



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 16, 2024**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Carrie Johnson*, Interim Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Laura Green, Martin Green, Ronald Stancliff, Brent Teillon, Evelyn Throne, Jerry Throne, Tony Cote

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building. Judy Bickford attended on Zoom. Due to technical issues, Judy Bickford voted via text messaging to Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

There is a change to the agenda to delete item #7 - Town Plan Revision
Add to section 8 - MPD Crimes and Concerns at 7pm on Jan 22, 2024

5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of SB Meeting 1-2-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 1/2/2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes of Community Mtg Day 1-6-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 1/6/2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

3. Approve minutes of SB Budget Review 1-8-24

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 1/8/2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:37PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. AOT - Mileage Certificate

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the AOT Certificate of Highway Mileage Year Ending February 10, 2024 as presented and signed by the Select Board. Motion seconded by Richard Craig.

Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Town Manager Search update

Chris Palermo reported that the brochure has been finished and will be put on the town website and then will be distributed. The tentative schedule the search committee is hoping for, applications for the position will be due 2/12, selection meeting 2/15, the candidates are contacted on 2/16, interviews will be held 2/22 through 2/26. This is just a tentative schedule as it will depend on how many resumes are received.

3. Communications with the Press Policy - Draft

Carrie Johnson, Interim Town Administrator, brought the draft of the Communication with the Press Policy for review. The intent of the policy is that only the Town Manager or the Selectboard Chair are authorized town spokespersons allowed to communicate with the press, and any request from the press is to be referred to the spokespersons. The majority of the Selectboard members agreed that the policy would avoid mixed messages and misunderstandings. Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer would handle requests specific to Town Clerk/Treasurer business. Feb 5, 2024 a final version will be presented for signatures.

4. Quit Claim Deed of Easement - McKinley, Review /Authorize

June McKinley is selling her home located at 416 Bridge Street. During the deed research, it was found that the structure she wishes to transfer is encroaching onto North River Street and requires correction prior to transferring. A quit claim deed of easement was prepared and reviewed by the town attorney.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to authorize the Town Manager to approve the Quitclaim Deed of Easement to June McKinley, Trustee of the J.B. and June McKinley Family Trust. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

5. Town Warning Review

The articles of the Town of Morristown Annual Town Meeting, March 5, 2024, were reviewed by the Selectboard. Ron Stancliff, Chair of the Conservation Council, stated that the Council's goal was to protect land resources as an investment for the future of the town and this would best be represented by a separate line item on the budget. Mr. Stancliff stated that the current budget surplus was meant to be combined with the current budget allocation to enable the Council to purchase prospective properties. Chris Palermo stated that this budget was an austerity budget and did not favor putting money aside. Don McDowell favored the article for the Conservation Council and expressed that the voters decide.

6. Mailing of annual school ballots

Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, said she has been in communication with the school board, and they have voted to mail out the annual school ballots and now need the Selectboard's approval. This effort will be coordinated with the town and the ballots will be mailed out together.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the automatic mailing of annual school ballots to all active voters. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6:07PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:09PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrents. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6:11PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There was a comment suggesting that the library should be level funded. Another concern was voiced about the state proposal to increase the education tax. It was suggested that the upcoming Legislature's Breakfast would be a good forum for this concern.

6:17PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Monday, Jan 22nd at 7PM MPD Crimes & Concerns part 2 - PA Auditorium**
Monday, Jan 29th at 5:30PM Warning Approval
Monday, Jan 29th at 5:45PM Charter Comm Meeting
Monday, Feb 5th at 5:30PM SB Meeting
Monday, Feb 26th at 5:30PM Informational Meeting

In addition to the schedule, Monday, Jan 22nd Crime & Concerns public meeting at 7 pm was added. Morristown Police Department would like comments before this meeting occurs in order to address them all. Please email any questions or comments to police@morristownvt.gov

6:20PM - OTHER BUSINESS

Sara Haskins, Town Clerk, stated that the tax sale was canceled. She also noted that people needed to call the Town Clerk's office to request ballots for the Presidential Primary as the desired political party's ballot had to be specified, and local ballots would be mailed around 2/14.

6:22PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palmero to adjourn. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Submitted and filed on January 20, 2024.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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