



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Bob Heanue, Brad Limoge, (Carl Fortune Absent)

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Chief Jason Luneau, Interim Town Administrator; Scott Johnstone, Morrisville Village Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Todd Thomas; Planning/Zoning Administrator; Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tricia Follert, Christy Snipp, Etienne Hancock, Joshua Goldstein, Tom & Cynthia Cloutier, Martin Green, Kevin Newton

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD/TRUSTEES MEETING TO ORDER

Tom Snipp called the Joiant Selectboard/Trustees Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the VFW Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Joint discussion between the Morristown Selectboard Members and Morrisville Village Trustees TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1 Joint /rules for subordinate boards policy – Opinions were voiced regarding the change in policy that there should be a restriction to the number of boards one person can serve on at a time. It was voiced that there would not be enough interested people to hold all the positions if this were the policy.

2 New and emergent state energy policy impacts on town and village- With an emphasis on global warming that leans toward the end of fossil fuels and toward renewable energy, the current utilities need time to change. In 2030 we will need to be 100% electric energy. This will triple the energy usage, including E vehicles, charging stations, electric heat pumps, and geothermal options. A Selectboard member suggested that we need to increase ED charging stations and the cost they will incur. He suggested that we need to inform our legislatures about the needs of communities on a local level. There was general support for this action.

3 Local option tax –The general opinion was in favor of local option taxes that would include taxes on

purchases and would open a different revenue source that is not resident versus nonresident property taxes. It would include sales and use, rooms and meals, and alcohol at a 1% rate and include tourist income. The burden of change would be felt by the merchants when changing their systems to accommodate the tax. The burden to pay the tax will be on the customer.

4 Downtown Designation –

1. Town Plan-The designation of a downtown district would require an amendment to the town plan.
2. Town charter/village charter-Both charters would be kept separately.
3. Air BnB impacts-There are restrictions for both the Town and the Village on further Airb&bs.

5 Coordination of highway, sewer, and water – Coordination of utility works-Changes to these would affect both the Town and Village. It was suggested that Kevin Newton, Public Works and Kevin Barrows, Highway Superintendent, need to speak about the issues.

6 Statewide zoning impacts – Under the new Act S100 the state's regulations supersede local zoning. When the legislature breaks this winter, then we can respond, but currently Mr. Thomas has to follow the law as written. The Village Trustees are agreeable with S100.

7 Village separating from the Town and forming a city –There has been some talk of the village separating from the Town, but the reality stands that the relationship between the town and village will stay the same.

In conclusion, there was great support for contacting the legislature as suggested. The Village Trustees will share their information on this process with the members of the Town Selectboard. It was also suggested that the legislatures should be invited to the next joint committee meeting next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Submitted and filed this October 27, 2023 .
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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