



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2023

Members: Judy Bickford, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig

Absent: Don McDowell

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Chief Jason Luneau, Interim Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent; Dennis DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief; Community Development Coordinator, Tricia Follert

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Alexander Cyr, Yon Perras, Uwanna Perras, Tracy Patnoe, Donnie Blake, Tom Cloutier, Jamie Jaret, Kristin Marriott, Lisa Prive, Christy Snipp, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Heather Hobart*, Jonathan Mogar*, Martin Green*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

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

Our dear friend Brian Kellogg passed away recently. Judy asked that we take a moment to remember Brian Kellogg and all that he did for the community as a Selectboard Member for 20 years, Fire Department member for 20 years and dog control officer for almost 40 years and a fellow citizen of Morristown.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Add to New Business:

Approve Angel Baraw as a part-time EMS member

Discuss Joint meeting Oct 25th Selectboard and Village Trustees

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of September 18, 2023

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the minutes of September 18, 2023 with amendments.

Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0)

New Business Item 3 please add:

Don McDowell was a participant for the Beaver Meadow Rd discussion

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Angel Baraw as a part-time EMS member at \$15/hr with no benefits

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve adding Angel Baraw to a part-time paid EMS position,

non-benefits and paid at \$15 per hour beginning immediately. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

2. Cancel the November 20, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

November 20th is the Monday before Thanksgiving and there is some concern that we would not have a quorum for the meeting.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to cancel the November 20, 2023 regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

3. Discuss moving the Proposed Zoning changes hearing date from October 16, 2023 to a different date

No action

4. Selectboard introduction to the proposed Zoning Changes public hearing October 16, 2023

Todd Thomas, Planning Director, was present to talk about the changes to the Proposed Zoning Bylaws. The Selectboard requested clarity around some of the changes being proposed. The Public Hearing is scheduled for October 16, 2023 at the Town Offices. The public will have a chance to ask any questions they want at that time. The Selectboard will be voting on the proposed changes on November 6, 2023, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

5. Rescind the motion of August 7, 2023 Joint Rules Policy

The Morrisville Village Trustees did not go forward with any proposed changes to the Joint Rules Policy. The Selectboard would like to talk to the Trustees during a joint meeting in October.

Motion made by Laura Streets to table this item until November 6th. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (4/0).

6. Approve Morristown Historical Society request to remove, replace, and reglaze 10 windows at Noyes House Museum

Joshua Goldstein, Member of Noyes House Museum Board, discussed with the Selectboard the amount of work that needs to be done to the building. Currently there is \$53,000 in the Noyes House fund that can be used for necessary repairs. The Selectboard would like representatives from the Noyes House to attend a future Selectboard meeting to talk to the Selectboard about the repairs and ongoing maintenance of the museum. Josh Goldstein would like to see the 1/2 cent article back on the ballot in March 2024.

For now, Joshua Goldstein is requesting Willard Street Traditions be chosen as a sole source vendor to reglaze 10 of the worst windows. Willard Street Tradition specializes in this type of work. This window reglazing work will require a little bit of help from DBI in terms of boarding up the window holes and scraping exterior window sills. Painting of the sills will still need to happen in the Spring of 2024. The refurbishing of these 10 windows will use most of the remaining half-penny money that the town has to support the ongoing maintenance of the Noyes house museum.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the Morristown Historical Society's recommendation to have Willard Street Traditions as a sole source vendor with a contract to remove, replace, and reglaze 10 of the worst windows at the Noyes House Museum and DBI to do necessary work to board up the window openings for approximately \$40,000. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

7. Private road naming - Doctor Tinker Street

Mark Sutton, Director of operations at Copley, would like to name the road that leads off Washington

Highway to Copley Terrace after the first physician at Copley. Mark has been working with the town for the past few years to make sure the road meets the specifics set by the town. Bill Mapes, EMS Chief, is concerned about the residents at Copley and the E911 system with a road name change. Mark Sutton will work closely with our E911 coordinator and the state to make the address change as smoothly as possible.

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the private road name of Doctor Tinker Street. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (4/0).

8. ROW Application for South Street

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve right of way application for Mink Properties located on 5 Winter Street, 26 South Street and 62 South Street and authorize the Chair Judy Bickford to sign.

Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

9. Approve and sign Errors and Omissions certificate

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the Errors and Omissions certificate as presented. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

10. Set the tax rate for Fiscal Year 23/24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to set the municipal tax rate of \$.6989. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the residential education tax rate of \$1.0356. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the non-residential education tax rate of \$1.1803. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

11. Halloween Road Closure for 2023

Motion made by Chris Palermo to close Maple Street, Cherry Ave, Harrison Ave, Union St (easterly), Summer Street, East Olive Street, Olive Street, Lincoln Street and Court Street for Halloween, October 31st from 5-7:30pm. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

12. Approve and Sign annual financial plan

The Town is required to annually submit an "Annual Financial Plan" to the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the 20232 VTAOT Form TA-60 Annual Financial Plan as presented. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

13. Approve forming a Town Manager search committee

The Town Manager Search Committee shall be responsible for assisting and advising the Selectboard in the search for a Town Manager. The Committee could consist of five to nine members appointed by the Selectboard, including Selectboard members, town employees and community members. The charge of the Committee could be as follows:

1. Work in collaboration with the recruitment consultant selected by the Selectboard who shall serve as principal staff person to the committee;
2. Present a draft job description for consideration by the Selectboard;
3. Identify critical issues facing the Town and the Town Manager;
4. Identify desired characteristics, experience, and background for the Town Manager;
5. Assist consultant with preparation of recruitment materials;

6. Receive community input on the above;
7. Conduct first round of interviews and forward a recommended short list to the Selectboard.

The Committee shall operate in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and be considered a public body.

To apply, please send a letter of interest expressing your qualifications and experience to Judith Alberi jalberi@morristownvt.org.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to form a Town Manager search committee. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

14. Discuss Joint meeting Selectboard and Village Trustees at VFW Oct 25th

The Selectboard and Village Trustees will have a joint meeting on October 25th at VFW at 5:30pm to discuss various topics that impact both the village and town. Some ideas of common interest may involve, coordination of highway, sewer, and water on projects, Air B&B impacts, Statewide zoning impacts and reactions, new and emergent state energy policy impacts on town and village, village/town boundary, village charter, local option tax.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to conduct a joint meeting with the Trustees on October 25, 2023 at VFW. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve Social Service Policy

The Social Service policy was discussed during the September 18th Selectboard meeting. Sara Haskins and Judi Alberi worked over the last two weeks on making various changes to the policy as suggested by the Selectboard members. A few agencies spoke to the board and agreed that a petition every three years was unwarranted but maybe presenting the mission and nature of the services they offer to the residents would increase awareness. The major changes to the policy are the requirement for an annual application and that all articles will be standalone on the ballot.

Sara Haskins made some last-minute changes to the policy and application for the Selectboard to accept.

Motion made by Laura Streets to accept the social service policy as presented. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Laura Streets to accept the social service application as presented. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Laura Streets . Motion carried. (4/0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- Kevin Barrows moving stock piles out of the gravel pit. Trucks getting serviced and getting ready for winter.
- Tina Sweet, Finance Director, last day of the audit and once again no findings.
- Anna Green just finished Rocktoberfest. Huge success! Attended the 80th annual parks and rec

conference. Working on an index of walking trails and assigning E911 addresses. Working on the Halloween candy drive and the 2nd annual turkey trot!

- Dennis Digregorio - 23rd and 24th of September had members doing training.
- Tricia Follert had more vendors reach out to her to be involved in Rocktoberfest! Good event.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Rocktoberfest was a huge success - thanks to Tricia, Anna, and the highway crew.

Fall Leaves in the village around storm drain areas will be picked up mid-October through the end of October.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

- Richard Craig thought Rocktoberfest was great!
- Laura Streets is very happy about the manager committee.
- Chris Palermo is happy with the forward momentum of the town manager. Thanks to Jason and Tricia for the work and effort.
- Judy Bickford thanked Tricia, Anna, the Road Crew and Police for all their efforts at the Rocktoberfest event. Vendors was a nice variety. Asked the other members to create a list of ideas for the Joint Meeting.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Sara Haskins thanked the fire department and EMS for coming out to her house during a CO2 leak.
- Johnathan Mogar expressed his concerns about the municipal parking lot and access for delivery trucks to his building.
- Martin Green expressed his concerns about the Selectboard attentiveness to his concerns while signing warrants.
- Alex Cyr would like affirmative steps taken for funding the Noyes House Museum.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session - Personnel, Labor Relations, and Contract

Chris Palermo move 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 Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

Chris Palermo move 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; Interim Human Resources Director, Tina Sweet; and Highway Superintendent, Kevin Barrows. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Chris Palermo move 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 Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

Chris Palermo move 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 Interim Town

Administrator, Jason Luneau and Interim Human Resources Director, Tina Sweet; Administrative Assistant, Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Chris Palermo move to go into Executive session because I find that premature general public knowledge of the pending contract negotiations will clearly place the Town at a disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

Chris Palermo move to go into Executive session to discuss pending contract negotiations under provisions of Title 1, Section #13(a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes and to include Interim Town Administrator, Jason Luneau; Administrative Assistant, Judi Alberi and Finance Director, Tina Sweet. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive session. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the agreement with Vermont League of Cities and Towns to conduct a recruitment process for a Town Manager at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 plus approximately \$5,000 worth of expenses and to authorize Judy Bickford to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to enter into an agreement with Carrie Johnson as a project manager at a rate of \$55 per hour for no more than 24 hours a week and authorize Jason Luneau to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

Submitted and filed this October 4, 2023

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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