



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2023

Members: Don McDowell, Laura Streets

Absent: Judy Bickford, Chris Palermo, Vacant

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; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer;

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Paul Griswold, Uwanna Perras, Yon Perras, Tom Cloutier, Yvette Mason, Donald Balke, Sheila Tarbox, Barry Russo, Julie Blake, Christy Snipp, Kathy Chaffee*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO ORDER

This is an informational meeting only. The Selectboard did not have a quorum present.

Moderator Shap Smith called the Informational Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLES

- 1. ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$9,199,707, of which \$7,365,520 shall be raised by taxes and \$1,834,187 by non-tax revenues?**

Don McDowell answered some questions regarding the wages of non-union staff and how he is in support of these wages. The town has lost services such as paving and personnel. The audience questioned whether there was a new union being formed, but the two members present, Don and Laura, were unable to answer any questions regarding union negotiations or contracts. Laura Streets made clear that she supports the Town Manager petition and played a large role in getting a valid petition submitted. Laura feels as SB members that members should not be writing articles on FPF supporting one side or the other.

There was some discussion from the audience that recent FPF posts were threatening in nature. Chief Luneau responded as the post was written by the Emergency services together, and he felt it was not threatening at all.

- 2. ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town of Morristown adopt the town manager form of governance in accordance with the provisions of chapter 37 of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated?**

On August 14th the Selectboard had an informational meeting about the Town Manager form of governance, which is article 4 for the upcoming election. The minutes were very detailed. Every question that was asked of each guest panelist was written in those minutes. The minutes are on the

town website.

Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, clarified to the Selectboard and audience that if the Town Manager form of governance passes, the Selectboard MUST go forward and start looking at hiring a town manager following the 30 day appeal process.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

Submitted and filed this September 29th

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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