



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2023

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Carrie Johnson, Interim Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief; Elizabeth Townsend, Human Resources Director; Jason Kelley, Fire Department 1st Asst Chief; Anna Green, Recreation Coordinator*; Tricia Follert, Community Development Coordinator*

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tom Cloutier, Ron Stancliff, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Jamie Jaret, Charles Burnham, Will Duane, Sam Puddicombe, Kristin Marriott, Will Eldrich, Maria Ward, Alexander Cyr, Etienne Hancock, Nancy Dunavan*, Kathy Chaffee*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:32PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Change to agenda: Remove New Business item #6.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 11-6-23

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 11/6/23. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes 11-13-23

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of 11/13/23. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

3. Approve minutes 11-27-23

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 11/27/23. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Review & Support Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife acquisition of 637 Duhamel Road (Avery)**
Will Eldridge of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife spoke about the purpose of the department to provide and maintain natural wild sites for protected perpetuity for the enjoyment and

use of the public. The property at 637 Duhamel Road which was flooded and will continue to be, is the site of the former Cady's Falls Nursery. This land is adjacent to an area which would enhance habitats for fish and wildlife. For this purpose, the Department is requesting the acquisition of this property and will return it to its original state. The historic barn on the property, in accordance with the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, will be deconstructed and rebuilt on a different site. The house will be removed.

Jason Kelley, Morristown Fire Department 1st Asst Chief had questions regarding access to the swimming hole for rescues and whether that was going to change. Will Eldridge is going to research the answer to this question.

Motion made by Don McDowell to support the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife acquisition of 637 Duhamel Road for the purpose of returning the land to its natural state and authorize Judy Bickford to sign the letter of support. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Introduce Elizabeth Townsend, HR Director

The new Human Resources Director, Elizabeth Townsend, was introduced to the SelectBoard. She provided a brief summary of her employment background and qualifications for the position. She was welcomed by the Board.

3. Approve Errors and Omissions Certificate

The Errors and Omissions Certificate for the Board of Listers for changes to the grand list was presented.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve and sign the Errors and Omissions Certificate as presented. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

4. Approve and sign Certificate of no appeal or suit pending Grand List

Agenda Item #4, Approve and sign Certificate of no appeal or suit pending Grand List, has been tabled until the 12/18/23 meeting of the Selectboard.

5. Approve MFD Purchase combi tool \$14,400.29

Jason Kelly of the Morristown Fire Department presented the request for an additional combi tool used for car evacuation which will be stationed on another truck. This expense is already in the budget.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the Morristown Fire Department's purchase of a combi tool at the cost of \$14,400.29. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Accept Kelly Mayo's and Peter Fitz resignation from EMS

Bill Mapes of Emergency Medical Services requested the acceptance of the resignations of the following part-time employees, Kelly Mayo and Peter Fitz.

Motion made by Don McDowell to accept the resignations of Kelly Mayo and Peter Fitz from the Emergency Medical Services roster. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (5/0).

7. Approve new wage for Colby Masse's paramedic certification

Bill Mapes requested a wage increase for Colby Masse as he passed the National and State certification levels for paramedic certification.

Motion made by Don McDowell to increase Colby Masse's hourly rate of pay to \$25.40 per hour to reflect his new paramedic level certification. This is step 7 of the current pay plan. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (5/0).

8. Review and Adopt the Selectboard Working Agreement from recent workshop with David Ford

Judy Bickford discussed the Working Agreement for the Morristown Selectboard that four of the members attended. The workshop was facilitated by David Ford and consisted of 10 points of behavior for new and existing board members. It was suggested that this document will be included in the packet given to new board members. Laura Streets voiced her objections to the document.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to review and adopt the Selectboard Working Agreement from the recent workshop by David Ford. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (4/1). Laura Streets Nay

9. Morristown Charter Update - Carrie Johnson

The Selectboard received a progress report from Carrie Johnson on the plan to add volunteers from the public to the Morristown Charter Advisory Committee. This will be presented in further detail at the 12/18/23 Selectboard meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Tina Sweet, Finance Director, thanked Judi Alberi for the time and effort she put into evaluating and upgrading the phone system and software which will save money.

Anna Green, Recreation Coordinator, reported that the successful Turkey Trot had 140 participants. She thanked all that were involved. She also spoke about the Morristown Skating Rink and the fund-raising efforts.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Carrie Johnson thanked the highway department for their effective response to the snowstorm which kept traffic moving.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS

Richard Craig congratulated Anna Green for the success of the Turkey Trot event.

Laura Streets noted that the successful cash crop program at the Farmer's Market directs money to farmers, but there will be less next year. Laura would like to see the discussion of the Oxbow trees be brought back to the agenda.

Chris Palermo would like the Selectboard to meet with the Trustees before the New Year.

Don McDowell had no power today and was thankful the roads were clear.

Judy Bickford had nothing to add.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The Selectboard heard comments from some community members and thanked them for their time.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session - Personnel

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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 Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo 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 Project Manager, Carrie Johnson. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

Jamie Brewster questioned the nature of the Executive session and if more information could be made available. Carrie Johnson assured Jamie that the Selectboard was acting according to the state statutes.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive Session at 7:23pm. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve hiring Carrie Johnson as the Interim Town Manager under the terms specified in the Interim Town Manager Agreement with a start date of December 4, 2023. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Submitted and filed this December 4, 2023.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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