



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF OCTOBER 21, 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: David Hoyne, Jamie Jaret, Dale Touchette, Tom Cloutier, Martin Green, Lisa Desjardins, Christy Snipp, Sheila Tarbox, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Heather Bonahoom, Haley Jiron, Skip & Maria Ward, Jeanne Charboneau, Holly Baker, Deb Dever*, Dan McLaughlin, Julia Compagna, Esq.

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:35 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:32PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 10-3-24 Special Meeting

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on 10/3/24. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried, roll call 5/0

2. Approve minutes of 10-7-24

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the minutes of 10/7/24. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried, roll call 5/0

3. Approve minutes of 10-9-24 Special Meeting

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the minutes of the special meeting on 10/9/24. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried, roll call 5/0

4. Approve minutes of 10-15-24 Special Meeting

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the minutes of the special meeting on 10/15/24. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried, roll call 5/0

5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. David Hoyne - Pavement Condition and Needs Assessment

David Hoyne P.E. VP, Director of Construction Services Greenman-Pedersen Inc. described his extensive background of over 35 years as a civil engineer, before discussing the scope of work, data

collection framework, and findings on the town's paved roads. He presented his report, "A Pavement Condition and Network Level Analysis, Morristown, VT". He reviewed the Scope of Work, including identifying the paved roads in the town included in the study, developing a data collection framework, performing the Windshield Survey, preparing a Network Level Analysis, and developing and presenting the final report. The roads were divided into three classes, then separated by condition. Approximately 50% of the roads were in poor or very poor condition and 30% were in good shape. He explained the dominant defects such as raveling, reflective cracking, and structural fatigue cracking.

Mr. Hoyne introduced the process of pavement management strategies and terminologies to help understand the network level analysis. Simply put, roads need continual upkeep. Roads that are not maintained deteriorate quickly. Those with greater usage and demand require more upkeep. A maintenance plan will elongate the life of the pavement and cost less money. A detailed evaluation of deferred maintenance costs was presented, highlighting the urgency to develop a comprehensive budget plan. It is better to do foundational work on a road in bad shape than to do repetitive surface work. Several questions followed. Don McDowell asked if funding was available for the road repairs. Mr. Hoyne suggested there may be two possibilities. George Cormier commented that when the Bypass was opened it changed traffic patterns onto Bridge St., which was not meant to have as much traffic when it was built. Chris Palermo thanked Mr. Hoyne for his efforts and agreed that the town needs a plan to address our roads. Due to the summer road work needs, our highway department is busy year-round. Don asked Mr. Hoyne his opinion regarding hiring contractors. Mr. Hoyne suggested that the town consider the most effective use of the money. Brent Raymond thanked Mr. Hoyne for his time and asked how long it would have taken for 50% of our roads to get in poor shape. Mr. Hoyne replied that a new road usually needs no upkeep or repairs for 20–30 years. Inquiry into the advancements in pavement materials and the importance of adhering to state specifications for better long-term results.

2. Further discussion of Jersey Heights Special Assessment District and Article 2

After many discussions on the Jersey Heights issue, the Selectboard agreed to discuss topic #2 only. The Board thanks Brent and Judi for their background research. Julia Compagna, Esq, was asked to provide a summary, including legal insights and historical context, as Sargent's Law Office handled the ownership transfer of the road. She researched the records for the history of the Town's acquisition of the roads within the H.A. Manosh, Inc. Jersey Heights residential subdivision. Richard Sargent completed the original papers in 2007 when Jersey Heights road was transferred. Discussion on how development permits, including Act 250, subdivision, and stormwater permits, affect the chain of title for parcels of land. These permits run with the land and impact marketability if they lapse or are out of compliance. Clarification on how deed language may vary, but all lots are subject to the same permits and encumbrances, which affect the title and come with the property. Concerns were raised about how non-compliance with permits affects home sales and the role of attorneys and lenders in this process. Clarification that the town will take care of the maintenance of the new stormwater system. The town's responsibility was for the roads only. The town's acceptance of responsibility for stormwater compliance could be considered a betterment for the community. The board thanked Julia Compagna for clarifying the legal issues.

6:30PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:36PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried with roll call 5/0.

6:38PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Comments and questions were offered regarding the landscaping at the Oxbow, and the need for speed bumps on Congress St..

6:48PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Upcoming Schedule:**
 - a. **Monday, October 28, 2024 - Informational Meeting - 5:30PM**
 - b. **Monday, November 18, 2024 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
 - c. **Wednesday, November 20, 2024 - SB Workshop 8AM - 4PM**

6:50PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

6:55PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried with roll call 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Submitted and filed this 10/21/2024.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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