



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2022

Members: Bob Beeman, Judy Bickford, Brian Kellogg, Don McDowell, Jessica Graham

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Dennis DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director; Stacey Ferriman, Assistant Finance Director; Tricia Follert*, Community Development Coordinator.

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jason Kelley, Tom Cloutier, Kristin Marriott, Brent LaBree, Martin Green, Barry Russo, Ryan Farrell, David Ring, Attorney James Barlow

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Bob Beeman called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Accept resignation from a volunteer Firefighter
Sign a lease for a police cruiser
Appoint a new Police Officer
Discuss Phase II construction project

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes 12-05-22

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0) with amendments.

Public Hearing - Remove second sentence "Mary West is in the hospital and will not be at the meeting."

2. Approve Minutes 12-12-22

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve the minutes of December 12, 2022. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

LIQUOR CONTROL

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Accept resignation of a member firefighter

Motion made by Don McDowell to accept the resignation of Michael Desjardins from the fire department. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg . Motion carried (5/0).

2. Sign lease for a new police cruiser

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the lease of a 2023 Chevy Tahoe with Republic First National Corporation for four years for a total lease price of \$76,269.50 for the police department. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

3. Appoint a new Police Officer

Motion made by Don McDowell to hire James Sawyer as a full-time Police Officer at a rate of \$31.84 per hour. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

4. Discuss Phase II construction project

Donald Blake Inc (DBI), has time in January 2023 to work on the 2nd floor building renovations which were scheduled for July 1, 2023. There is money in the capital building fund to pay for this renovation. Thank you DBI from the Selectboard.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to authorize DBI to begin construction January 2023. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

5. Discuss proposed change to Sidewalk Policy

Some minor changes need to be made to our Sidewalk Policy to accommodate clearing the snow in the winter.

Motion made by Jess Graham to accept the amended Sidewalk Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Discuss for approval - Homeland Security Program – Application for EMS and Police radio grants

Chief Luneau has applied for a grant to provide EMS and MPD with new radios. There are 10 portable radio's for EMS, 5 portable for MPD officers, 9 for MPD cruisers, and 1 for the PD Station.

Motion by Brian Kellogg to approve this grant application for the radios and authorize Eric Dodge to sign. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

7. Discuss for Approval - Vt Dept of Public Safety – 2023 CDIP (Drug Task Force) Grant

Morristown PD has been awarded a \$100,000 grant funding for our Detective Lieutenant to work 20 hours/week on the Drug Task Force, and will continue to apply for this grant as long as it is available.

Motion made by Don McDowell to accept the grant for the 2023 CDIP grant and authorize Eric Dodge to sign. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

8. Discuss Morristown Jersey Way 3 Acre Storm Water Filtration Project Grant

The Stormwater Program, through Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, is mandating a filtration

system be installed retroactively for the Jersey Way subdivision. The town is 1/3 responsible and the residents are 2/3 responsible for compliance and costs. Tyler Mumley discussed the filtration requirements and costs with the Selectboard. Test holes were recently dug by Mumley Engineering and it was determined that the system designed is not going to work due to a higher than expected water table on-site.

There is now doubt that the water filtration project grant will cover the cost of the project. The Jersey Way does not have an HOA to cover the balance of this project or the maintenance. It was discussed about who will pay for the balance if the grant does not cover the complete cost. The Selectboard will be discussing this issue again in the future when a different stormwater treatment design and cost are finalized in consideration of the high water table on this parcel.

9. Remove Private Road Name Tolusa Lane

Tolusa Lane was recently approved in error as only 2 lots are being planned, not 3 which is the requirement of a private road name.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to rescind Tolusa Lane as a road name. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss the partial discontinuance of West High Street

Peter Farrell attended the meeting and reassured the Selectboard that he had spoken with Mary West and would allow folks to turn around as they had been doing in his driveway.

Motion by Don McDowell to discontinue West High Street at the Farrell property line. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

First storm of the season and the highway department was out Friday into Saturday. The crew will be out again tonight to pick up snow.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Don McDowell - Thank the town for getting roads cleared. Connected with Dave Lowe regarding the clock tower. Major celebrity in Town, K9 Kubo was recognized for retirement.

Judy Bickford - Thank the highway department and MW&L - great job during the storm.

Jess Graham - Thank the town for a great job during the first storm. Jess appreciates being able to connect via zoom for the amended budget meetings every other Monday. The schedule is difficult to manage and would prefer longer, regularly scheduled meetings.

Brian Kellogg - Thanks the highway crew for all their work.

Bob Beeman - Recent news story about K9 Kubo retiring. Great job by Kubo.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session - Personnel

Removed

2. Possible Executive Session - Legal

Motion made by Don McDowell finds that premature general public knowledge of pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution, to which the public body is or may be party, will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to enter an executive session to discuss the pending or probable litigation or prosecution under the provisions of Title 1 section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes, to include Eric Dodge, Town Administrator and Attorney James Barlow. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (4/0) Jess Graham stepped out of the room and was not present for this motion.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to come out of the executive session. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jess Graham. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm

Submitted and filed this December 22, 2022

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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