 2023. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (3/0).

10. Discuss Longevity Pay Plan

The Selectboard listened to the community over the last 6 months regarding the pay raises of town employees and the effect inflation has had on the cost of living increases. In order to compensate employees, maybe there is a way to have more certainty in the budgets for stability and employee security with some predictability each year. Paula Beattie, HR Director, has done a lot of research over many months to see how other towns compensate their employees. The Selectboard will continue to investigate options.

11. Human Resources Director Updates

Paula Beattie, HR Director, will be vacating her position soon and felt it was imperative that the Selectboard are updated on many projects that she has worked on that are important to the town and employees. Paula expressed the priority of looking into having more than one option for health insurance for employees. This could save the town a lot of money. Paula has worked hard on updating and creating many policies that were non-existent or were very old. Paula expressed the importance of moving the HR documents forward as she expressed how important and essential an HR position is for the town. Paula thanked the Selectboard for allowing her to serve as the HR Director.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent, reported that Percy was crushing gravel in our pit and was able to have gravel brought to Oxbow park due to the damage that was experienced this past July. FEMA will be reimbursing us a portion of the gravel and all the equipment used to fix the damage. The Oxbow will be seeded and mulched.

Chief Jason Luneau announced that the MPD will be hosting a community discussion due to the recent crimes in town. August 30th at 6pm at the Town office building the public is welcome to come and discuss crime and concerns and what the path going forward will look like.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

On Saturday August 26th please join volunteers for the Flood Recovery Clean Up at Oxbow Park. Please check out the website <http://www.greenupvermont.org> to find project detail needs.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

Laura Streets reminded the community that the Informational Meeting was Thursday August 24th at 5:30 so please consider being present.

Chris Palermo thanked Paula Beattie for all her hard work she has done in her position. Chris expressed his gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work by the staff and department heads.

Don McDowell agrees with Chris and will miss Paula. Voting is Tuesday August 29th.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

A couple citizens expressed concerns over the executive sessions that the Selectboard has and wishes minutes could be taken like MA and NY currently do.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session

Motion made by Chris Palermo to enter Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge of labor relationships with employees to the body will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees under the provisions of Title 1 section 313 (a) (1)(b) of the Vermont Statutes, to include Interim Town administrator Jason Luneau, Human Resources Director, Paula Beattie and Finance Director, Tina Sweet. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to exit Executive Session at 7:42pm. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (3/0)

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Submitted and filed this August 24, 2023 .

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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

