



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tom Cloutier, Martin Green, Skip & Maria Ward, Heather Bonahoom, Leah Hollenberger, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote

**participating via Zoom*

6:00PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Tegu Building.

6:01PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

No changes or additions.

Chris Palermo did ask a question regarding the minutes of the past few special meetings. Judi Alberi indicated they will be on the October 21, 2024 agenda for approval.

6:02PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Special Town Meeting November 5, 2024 Article 1

Don McDowell read the proposed Town Charter. This is the 4th time the charter has been discussed publicly. Again, no questions.

2. Discuss Special Town Meeting November 5, 2024 Article 2

Don McDowell reviewed the article regarding the Jersey Heights Subdivision stormwater issue in Morristown.

Initially, the grant required forming a Homeowners Association (HOA). Brent Raymond worked with ANR to modify this requirement. A public/private partnership can now be established through easements without an HOA or special assessment tax district.

In 2007, the town accepted responsibility for the road. Recent discoveries after research into old files revealed that a previous town administrator, Crawford, signed off on a stormwater transfer permit request to DEC without Selectboard authorization. Jim Pease in his official role with Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation warned the Selectboard that there would need to be a homeowners' association to cover the fees and any infrastructure in private ownership.

Maria Ward has asked the Selectboard to consider another option. As new information has been

discovered, would the Selectboard change their opinion and ask that all votes for article 2 and article 3 be null and void? If article 2 passes, Maria is convinced that there will be an appeal.

3. Discuss Special Town Meeting November 5, 2024 Article 3

Article 3 was read by Don McDowell. Based on the outcome of the vote, the town will use the grant funds and pay any expenses above and beyond the grant in one of two ways: 1. Secure long-term financing to spread the costs over a period of up to 20 years for both the Town and the 64 affected parcels. 2. Apply the grant funds directly and cover any additional costs upfront.

Tyler Mumley Engineering is working on a stormwater solution, which is not yet finalized. The state must accept the proposed solution before it can be implemented. Once a solution is developed, it will be shared with the Selectboard and the community.

4. Overview Special Town Meeting November 5, 2024 Article 2 and 3

Don McDowell explained the grid illustrating the outcomes of Articles 2 and 3 passing or failing. The Selectboard then discussed the project timeline, with completion set for August 31, 2026. Mumley Engineering, drawing from their experience with similar stormwater solutions in other municipalities, expressed confidence in meeting this deadline.

The Selectboard was asked if they could nullify Articles 2 and 3. However, as this was not on the agenda, they could not take action on the request during that meeting. Following a discussion between the Selectboard and Brent, an informal poll was conducted regarding the inclusion of an agenda item for the October 21, 2024 meeting. This item would address whether the results of Article 2 and/or Article 3 should be considered null and void. The majority of the Selectboard agreed to further discuss only Article 2 of the Jersey Heights Special Assessment District at the upcoming October 21, 2024 meeting.

8:00PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Submitted and filed this October 18, 2024.

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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