



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 18, 2023**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Carrie Johnson, Interim Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Todd Thomas, Planning/Zoning Administrator

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Ron Stancliff, Tom Cloutier, Seth & Grace Costa, Martin Green, Laura Green, Anna Kern, Amy Dohner, Jerry Throne, Evelyn Throne

**participating via Zoom*

5:30 - PUBLIC HEARING

Judy Bickford opened the Public Hearing at 5:30. Richard Craig joined the Selectboard via Zoom but was not able to be heard until Executive Session.

1. Final Public Hearing Vermont Community Development Program Funds

Amy Dohner, Evernorth Representative, was present to entertain any questions regarding the project on Hutchins Street that is now complete. The Town of Morristown received \$550,000 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. The town passed along the funds to the applicant, The Lamoille Housing Partnership. These funds received have been used to acquire and construct 28 new units of affordable rental housing, with 20 units being low income residents. The grant's requirements were met before the deadline in spite of a significant fire in the building.

Judy Bickford closed the Public Hearing at 5:37

5:45 - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:38 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:47 - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

The following agenda item was added as Item 4:
Approve private road name: Home Acre Street.

5:50 - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 12-4-23

Motion made by Chris Palmero to approve the minutes of 12/4/23. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

2. Approve minutes 12-11-23

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 12/11/23 . Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:55 - NEW BUSINESS

1. Errors & Omissions Certificate

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the errors and omissions certificate of Emily and Scott Green Family Trust as presented. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

2. Conservation Commission - Appointments

Ron Stancliff, Chair of the Conservation Commission, is recommending the appointment of Pamela Stanyon and Sandra Zebal as new members.

Both were introduced and have received a copy of the bylaws.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the appointment of Pamela Stanyon with the term ending 3/24 and Sandra Zebal with the term ending 3/25. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

3. Planning Council - Appointment

The Planning Council is recommending Jamie Morris be appointed to fill the empty seat on the Planning Council. As there were two good candidates, the council chose the candidate who applied first for the position. The council had previously voted not to have alternative members, thus only one candidate was chosen.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve Jamie Morris as a member of the Planning Council. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

4. Approve private road name - Home Acre Street

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept that the road is private and will be named "Home Acre Street". Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

5. Charter Committee - Appointments

Carrie Johnson, Interim Town Manager, announced that the Charter Committee membership has been recommended and will consist of all five Selectboard members, three members of the community and Sara Haskins, Town Clerk. The meeting will be held once a month.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the committee membership of all Selectboard members, Sara Haskins (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Christopher Moks, Brian Yeaton (Lister), Craig Santenello. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

6:45 - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:46 - APPROVE WARRANTS

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

6:48 - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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

The Highway Department was thanked for cleaning the snowbanks and sidewalks, which makes it easier for

shoppers to get to their cars.

Ron Stancliff requested that the budget support the Conservation Commission. He will be invited to public meetings.

7:00 - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Legal

Motion made by Don McDowell 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 Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell 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 Manager, Carrie Johnson. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive session at 6:25pm. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

7:30 - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm

Submitted and filed this December 20, 2023.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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