



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661
5:30 PM Monday, December 16, 2024

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) or by phone join via conference call (audio only): 1 (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: [810 342 4528](#) | Passcode 05661

The meeting will be live streamed on the Town of Morristown's website:

<https://www.morristownvt.gov/community/page/meetings-agendas-minutes> and on [Town GMATV YouTube Channel](#) when possible

I. 5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

II. 5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

III. 5:32PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Personnel

IV. 6:30PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 12-2-24
2. Approve minutes of 12-4-24
3. Approve minutes of 12-9-24

V. 6:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Acknowledge Parker E Hodgdon - 99 y/o
2. Appointment of Kevin Petrochko as E911 Coordinator
3. Consideration to appoint Brent Raymond as the Ethics Liaison to the State Ethics Commission.
4. Representative David Yacovone
5. Discussion on mailing annual meeting ballot
6. Budget discussion - Paving & Sidewalks, Jordan St. Onge - Highway Superintendent
7. Library budget presentation and discussion - Steph Hoffman

VI. 8:05PM - OLD BUSINESS

VII. 8:06PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

VIII. 8:08PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

IX. 8:20PM - SCHEDULE

1. Saturday, January 4, 2025 - SB Community Meeting Day - PIE FOR BREAKFAST - PA Gym 8:00AM - Noon
Monday, January 6, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, January 13, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, January 27, 2025 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM

X. 8:25PM - ADJOURN



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 2, 2024**

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

Absent: Don McDowell

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

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Laura & Martin Green, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Jamie Brewster, Tom Cloutier, Jamie Jaret, Tasha Wallis, Hilary Warner, Ron Stancliff, Brent Teillon, Gunnar Nurme, Stephen Hilfiker, Bob Bortree, Judy Bickford*, Alex Cyr

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chris Palermo called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:34 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:32PM - JOINT MEETING SB & MDF BOARD

1. Consideration to approve and sign MDF Documents

The directors of Morristown Development Fund Inc. consent and agree that Morristown Development Fund Inc. shall be dissolved in accordance with the provisions of Title 11B, Chapter 14, of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. The MDF started in 1987 and has operated in various configurations until today, with the agreement entered into by and between the Town of Morristown and the Morristown Development Fund, Inc. All assets of the MDF will be transferred to the Town of Morristown. The motions addressing the legal agreements follow:

MORRISTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND ASSET TRANSFER AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT A- MDF Motion and SB Motion

Motion made by Mary Ann Wilson to approve the Morristown Development Fund Asset Transfer Agreement as presented, and authorize the chair, Steve Leach, to sign. Motion seconded by Sam Guy. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the Morristown Development Fund Asset Transfer Agreement as presented, and authorize the Vice-Chair, Christopher Palermo, to sign. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE

MORRISTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND LOAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – EXHIBIT B - SB Motion

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Town of Morristown Selectboard Resolution Regarding the Establishment of the Morristown Development Fund Loan Advisory Committee as presented with the members being appointed as follows:

Steve Leach for a one-year term expiring 3/2025 to the MDF loan advisory committee.

Sam Guy for a two-year term expiring 3/2026 to the MDF loan advisory committee.

Mary Ann Wilson for a three-year term expiring 3/2027 to the MDF loan advisory committee.

Peter Merrill for a four-year term expiring 3/2028 to the MDF loan advisory committee.

Laura Streets as the Selectboard Representation for a one-year term expiring 3/2025 to the MDF loan advisory committee.

Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

MORRISTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND INC. CORPORATE RESOLUTION – EXHIBIT C- MDF Motion

Motion made by Sam Guy to approve and sign the Morristown Development Fund, Inc Corporate Resolution as presented. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

MORRISTOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND LOAN PROGRAM GUIDELINES – EXHIBIT D - SB Motion

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Morristown Development Fund Loan Program Guidelines as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – EXHIBIT E - SB Motion

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the Town of Morristown Request for Proposals as presented. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:55PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 11-18-24

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 11/18/2024. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0) with amendments.

Correct the spelling of Brent Raymond's name in section New Business Item #3.

5:58PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider application for ROW permit - Eurofins Environment Testing

After a review of the details entailed in the right-of-way changes requested by Eurofins Environment Testing, all parties involved were in agreement to grant the request.

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the Right-of-Way permit for Eurofins Environment Testing as presented and authorized Vice-Chair Chris Palermo to sign. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

2. Discuss Housing Committee letter to the Selectboard

Todd Thomas, representing the Morristown Housing Committee spoke about the key points of the letter sent to the Selectboard. The Committee requests the Selectboard agree to offer Tax Stabilization to all commercial (multiple-family) housing developments that contain a percentage of affordable housing that is deed restricted per 24 VSA . The Committee recommends that any municipal Tax Stabilization granted be fixed and maintained at the property values at the time of the request for 5 years. The Committee believes this is the best means of creating more affordable housing. The

Committee chose the first option of Statute 2741, "1. Fixing and maintaining the valuation of such property in the grand list."

Chris Palermo read the statute that lists 4 options under 2741. "Municipal corporation; property values fixed by contract". Chris stated that he did not feel that option #1. would provide enough incentive for contractors. He suggested examining how the Selectboard can assist in increasing affordable housing, rather than just agreeing with the Housing Committee's letter. George Cormier is concerned about year six after the tax reduction is completed. He prefers option 4 over option 1. Chris Palermo would like to learn what actions other communities have taken. After discussion by the board members, Option number 4. "Fixing the tax applicable to such property at a percentage of the annual tax" was regarded as a better alternative. The Selectboard agreed that further information was needed. Judy Bickford of the Housing Committee agreed with the Selectboard members and stated that the proposal initiated the conversation about the need for affordable housing. Bob Bortree appreciated the Selectboard discussing this at tonight's meeting.

3. Lamoille County Planning Commission - Tasha Wallis

Tasha Wallis of the Lamoille County Planning Commission addressed the Selectboard explaining the scope of services offered by the LCPC. Now that Morristown has an approved Town Plan, the next step is the Downtown Designation. After this has been achieved, Morristown has access to many advantageous financial opportunities. Tasha suggested the town plan include an enhanced energy plan. She offered LCPC's resources to help Morristown as much as possible. Brent Raymond informed the committee that he is on several LCPC committees and thanked them for their help with the town's sidewalks. Chris Palermo verbalized the committee's appreciation and that the Selectboard looks forward to future endeavors.

4. Considering the Appointment of Hilary Warner to the MCC

Ron Standcliff, Chair of the Conservation Committee, introduced Hilary Warner to the Selectboard. Hilary is interested in joining the Conservation Committee to fill a vacancy until the end of the term.

Motion made by Richard Craig to appoint Hilary Warner to the Conservation Committee. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

5. Consideration to offer support for VT Dept of Forests, Parks, & Recreation acquisition of the Elmore Mountain parcel in the Town of Morristown.

Discussion ensued after a presentation by Gunnar Nurme, regarding the parcel of Elmore Mountain that the Department of FPR would acquire. It was deemed an excellent way to protect the land and enhance the state park.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve a letter of support for VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's acquisition of the Elmore Mountain parcel in the Town of Morristown and authorize Vice-Chair Chris Palermo to sign. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

6. Consideration of Morristown Conservation Commission article for the Town Meeting March 2025

Jerry Throne, Vice-Chair of MCC, explained that the article for the Town Meeting March 2025 asks the voters to authorize raising taxes equal to one-half (1/2) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund. However, this article was previously brought to the town and the voters did not approve of the article to raise money. Brent Raymond said in his explanation of budget planning that conservation funds would be addressed.

6:40PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:42PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

6:45PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Evelyn Thorne repeated her concern about the speeding of Maple and Congress Streets cars. Richard Craig noted that the Turkey Trot event was well attended and thanked Gail Beck, Community Development for her successful endeavors.

6:55PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - SB Workshop - 4:00PM - 9:00PM**
Monday, December 16, 2024 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Saturday, January 4, 2025 - SB Community Meeting Day - PIE FOR BREAKFAST - PA Gym 8:00AM - Noon

Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi, reminded the community of the PIE FOR BREAKFAST event and is looking for 20 pies to be donated to the event.

6:56PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

7:00PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by George Cormier to adjourn. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm
Submitted and filed this 12/4/24.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 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; Chief Brooke O'Steen, EMS Chief; Chief Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Abbie Griggs, Finance Assistant; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Martin & Laura Green, Jamie Jaret, Ed Rogers, Ruth Ann Rogers, Mary Lou Nichols, Steph Hoffman, Julie Pickett, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Rachel Duffy, Lucas Peterson, Judy Bickford, Nathaniel Beyer, Kendra Aber-Ferri*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 4:03PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Presentation of Manager's proposed budget to Selectboard for consideration

Brent Raymond, Town Manager, presented his proposed budget for fiscal year 25/26. He started by identifying the difficult decisions facing the town in developing a budget with competing priorities. The economic difficulties many taxpayers are currently facing necessitate significant cuts to the budget to maintain a level-funded budget as nearly as possible.

External variables exist which make budgeting difficult. Many costs have increased due to inflation, such as healthcare benefits. The impact of climate change, including extreme weather and damage from floods, which increases the need for resource management, must be acknowledged. Another influence is the aging population and the outmigration of our youth, along with the ever-present impact of substance abuse on mental health and the overall community. These factors demand more support from service agencies while operating to meet these needs. The affordable housing shortage and homelessness affects all the town departments. These factors have caused increased service demands of our EMS, Fire Responders, and Police Departments.

Strategic approaches are being taken to reduce costs. The town is pursuing economic development initiatives, identifying funding opportunities, and inter-municipal and regional collaboration, such as partnering with LCPC to share resources. Public-private partnerships are important. Building trust and working relationships with residents and businesses can create sustainable solutions.

Brent then reviewed the details of the budget draft. The overall budget increased in the following categories: general government, cemeteries, Police, Fire, and Highway Departments. Decreases were for the Morristown Centennial Library, the EMS Department, and the anticipated revenues. The total operating base budget increased by \$347,561. Other sections of the budget were shown: Special Warning Items, Wages & Benefits Overview, Estimated Tax Rate, Unassigned Fund Balance, Review of Departments, Organizations, Appropriations, Cost Pressure Points, Cost Control Methods, and the Infrastructure & Deferred - Capital Investment Concerns. The Presentation ended with the budget line details.

Brent acknowledged the challenges it takes to cut spending in response to the increase in needs. However, he stated that he is committed to maintaining essential services while safeguarding the community's financial well-being. This proposal does not address the years of deferred maintenance of the town's infrastructure. He plans to develop a comprehensive plan addressing the longstanding neglect.

More budget meetings will be planned for December and in January the Community Meeting - Pie for Breakfast is from 8-noon at the PA gym and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions there.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Various members of the community responded with their initial comments most regarding the proposed cuts to Recreation and Library.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm

Submitted and filed this 12/9/24.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 9, 2024**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Elizabeth Townsend, Human Resources; Tina Sweet, Finance Director

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Mason Kemerer, Martin & Laura Green, Jerry Throne, Tom Cloutier, Jamie Jaret, Jeff Elbaum, jasmine & Ryan Farrell, Brian & Carey Yeaton, Maggie Cleary, Kent Hedberg, Tony Cote*, Cari Varner*, Mariah Stokes, Alison Link, Joe Gardner

**participating via Zoom*

6:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

6:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

6:33PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Continuation of Manager's proposed budget discussions

a. Summer Camp discussion - Elz Townsend, HR Director

Don McDowell, Chair, received emails and communications via Front Porch Forum regarding the proposed budget discussions. Most of these have been respectful, but there has been misleading dialogue that erodes communication. Budget cuts have been spread across all departments and not just the library. The EMS department has cuts to personnel and equipment, including a defibrillator. The Highway Department has plans to cut staff and equipment, with no sidewalk repairs or paving projects. The Fire-House is so inadequate that it requires custom-built, more expensive firetrucks. The Police Department is too small for the staff. The cells are so unusable to house prisoners that it requires two police officers to drive them to St. Johnsbury. The insufficient staff necessitated overtime. The Town Government has cut salaries and the Noyes House maintenance has been delayed. The Tegu building needs a new roof and better security, which will not be done this year. The Pleasant View cemetery and the library budget have been reduced. All of these budget items equal \$700,000.

Elz Townsend, HR Director, explained the decision to discontinue the Summer Camp due to staffing shortages and liability concerns. There is a significant shortage of qualified counselors. This is a national trend for the 25/26 year. This recruitment problem has resulted in struggles to meet desired child-to-counselor ratios of 1:10 or less. This impacts camper safety and program quality. There is a statewide shortage of lifeguards. Activities in the water are very popular, but without lifeguards, there will be a diminished ability to provide adequate water safety supervision. Our program is unlicensed and

operates seasonally. To offer a full summer program leaves inadequate time for training staff. The 2024 Program had a \$23,147 deficit. The program was not self-sustaining as planned. High operating costs and insurance premiums were due to the program's high-risk nature.

Selectboard comments: Laura Streets added that there are liability issues and high risks to the children's program without trained counselors.

Chris Palermo suggested other towns may let our children join their programs. However, at this time, no other towns were available for this. Richard Craig thinks we should have a recreation program. However, it's complicated. George Cormier would like to find a way to structure the program for less. Don McDowell asked for other alternatives.

Community comments: Many people were upset about losing Summer Camp and thought it was important. One comment stated that much was heard about risk but not about the community. Another commented that Summer Camp was cheap child care for working parents. A suggestion was offered to identify grant funds for the program. One person suggested putting the issue on the ballot for the town's vote. Another suggested cutting the program rather than eliminating it. Two people spoke against cutting the library's funding.

9:00PM - ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Submitted and filed this 12/9/2024.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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



HONORABLE DISCHARGE
ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

PARKER E. HODGDON 31 432 508 TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE
712TH ENGINEER DEPOT COMPANY

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at

SEPARATION CENTER
FORT BRAGG NORTH CAROLINA

Date

25-JUNE-1946



Return to

PARKER E. HODGDON
595 Whipple Road
Tewksbury, MASS.

WM M De Laney
WM. M. DE LANEY
L T COL FA



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Quick Summary: Vermont Code of Ethics

for State Public Servants

Act No. 102 (S.171) (adopted May 4, 2022; effective July 1, 2022): An act related to the adoption of a State Code of Ethics, providing public servants in the three branches of government a clear baseline for ethical conduct in the performance of their duties.¹

Parties subject to the Code of Ethics (§ 1202). The Code of Ethics applies to all elected or appointed officers, General Assembly Members, state employees, persons on state boards and commissions, and any state agents exercising state authority. When the action in question relates to the core legislative functions or duties of members of the General Assembly, the relevant legislative rules and policies shall apply.

Narrow procedural exceptions apply in the rare cases where licensed attorneys or judicial officers have a conflict of interest that falls under both the Code of Ethics and their respective rules of professional conduct. In those instances, licensed attorneys and judicial officers shall follow the recusal procedures set forth by their relevant professional organization. §1203(b).

Core provisions of the Code of Ethics (§ 1203). There are twelve distinct provisions in this section, each of which states a specific ethical expectation for public servants.

Summary of Sections in Act No. 102 (in order of substance):

1. **Recusal and disclosure for conflicts of interest**: public servants faced with a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, shall publicly recuse themselves from the matter in question. A public recusal can be accomplished by informing a supervisor or other relevant party. If the public servant believes they may proceed with the matter despite the conflict, they must disclose the conflict in writing in accordance with the policies and

¹ Note: The Code serves as a baseline for ethical conduct and does not prohibit branches of the State government from adopting additional rules or policies that exceed the Code's requirements.

procedures set forth by the agency or entity governing the matter in question. Confidential information need not be disclosed.

2. No directing others to act unethically: public servants cannot direct others to do what they cannot ethically do themselves.
3. No participation after recusal due to conflict: once a public servant recuses because of a conflict, that recusal is full and complete.
4. Avoiding appearance of unethical conduct: public servants should reasonably try to avoid even the appearance of ethical impropriety.
5. No improper preferential treatment: public servants should not show any favoritism or prejudice to anyone in carrying out state work, unless permitted by law and written policy or rule.
6. No using state position for improper personal or financial gain: public servants may not use their positions for improper gain.
7. No using state information for improper financial gain: public servants may not use nonpublic information for improper gain.
8. No using state resources for improper financial gain: public servants must use state equipment and resources only for their intended public purpose, unless expressly permitted by law or written policy or rule.
9. Limitations on gifts to public servants: public servants may not solicit or accept gifts in the course of their state employment. Exceptions to this rule are:
 - a. A devise or inheritance.
 - b. Gifts to be used in an official capacity for official purposes.
 - c. Ceremonial awards valued at less than \$100.
 - d. Rebates, discounts, and promotions available to the general public.
 - e. Printed or recorded material germane to State action or functions.
 - f. Food or beverage incidental to the performance of a state function, or provided at a civic, cultural or political event at which the public servant is attending in an official capacity.
 - g. Food or beverage where the person who is paying is in attendance and the cost does not exceed \$100 per person, per source in a calendar year.
 - h. Admission fees or tickets to a charitable, cultural, political, or civic event, provided by the sponsoring entity, at which the public servant is attending in an official capacity.
 - i. A gift from a private employer assuming the gift is ordinarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

- j. A loan made on terms not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business.
 - k. Gifts from other public servants. In the case of supervisors-supervisees gifts are limited to holiday or special occasion and gifts valued at less \$100 per occasion, not to exceed \$200 per year.
 - l. Gifts under \$50 per occasion, not to exceed \$150 per year from a single source.
 - m. Gifts from friends or family.
 - n. Gifts otherwise expressly permitted under law.
10. No making unauthorized commitments on behalf of the State: public servants may not commit the State, or any of its resources, unless authorized.
11. Limits on other employment: public servants may not take outside jobs that conflict with State duties; and, after leaving State service, may not turn around and lobby their former agency, or “switch sides” on a matter on which they were working.
12. Must comply with all other relevant laws and rules not included in the Code

Protections for Whistleblowers (§ 1204): prohibits retaliation or intimidation against any public servant who submits a complaint to the Ethics Commission regarding ethical misconduct.

Ethics training and education (§ 1205): all public servants required to take training on the Code of Ethics within the first 120 days of the start of their public service, and once every three years thereafter.

Mailing Everyone Ballots			
4279 ballots	\$ 0.46	\$ 1,968.34	
mailing processing		\$ 1,550.00	
3749 postage	\$ 0.84	\$ 3,149.16	
3800 envelopes	\$ 0.32	\$ 1,216.00	
BCA processing ballots		\$ 200.00	
Total		\$ 8,083.50	

Difference

Mailing Ballots as Requested			
2000 ballots	\$ 0.46	\$ 920.00	
mailing processing		\$ -	
300 postage	\$ 0.84	\$ 252.00	
3800 envelopes	\$ 0.32	\$ 1,216.00	
BCA processing ballots		\$ -	
Total	\$	2,388.00	

\$ 5,695.50

TOWN MEETINGS								
Year	Checklist Total	In person	% of total checklist	Absentee	% of total checklist	Total Ballot	% of total checklist	Comments
Voters request ballots								
2013	3441	559	16%	40	1.2%	599	17.4%	
2014	3363	660	20%	129	3.8%	789	23.5%	Town Office/ Rec fields
2015	3421	549	16%	51	1.5%	600	17.5%	
2016	3409	1361	40%	121	3.5%	1482	43.5%	Presidential Primary
2017	3517	539	15%	60	1.7%	599	17.0%	
2018	3610	537	15%	57	1.6%	594	16.5%	
2019	3817	543	14%	74	1.9%	617	16.2%	
2020	3933	1366	35%	196	5.0%	1562	39.7%	Presidential Primary
Started mailing all ballots								
2021	4122	132	3%	1326	32.2%	1458	35.4%	
2022	4125	213	5%	1256	30.4%	1469	35.6%	
2023	4258	220	5%	1663	39.1%	1883	44.2%	
2024	4217	417	10%	1282	30.4%	1699	40.3%	Presidential Primary
Special Elections mailing all ballots								
6/6/2023	4289	185	4%	1401	32.7%	1586	37.0%	Budget revote*
8/29/2023	4294	239	6%	1385	32.3%	1624	37.8%	Budget revote*
11/5/2024	4453	919	21%	1535	34.5%	2454	55.1%	Charter/ Jersey Heights



Morristown's Paved Roads

Paved Road Inventory

- ◇ 36.76 Miles total
- ◇ Good-10.6 Miles – 28.8%
- ◇ Fair- 6.76 Miles – 18.4%
- ◇ Poor- 11.24 Miles – 30.6%
- ◇ Very Poor- 8.16 Miles – 22.2%
- ◇ Over 19 Miles (52.8%) of our paved roads are in Poor to Very Poor condition
- ◇ (GPI A Pavement Condition and Network Level Analysis)

Consequences of Poor Roads

- ◆ Wear and tear on traveling public's vehicles
- ◆ Wear and tear on town equipment including plows, dump trucks, and pickups
 - ◆ Plow blades alone are \$3,500/truck/year
 - ◆ Recently had a pothole catch a plow wing causing \$1500 in damage to plow
- ◆ Patching potholes is a costly never-ending endeavor
- ◆ As road conditions worsen, cost to repair increases

Pavement Treatments

Paving cost is all about tonnage requirements, the worse the road, the more tons required

- ◆ **$\frac{3}{4}$ " Paver Shim Overlay – Least Expensive**

- ◆ This is the optimal pavement treatment
- ◆ Can only be applied to a road in fair to good condition
- ◆ NHDOT paves all state roads on an **8-year cycle** with this treatment
- ◆ Simple, thin layer of asphalt

- ◆ **$\frac{1}{2}$ ' Leveling Course and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Overlay – More Expensive**

- ◆ More costly than a $\frac{3}{4}$ " overlay
- ◆ For roads that are in poor condition but still have good shape and subbase
- ◆ Involves paving a thin layer to fill low spots, and a second thicker layer to tie together

- ◆ **Reclaim and Pave 4" – Significantly More Expensive**

- ◆ Significantly more costly than any other treatment
- ◆ For roads that are in very poor condition with a failed subbase
- ◆ Involves reclaiming, fine grading and compacting subbase, paving a base course, paving a wearing course

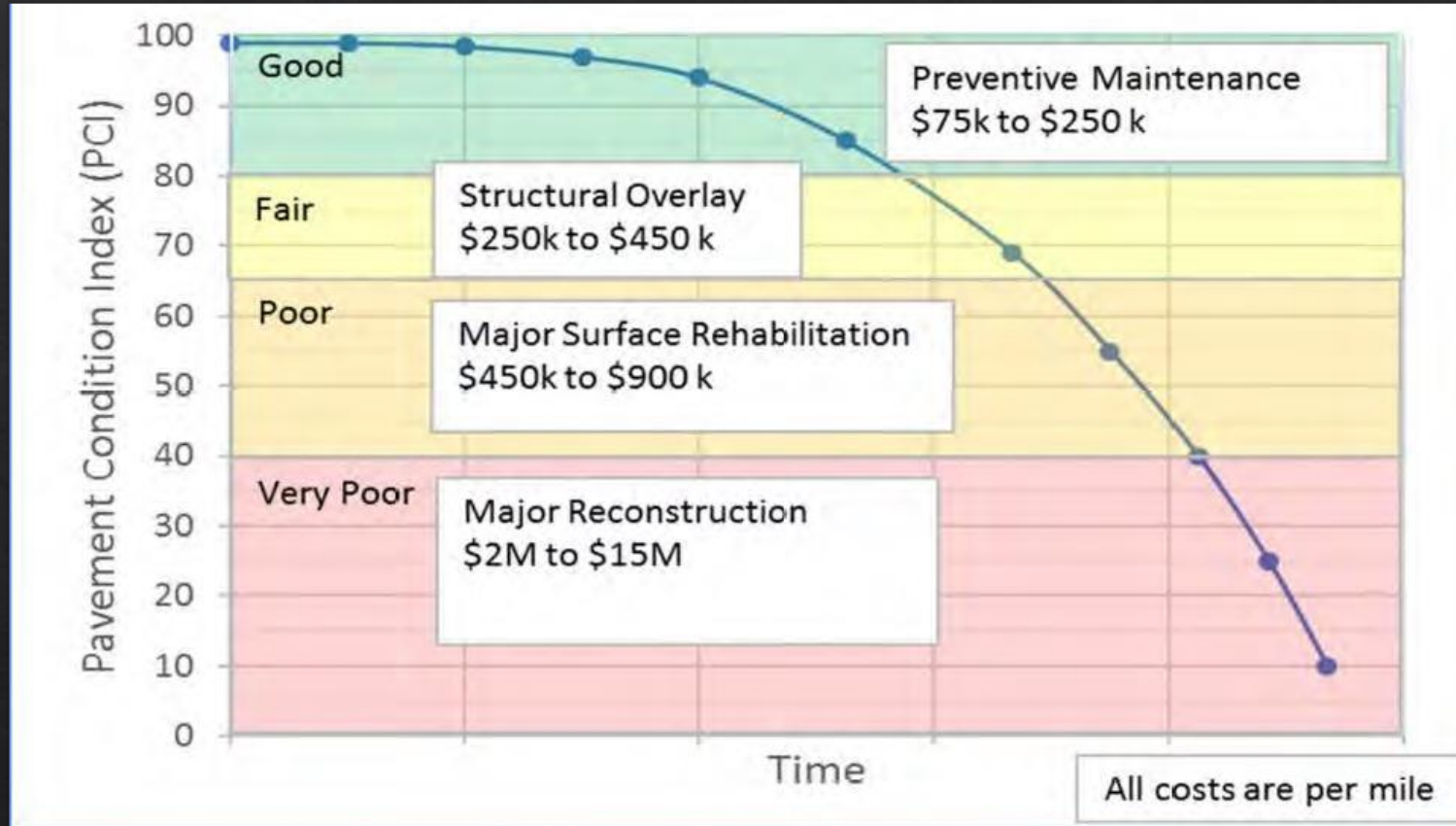
Cost Per Mile

- ◆ Tonnage Requirement at 1" = $((L \times W)/9) \times .0567$
 - ◆ Current Cost per ton is roughly \$95/ton and increasing 3-5%/year
- ◆ 3/4" Paver Shim Overlay
 - ◆ Tonnage $((5280 \times 24)/9) \times .0567 \times .75 = 599 \text{ Tons} \times \$95 = \$56,905 \text{ per mile}$
 - ◆ GPI Estimates \$70,000 - \$110,000 per mile
- ◆ 1/2' Leveling Course and 1 1/2" Overlay
 - ◆ Tonnage $((5280 \times 24)/9) \times .0567 \times 2 = 1,597 \text{ Tons} \times \$95 = \$151,715 \text{ per mile}$
 - ◆ GPI Estimates \$160,000 - \$225,000 per mile
- ◆ Reclaim and Pave 4"
 - ◆ Reclaiming Roughly \$3/ square yard $(5280 \times 24)/9 = 14,080 \times \$3 = \$42,240 \text{ per mile}$
 - ◆ Tonnage $((5280 \times 24)/9) \times .0567 \times 4 = 3,194 \text{ Tons} \times \$95 = \$303,430 \text{ per mile}$
 - ◆ Total Estimated Cost of \$345,670 per mile
 - ◆ GPI Estimates \$450,000 - \$900,000 per mile

Cost Per Mile

- ◇ $\frac{3}{4}$ " Paver Shim Overlay - \$56,905
 - ◇ Baseline, most cost-effective pavement treatment
- ◇ $\frac{1}{2}$ ' Leveling Course and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Overlay - \$151,715
 - ◇ 266.61% more expensive than a $\frac{3}{4}$ " paver shim overlay
- ◇ Reclaim and Pave 4" - \$345,670
 - ◇ 607.5% more expensive than a $\frac{3}{4}$ " paver shim overlay
 - ◇ 227.8% more expensive than a $\frac{1}{2}$ " leveling course and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Overlay

(GPI) Figure 1: Typical Pavement Deterioration Curve



If We Paved Everything Now

- ◇ ¾” Paver Shim Overlay
 - ◇ Fair- 6.76 miles x \$56,905 = **\$384,678**
- ◇ ½” Leveling Course and 1 ½” Overlay
 - ◇ Poor- 11.24 miles x \$151,715 = **\$1,705,276**
- ◇ Reclaim and Pave 4”
 - ◇ Very Poor – 8.16 miles x \$345,670 = **\$2,820,667**
- ◇ Total Paving Backlog
 - ◇ **\$4,910,621**

If we continue to do nothing

Conditions continue to deteriorate

- ◇ If we do nothing, the good will become fair, the fair will become poor, and the poor will become very poor
- ◇ $\frac{3}{4}$ " Paver Shim Overlay
 - ◇ Fair- 10.6 miles x \$56,905 = **\$603,193**
- ◇ $\frac{1}{2}$ " Leveling Course and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Overlay
 - ◇ Poor- 6.76 miles x \$151,715 = **\$1,025,593**
- ◇ Reclaim and Pave 4"
 - ◇ Very Poor – 19.4 miles x \$345,670 = **\$6,705,998**
- ◇ Total Paving Backlog
 - ◇ **\$8,334,784**

Light at the end of the tunnel

- ◆ There are ways to lower these costs
 - ◆ Paving cost are reduced by using town forces for catch basin adjustments (\$1200 per), crosswalks (\$2000 per), and shoulder gravel (\$4,000 per mile at 1”)
 - ◆ We have poor and very poor roads that are low traffic, and treatment can be adjusted
 - ◆ Demars road is categorized Very Poor, and we could apply a Poor road treatment
 - ◆ Wilkins road is categorized Poor, and we can apply a Fair road treatment
 - ◆ Not all Very Poor roads will require reclaiming
 - ◆ We are actively searching for grants to help fund a paving budget
 - ◆ State of Vermont Town Highway Class 2 Roadway grant – max \$175,000 with 30% match
 - ◆ Potential to match grants in kind
- ◆ We must start budgeting for paving

The End Game – Paving Cycle

- ◆ We have a total of 36.76 miles of paved road that we need to start maintaining
 - ◆ If all roads were brought up to Good/Fair, we could implement a paving cycle
 - ◆ The ideal cycle is to do a ¾” Paver Shim Overlay every 12-15 years (GPI)
 - ◆ Low traffic roads will not need to be paved as often
 - ◆ Low traffic roads – 21.1 miles on a 15-yr cycle
 - ◆ 1.41 miles per year at \$56,905 = \$80,236/ year
 - ◆ High traffic roads – 15.7 miles on a 12-year cycle
 - ◆ 1.31 miles per year at \$56,905 = \$ 74,545/year
- ◆ Total of \$154,781 that we should be investing every year for maintenance once our roads are back to a level of maintained

Proposed Plan

- ◆ Begin a several year process of investing in rebuilding our paved roads
- ◆ Focus on main roads that pose a potential safety risk and contribute to wear and tear
- ◆ Mix in low traffic roads that contribute to wear and tear
- ◆ Focus on roads that are deteriorating to the point to needing more expensive treatment

A Rebuilding Year

- ◆ Walton Road (A-Stagecoach to bridge)
 - ◆ .72 miles -Shim and Pave - \$103,464
- ◆ Walton Road (B- bridge to dirt)
 - ◆ .61 miles -Reclaim and Pave - \$201,080
- ◆ Cote Hill
 - ◆ .7 miles- Reclaim and pave - \$211,519
- ◆ Randolph Rd (rte 100-Fitzgerald)
 - ◆ 1.4 miles – Shim and Pave - \$201,180
- ◆ Demars Rd
 - ◆ .16 miles- Shim and Pave - \$23,950
- ◆ Bridge St Favreau Bridge –
 - ◆ 140' – 1" Mill and Fill and Relace 2 Plug Joints - \$15,333
- ◆ **Total cost :\$756,526**



Morristown's Sidewalks

Sidewalks

- ◇ 8.8 Miles total, 46,515 Feet total
- ◇ Very Good- 11,178 Feet – 24%
- ◇ Good- 8,333 Feet - 17.9%
- ◇ Fair- 10,181 Feet – 21.9%
- ◇ Poor- 14,751 Feet – 31.7%
- ◇ Very Poor- 2,072 Feet – 4.5%
- ◇ 36.2 % of our sidewalks are in Poor to Very Poor condition
- ◇ 58.1% of our sidewalks need work

Consequences of Poor Sidewalks

- ◇ Very Poor Sidewalks are either not plowable, or damage plow
 - ◇ Not plowable - Court St, East High St
 - ◇ Damage plow - Bridge St (lower), Brigham St, Howard St, Wilkins St
 - ◇ Require complete replacement
- ◇ Poor Sidewalks deteriorate rapidly and damage plow
 - ◇ Some are too narrow (4'), don't meet Sidewalk Policy standards (5')
 - ◇ Sidewalk Policy is granite curb, many are concrete which doesn't hold up to winters
 - ◇ Washington Hwy, Union St, Winter St, Wabun Ave, Cherry St
 - ◇ Require major reconstruction
- ◇ Fair Sidewalks are in overall good condition, but have sections that need replacing
 - ◇ Cracks and uneven panels catch the plow causing further damage to sidewalk and equipment
 - ◇ Elmore St, Harrison Ave, Summer St, George St, Copley Ave, Congress St
 - ◇ Require sectional repair
- ◇ All Very Poor and Poor condition sidewalks are contrary to our beatification efforts

Types of Sidewalk

- ◆ Granite Curb and Concrete Panel
 - ◆ Resilient to winter and plowing
 - ◆ Easily maintained
 - ◆ Meets Sidewalk Policy standards
- ◆ Granite Curb with Greenbelt and Concrete Panel
 - ◆ Resilient to winter and plowing
 - ◆ Easily maintained
 - ◆ Very easy to replace panels
 - ◆ Meets Sidewalk Policy standards
- ◆ Concrete or Asphalt Curb with Asphalt Walkway
 - ◆ Does not hold up to winter
 - ◆ No panels to easily replace
 - ◆ Patches do not stand up to plowing

Sidewalk Treatments and Cost

- ◆ Complete Replacement
 - ◆ New Concrete - \$75/Square Yard
 - ◆ New Curb - \$141/ Linear Foot
 - ◆ Currently requires hiring a contractor when long runs of curb involved
 - ◆ Estimated \$15,790 per 100' – Most Expensive
- ◆ Panel Replacement
 - ◆ New Concrete - \$75 per panel
 - ◆ Done in house with Highway Department labor
 - ◆ Considerably cheaper
 - ◆ Estimated \$2,500 per 100' – Most Cost Effective

Proposed Plan

- ◆ Balanced approach that focuses on:
 - ◆ Replacing sidewalks that are not plowable
 - ◆ Replacing and repairing sidewalks that damage town equipment
 - ◆ Replace panels that are at risk of further deterioration
- ◆ Use contractor for complete replacements
 - ◆ Reduce cost by providing curb, trucking, and flaggers
 - ◆ Get all sidewalks to being plowable
- ◆ Use Highway Department for repairs and panel replacement
 - ◆ Repair sections that damage town plow
 - ◆ Prevent further deterioration of sidewalks
 - ◆ Build Highway Department skill set

A Rebuilding Year

◆ Full Replacement

- ◆ Court St (440'), East High St (200'), Bridge St (lower-570'), Brigham St (125'), Wilkins St (591'), Howard St (239')
- ◆ Use mix of Contractor and Highway Department Staff
 - ◆ Total of 2,165' = \$161,242
 - ◆ If done completely with Contractors = \$199,467
 - ◆ Savings of \$38,225 by using town forces
 - ◆ Cost of portion done by town includes labor, materials, and equipment

◆ Panel Replacements

- ◆ Brooklyn St (13 panels), Munson Ave (1 Panel), Foss St (6 panels), Jersey Way (5 panels), Foundry St (1 panel)
- ◆ Done entirely with Highway Department Staff
 - ◆ Total Cost: \$10,606 : Includes labor, materials, and equipment costs

◆ Total Project Cost : \$171,848

Result of a Rebuilding Year

- ◇ 8.8 Miles total, 46,515 Feet total
 - ◇ Very Good- 22,399 Feet 48.2%
 - ◇ Good- 8,333 Feet -17.9%
 - ◇ Fair- 10,181 Feet -21.9%
 - ◇ Poor- 5,602 Feet -12%
 - ◇ Very Poor- 0 Feet - 0%
-
- ◇ Reduces Very Poor and Poor condition sidewalks from 36.2% to 12%
 - ◇ Reduces sidewalks needing work from 58.1% to 33.9%

Grant Opportunities

- ◆ Vermont Transportation Alternatives Grant
 - ◆ Would cover 80% of rebuilding year plan
 - ◆ 20% Match required
- ◆ Rebuilding year plan structured around receiving this grant
 - ◆ If grant is received project cost to the town would be reduced by **\$137,478**
 - ◆ Must budget minimum of \$34,370 so that we can accept grant if awarded
 - ◆ Grant application is in process, and due December 31, 2024



Morristown Centennial Library

FY25 Town Appropriation Request

[PHOTO SLIDESHOW]

What is a public library in Vermont?

“Public library” means any library established and maintained by a **municipality** or by a **private association, corporation, or group** to provide basic library services free of charge to all residents of a municipality or a community and **that receives its annual financial support in whole or in part from public funds.**

~ 22 V.S.A. § 101



Volunteer Trustees' Responsibilities

22 V.S.A. § 105

(a) The trustees, managers, or directors **shall**:

(1) elect the officers of the corporation from their number and have the control and management of the affairs, finances, and property of the corporation;

(2) adopt bylaws and policies governing the operation of the library;

(3) establish a library budget;

(4) hold regular meetings; and

(5) ensure compliance with the terms of any funding, grants, or bequests.



**The Library
Trustees
proposed
LEVEL
FUNDING
(0% increase)
for FY25-26**





How is the MCL funded?

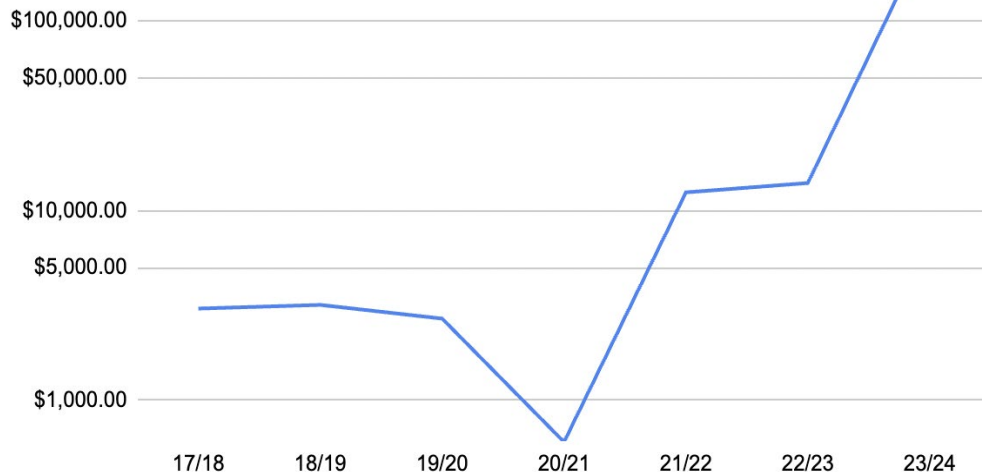
- By law, a Morristown appropriation
- Fundraising
- Grants written by Library staff
- Donations
- Friends of the Library support
- Sales and fees (copies, lost materials, book sale)
- Our endowment

How do the Trustees, Library staff, and the Friends Fundraise?

Annual appeal letter
Plant sale
Book sale
Selling bags
Selling T-shirts
Donation box on
circulation desk
Bake sales
Raffles



Donations



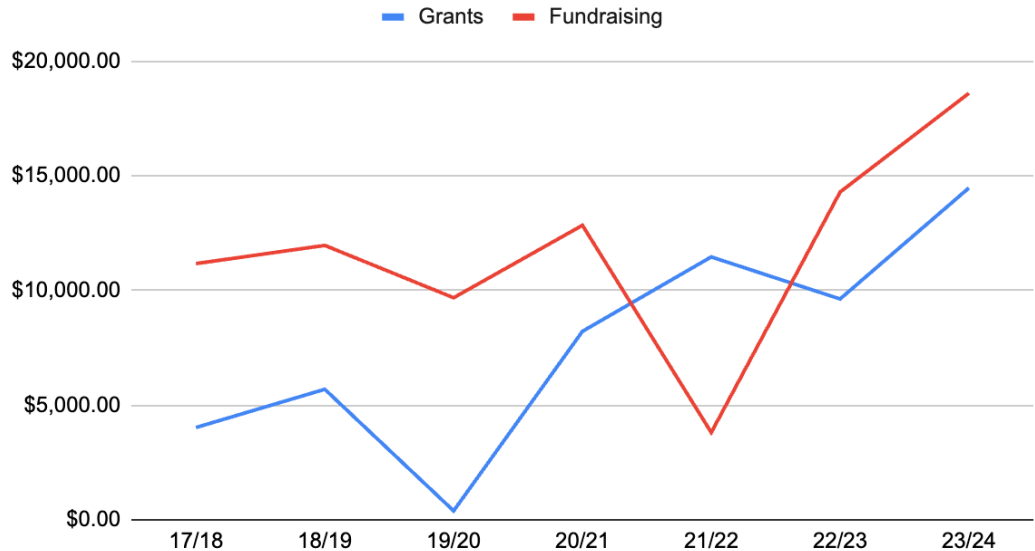
Fundraising & Donations

- In FY23-24, MCL increased fundraising by 30%.
- Trustees planning a mystery night performance for March
- Total: \$19,544
- For the first time in decades, MCL received a one-time bequest for over \$300,000.
- Friends provided over \$2,000 in support.

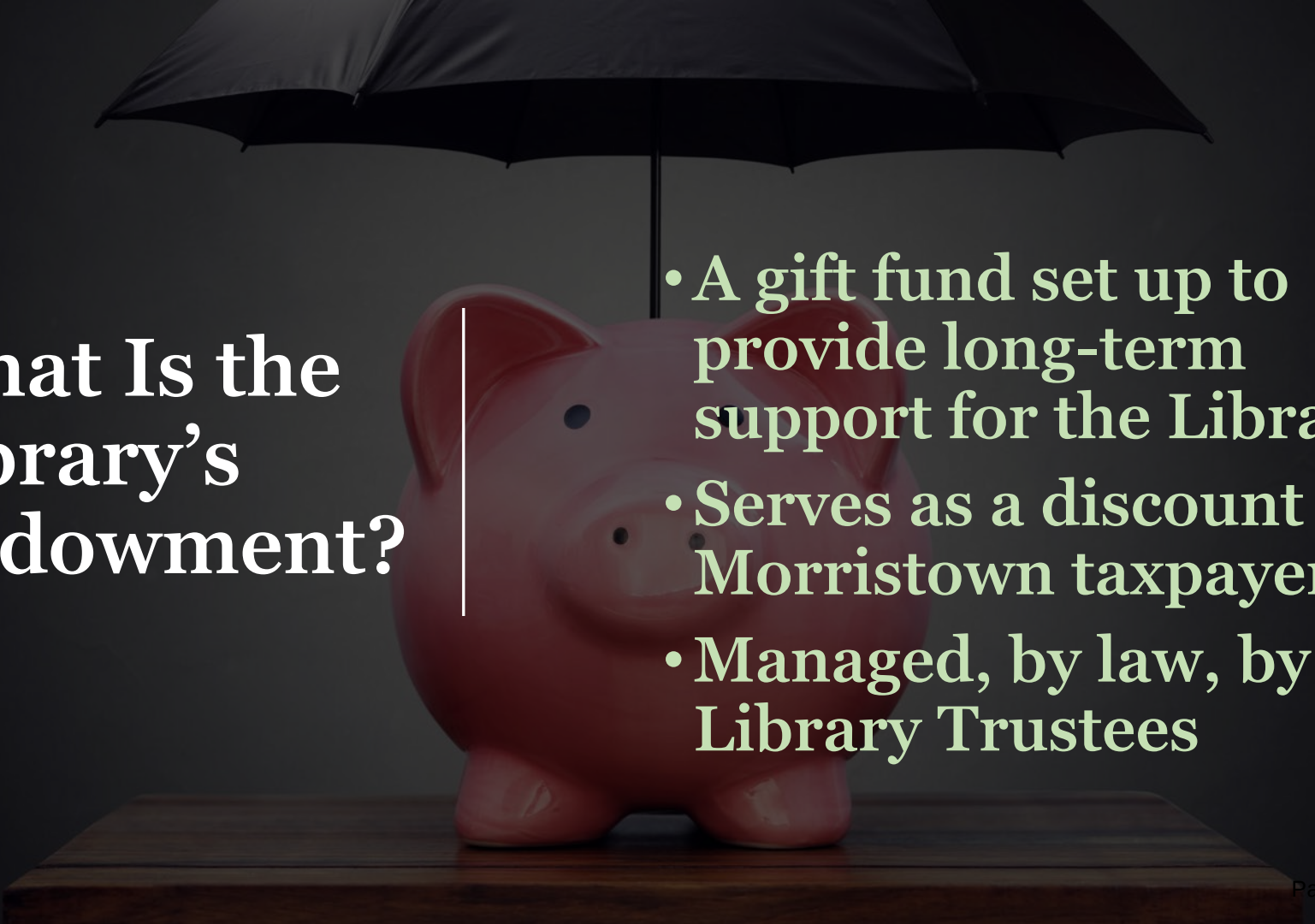
GRANTS

- In FY23-24, MCL increased grant funding by 50%.
- Staff applied for 14 grants and was awarded 13 of them.
- Total: \$14,474

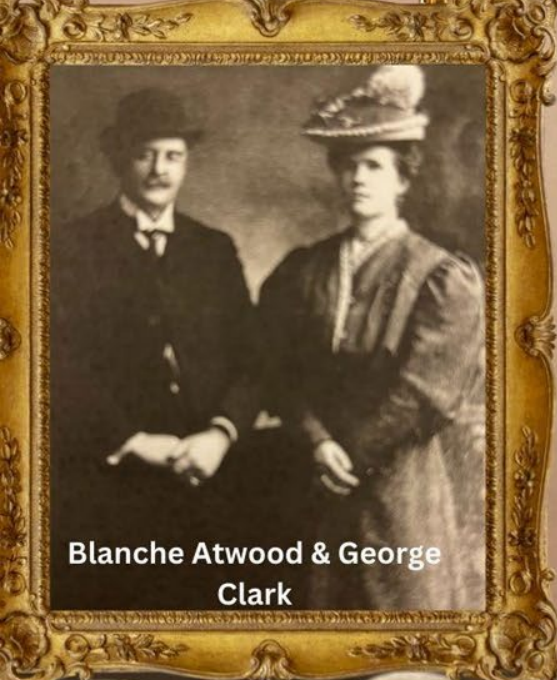
Grants and Fundraising



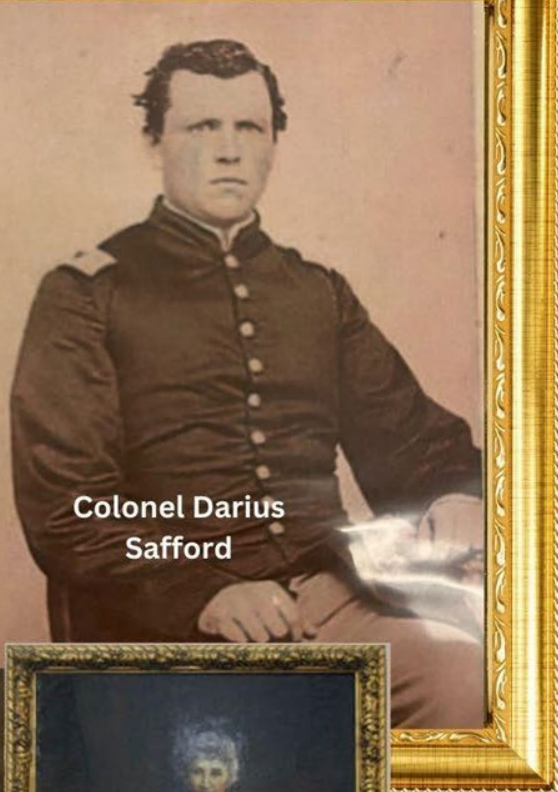
What Is the Library's Endowment?

A red piggy bank is positioned in the center of the frame, resting on a dark wooden surface. A black umbrella is open above it, its handle extending down behind the piggy bank. The background is a dark, solid color. The piggy bank is a classic shape with a coin slot on its side. The umbrella is a simple, dark-colored umbrella.

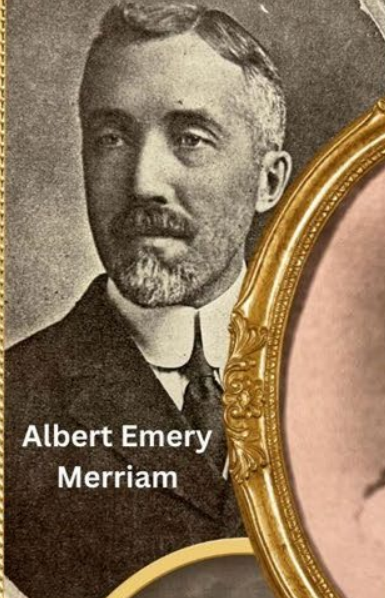
- A gift fund set up to provide long-term support for the Library
- Serves as a discount for Morristown taxpayers
- Managed, by law, by the Library Trustees



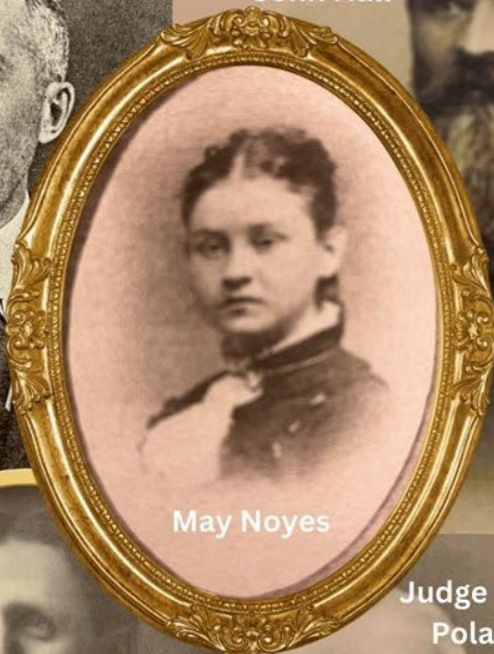
Blanche Atwood & George
Clark



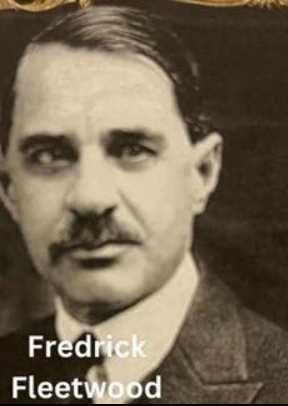
Colonel Darius
Safford



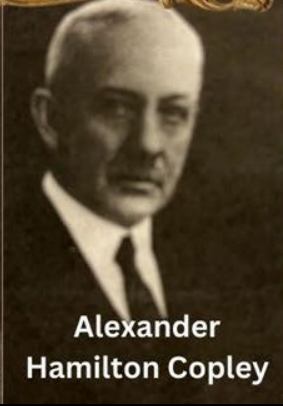
Albert Emery
Merriam



May Noyes



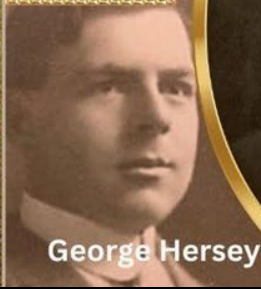
Fredrick
Fleetwood



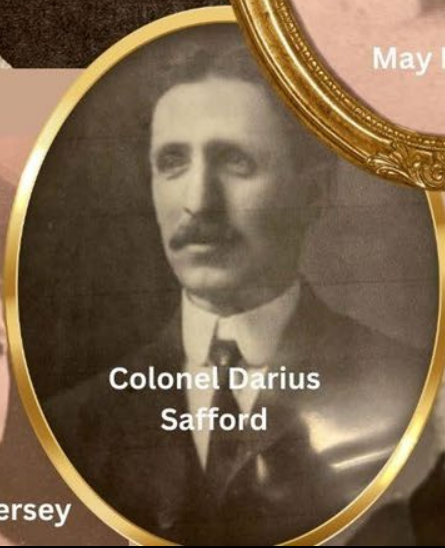
Alexander
Hamilton Copley



Laura Kinney Glead



George Hersey

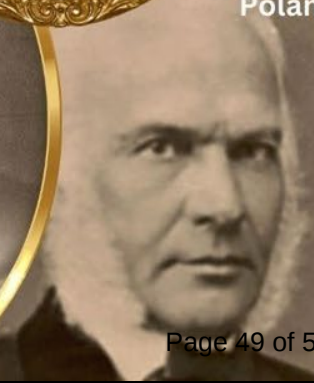


Colonel Darius
Safford

Dr. Elmore
John Hall



Judge Luke
Poland



The Endowment Was Protected at Its Creation

\$500 “I direct that the principal be kept intact and the annual income be expended for the general purposes.” -Lucretia Campbell

\$500 “Please maintain a permanent fund and use income only....” -Clark Blanche M.

\$1,000 “Income used in the purchase of books” -Thomas Cheney & May Terrill Cheney

**\$500 “The income...to be used in purchasing books for said library.”
-Olive R. Luce**

\$500 “Income from which shall be used in the purchase of books” -May Cheney

\$500 “The income only to be used as needed toward support of the library” -Ida Campbell

Comparison: Similarly Sized Libraries

FY 2023 VT Department of Libraries Data

Town	Population	Per Capita Spending
Waterbury	5333	91.05
Newport	6711	75.73
Randolph	5769	51.46
Hinesburg	5019	48.81
Swanton	6758	35.94
Morristown	6582	28.41

Comparison: Similar Tax-Funding Amounts

FY 2023 Data

Town	Population	Per Capita Spending
Putney	2630	73.69
Woodstock	3020	69.12
Poultney	3048	57.71
Quechee	5878	30.86
Morristown	6582	28.41

How MCL Stacks Up

MCL is UNDERFUNDED

- ONLY 23 libraries in Vermont serve larger populations
- YET, 61 libraries are funded at a higher per capita rate than MCL

MCL tops the STATS

- 2nd for **total programs**
- 7th total **program attendance**
- 11th for **annual visits**

MCL Hours & Staffing

- Open 40 hours per week
- 2 full-time employees; 4 part-time employees
- Dozens of volunteers



Our Non-Profit Library SAVES Money

- A municipal library would require 100% taxpayer funding
- Town employees receive more benefits
- Lose grant opportunities available to non-profits

PLEASE
LEVEL
FUND THE
LIBRARY

VALUE

SUSTAINABILITY

COMMUNITY
RESOURCE