



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Bill Mapes, EMS Chief; Jason Kelley, Fire Dept

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tom Cloutier, Martin Green, Mary West, Elaina Lefevre, Gary Briggs, Stuart May, Damon Lee, David Ring, MaryLou Nichols, Ron Stancliff

**participating via Zoom*

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Site visit at 5:30 64 West High Street to consider partial discontinuance of West High Street

Present were Bob Beeman, Don McDowell, Judy Bickford and Town Administrator Eric Dodge. Chair Bob Beeman opened the site visit at 5:35pm.

David Ring, Mary West and her family were present and Mary expressed concerns regarding a turn-around area.

The Monument marker was previously identified by Gilson Surveyors as indicated on the map. Public hearing will be held on December 5, 2022.

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn the site visit. Seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (3/0) Brian Kellogg arrived at the site after the motion to leave was called.

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Bob Beeman called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:04PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 11-07-22

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve the minutes of November 7, 2022. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes 11-14-22

Motion by Judy Bickford to approve the minutes of November 14, 2022. Motion seconded by Brian

Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

LIQUOR CONTROL

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Stuart May Presentation - Community Center

Stuart May, President/Chief Executive Officer of Lamoille Health Partners, was present to give a brief presentation of the Lamoille Health Partners Community Center located at 28 Union Street, Morrisville. Currently, the community center is being used for after-school program grades 5-12, senior program for the aging population, and has partnered with the Lamoille South Unified Union Life Skills Program.

There is a diverse group of students accessing the center and all it has to offer, such as table tennis, healthy snacks, creative projects, culinary delights and the opportunity to work as a team to solve challenging problems.

2. Stephen Foster - Interested in Lamoille County Brownfields Program

Motion made by Judy Bickford to appoint Stephen Foster to the Lamoille County Brownfields Program. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

3. Appoint Kari Anderson to Conservation Committee

Ron Stancliff had letters of interest from 4 folks and selected 2 candidates to interview at the November 17, 2022 Morristown Conservation Commission monthly meeting. An appointment was offered to Kari Anderson and she accepted upon Selectboard appointment.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to appoint Kari Anderson to the Morristown Conservation Commission. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Private Road Naming:

- 1. Morey Farm Road**
- 2. Hilltop Lane**

Damon Lee attended the meeting to speak regarding his application to name two roads at 165 Beacon Hill Road for a 9 lot subdivision. As of now, the intention is for this to be a private road with an HOA that will maintain the road.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the new private road, Morey Farm Road and authorize Eric Dodge to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the new private road, Hilltop Lane and authorize Eric Dodge to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

Further Discussion from the Selectboard and Eric Dodge centered on private roads vs town roads. Town roads should serve the greater good of the community, such as a through-way to another town road, and private roads would typically be a cul-de-sac serving the homeowners therein.

5. Delinquent Tax Sale

Sara Haskins presented the Selectboard with a list of properties that continue to be delinquent after the demand letters were sent by the attorney. The cost of submitting someone for tax sale is approximately \$900 in legal fees. Sara recommends sending anyone that owes \$1,000 or more for tax sale.

Further discussion by Judy Bickford asking if Sara knew the folks in arrears and if major health issues contributed to delinquent tax bills. Sara shared that she does not know the answer to Judy's question.

Motion made by Don McDowell to authorize Attorney Jim Barlow to conduct tax sales for all property owners that are in arrears of \$1,000 or more. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

6. Hire Part Time Temporary AEMT - Hunter Tallman

Motion made by Don McDowell to hire Hunter Tallman in the MEMS Department as a part time temporary AEMT employee at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for the period of November 11, 2022 through December 09, 2022. Should the terms of the part time temporary employee agreement need to be extended, we authorize Eric Dodge the Town Administrator to extend the terms through January 31, 2023. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried.(5/0)

7. Hire Highway Tech 2 - Scott Nelson

Motion made by Judy Bickford to hire Scott Nelson in the Highway Dept. as a Tech 2 Sept 7, 2022 at a rate of \$23.61 per hour with a retro hire date of 10/24/22. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

8. Personnel Policy

Motion by Don McDowell to approve the proposed Longevity Pay Policy change as presented, to remove grade and add job title. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director, has been working diligently with Tina Sweet and Eric Dodge for several months on updating the Personnel Policy for the Town of Morristown. Some of the proposed major changes include: Nepotism, use of town vehicles, eligibility for benefits, ending sick reserve account, increasing the amount of ETO an employee can carry forward and education reimbursement. With a nod from all Selectboard members, the calculation of overtime for Highway Superintendent and 2 Highway Foremen positions will be consistent with the other highway crew employees and will take effect immediately.

The Selectboard members will review the proposed changes to the entire personnel policy and revisit this discussion at the December 5, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Public service announcements:

Turkey Trot - 5k run/walk on Thanksgiving morning at People's Academy. Registration at 8am and race begins at 9am.

22nd Annual Festival of Lights is Dec 3rd - Check out the website for a full list of events and activities.

The staff were on auto pilot last week and pulled together while Eric was out ill. Appreciative of the staff and their abilities.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Don McDowell met with Katrina James, Family Development Housing Counselor at Capstone Community Action, and In our community, there are 125 households (153 adults and 62 children) that are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. 96 are experiencing literal homelessness: general assistance program, in a tent, on a street, in a vehicle, or in temporary shelter. There is a need for housing and the amount of homelessness in town is real. The numbers are underreported due to only capturing self-reported individuals going to Capstone for a helping hand.

Judy Bickford echoes Don's numbers of folks experiencing a need for housing. Judy also mentioned that EMS will check refrigerators if they are on a call where hunger may be a concern.

Jess Graham no concerns

Brian Kellogg thanked all the folks that are doing a great job in our town.

Bob Beeman echoed Brian.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Citizen comments were focused on Community concerns and Selectboard concerns, Duhamel Pit, and the MACC Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session

The Selectboard 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 made by Don McDowell to enter 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; Brooke Dingleline, Attorney; Tyler Mumley, Engineer. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion Carried. (5/0)

Motion by Don McDowell to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Discuss Duhamel pit legal options

Motion made by Judy Bickford to appeal the Act 250 permit for Duhamel Pit. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/1) Jess Graham against.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:47pm

Amended, submitted and filed on December 6, 2022

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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