



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF AUGUST 5, 2024**

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Todd Thomas, Planning Director; Jason Luneau, Police Chief

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jaimie Welcome, Alex Cyr, Barbara Bowles, Dale Touchette, Jerry Throne, Skip & Maria Ward, Leah Hollenberger, Chris Demars, Tracey Rogalski, Gail Asam, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Tom Cloutier, Laura Green, Etienne Hancock, Barbara Percy, Jeanne Charbonneau, Deb Dever, Karen Autorino, Robert Budliger, Paul Baker,

*\*participating via Zoom*

---

**5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER**

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:42 PM at the Tegu Building.

**5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS**

None

**5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES**

**1. Approve Minutes 7-15-24**

*Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 7/15/2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)*

**5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approve financing for police vehicle**

Brent Raymond questioned leasing versus purchasing a Police Pursuit Vehicle. Sara Haskins was able to obtain a quote for financing which was a 2% lower interest rate. Chief Luneau had a difficult time finding a vehicle in VT and ended up buying this one from an out-of-state vendor. Chief Luneau, incorporated a 2-way radio into the purchase price of the vehicle.

*Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the bid from Community National Bank for financing the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe police pursuit vehicle with all uplifting costs included for an amount of \$72,902.19 at a fixed semi-annual interest rate of 5.14% for a term of 4 years and authorize the Town Manager to sign the loan documents, if allowed by Community National Bank, on behalf of the town. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).*

**2. Consideration of Errors and Omissions Certificate**

*Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the price reduction of the property owned by the*

***Eisenbaums on the Grand List of The Board of Listers due to water damage and sign the Errors and Omissions certificate. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).***

**3. Consideration of adopting a Charter**

The Charter Committee passed the decision to accept the latest version of the town charter to the Selectboard at its last meeting. The Selectboard approved this charter for inclusion on the town ballot.

***Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the current version of the Town Charter to be included on the Town ballot. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).***

**4. MERP Grant Assessments**

Brent Raymond explained that the town is participating in The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). This is a new program administered by the LCPC following Act 172 that provides staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding to help communities become more energy resilient, reduce energy use and operating costs, and curb greenhouse gas emissions. The program aims to do this by promoting renewable energy & fuel switching, and weatherization and thermal improvements. To be eligible for Implementation Grants, towns must apply for building assessments of any municipally owned building except schools. Two levels are available: Level 1: Walk-through assessment that qualifies the building for implementation funds. The town has complied with the level 1 assessment and found many significant energy savings from using the recommendations offered. Implementation of all the suggestions would cost the town \$160,000. However, these will be free with this program. The Police Department building will be the first to be considered. Brent will be reviewing costs and the most effective improvements.

**5:55PM - OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Consideration of Zoning Bylaws proposed changes**

Brent Raymond acknowledged the work of Todd Thomas and the Planning Council, however, due to concerns regarding the complicated zoning process as prescribed by the state, Brent Raymond, town manager, signed a contract with Sterling Mountain Community Planning & Design, LLC to conduct an independent review of a proposed set of zoning bylaw amendments for consistency with the adopted version of the Town of Morristown/Village of Morrisville's Municipal Development Plan. The findings show this proposed change to the 2023 Zoning Bylaws for the Village of Morrisville and Town of Morristown is not in conformance with the 2022-2030 Town of Morristown/Village of Morrisville's Town Plan. Recommendations and amendments were outlined.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to accept the rejection of the amendments as proposed. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (5/0).***

**2. Jersey Heights three-acre rule stormwater permit**

Much discussion has occurred regarding the two viable options to address the Jersey Heights stormwater system required by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). One consists of forming a special tax assessment district in the Jersey Heights development to pay the tax, and the second is spreading the tax across all Morristown taxpayers. Brent Raymond recommends the special tax assessment for Jersey Heights. The town must be responsible for sidewalks and road maintenance. To get funding from the state, the town must accept responsibility.

***Motion made by Chris Palermo to state that the town of Morristown will accept responsibility and support advancing the project through final design and construction, and will draft a letter***

*specifying the intent of the responsible party to be identified as permittee in the Notice of Intent filings, and understanding that upon issuance of the permit, the permittee is formally accepting responsibility for the permitted stormwater system and for complying with all terms and conditions of the permit. The letter should also acknowledge the requirement for O&M for the life of the project. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).*

#### **6:20PM - APPROVE WARRANTS**

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

#### **6:22PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Several Jersey Heights residents were angry about paying the stormwater taxes and wanted the town residents to share the tax.

Chris Palermo questioned when the LOT meetings would be scheduled.

#### **6:32PM - SCHEDULE**

1. **Monday, August 19, 2024 - SB Public Hearing Town Plan Amendment - 5:30PM**  
**Monday, August 19, 2024 - SB Meeting - 6:00PM** immediately following public hearing)  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - SB Meeting - 6:00PM**  
September 3rd Selectboard Meeting is at 5:30PM

#### **6:35PM - OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Consideration of a Special Local Election on November 5, 2024**  
*Motion made by Chris Palermo to create a special tax assessment district in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 87, §3251 through §3256 to pay only for the state's required stormwater infrastructure improvement in the Jersey Heights neighborhood. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)*

*Motion made by Chris Palermo to authorize the borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$200,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed 20 years, to pay for the State's required stormwater infrastructure improvements in the Jersey Heights neighborhood. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)*

*Motion made by Chris Palermo to direct the town manager and the town clerk to prepare a warning and notice for a special town meeting to be held on November 5, 2024, to include mailing all ballots and,*  
*a. Adoption of the proposed charter as presented*  
*b. Borrowing an amount not to exceed \$200,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed 20 years, to pay for the State's required stormwater infrastructure improvements in the Jersey Heights neighborhood.*  
*c. Creation of a special tax assessment district in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 87, §3251 through §3256 to pay only for the state's required stormwater infrastructure improvement in the Jersey Heights neighborhood.*  
*Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)*

#### **6:45PM - ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)*

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm  
Submitted and filed this August 8, 2024.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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