



SELECTBOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Members Present: Bob Beeman, Brian Kellogg, Chris Towne, Eric Dodge & Judy Bickford

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, Town Administrator; Richard Keith, Chief of Police, Bill Mapes, Chief of EMS; Kevin Barrows, Highway Foreman; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; and Denny DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Doug Wallace, Crew Leader.

Guests: Brian Krantz, Peter Kourkoulis, Sarah Kourkoulis, Jim Lovinsky, Becky Gonya, and Bob Budliger.

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

I. AGENDA CHANGES OR ADDITIONS

1. Storm Damage Update
2. Remove LCPC from Old Business

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Chris Towne to approve minutes of October 21, 2019. Motion seconded by Eric Dodge. Motion Carried. (5/0)

III. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

1. Central Vermont Adult Basic Education- Brian Krantz Director of CVABE gave an overview of what their agency does for the community. CVABE provide help with reading, writing, & mathematics as well as high school credentialing. They also teach English as a second language. They provide career and college readiness skills. Last Fiscal year they served 128 students, 29 of them from Morristown. They receive their funding primarily from federal & state grants with help from Town appropriations like Morristown. The Town of Morristown contributes \$2900 as part of the annual budget.
2. Clarina Howard Nichols Center- Becky Gonya, Director of the Clarina Howard Nichols Center gave an overview of what their agency provides to the Town. They provide support for victims of domestic violence, such as shelter, court appearances, help with finding permanent living arrangements, money for utilities, clothing, household items etc. This year they have served 403 individuals. Their budget is approximately

\$450K, they receive their funding from federal & state grants, fundraising and Town Appropriations. The Town of Morristown allocates \$1750 to the center each year as part of the annual budget.

3. Richard Lowe wanted to know what the cost of the equipment was that we were purchasing for the highway department. Tina Sweet, Finance Director stated that we are purchasing two tandem trucks total cost for both is \$327,619. Richard also mentioned the culvert on Goeltz Rd. needs replacing. It was in rough shape before the flood and now it is much worse. He wanted to know what the timeline was for this. Selectboard Member Eric Dodge stated that we would be meeting with FEMA tomorrow to discuss the damage. We do have some bridge funds but not nearly enough to replace this culvert.

IV. LIQUOR CONTROL

1. None

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Delinquent Tax Collection-** Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer discussed properties up for tax sale with the Selectboard. Selectboard decided to proceed with tax sale on properties that owe \$1,000 or more.

Motion made by Eric Dodge to proceed with Tax Sale on properties that are in arrears of \$1,000 or more. Motion seconded by Chris Towne. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. **Sidewalk at Industrial Park-**

Selectboard discussed the need to finish the sidewalk in the Industrial Park. A portion of it [from Munson Ave. to Turtle Fur] was paid for as a collaboration of the park's business owners. Bob Beeman, Selectboard Chair would like to see the section from Turtle Fur to Harrel Street finished. He feels that it is a safety issue with so much foot traffic in the park area. The cost would need to come from next fiscal year's budget. There are other sidewalks that need to be redone as well. The Selectboard will discuss further during budget sessions.

3. **FY 20/21 Compensation Plan-**

**Motion made by Chris Towne to approve Pay Compensation Plan for FY 20/21.
Motion seconded by Eric Dodge. Motion carried. (5/0)**

- 4. EMS Part-Time Positions-** Bill Mapes, EMS Chief would like to increase the part-time positions from 4 to 5. He feels that this would have less of an impact on the budget rather than over-time that he and his assistant Corey Boisvert are putting in.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to increase the permanent part-time EMS positions working no more than 23 hours per week with no benefits from 4 position to 5 positions for an added annualized budget amount of \$23,600 effective immediately. Motion seconded by Chris Towne. Motion carried. (5/0)

- 5. Personnel Policy-** Change to the second paragraph of Section 9 of the Personnel Policy to read; "Prior to accepting an outside employment, employees will disclose their intent to their Supervisor obtain prior clearance that such employment does not constitute a conflict of interest".

Motion made by Chris Towne to approve change to Section 9 of the Personnel Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Eric Dodge. Motion carried. (5/0)

- 6. Storm Updates-** Kevin Barrows, Highway Foreman updated the Selectboard on the Flood damage from the Halloween storm. We have a lot of holes to fill some are very deep. Kevin & Dan met with VTRANS today and will be meeting with FEMA representatives tomorrow. Eric Dodge, Selectboard Member wanted to thank the road crew for all their hard work. They did a fantastic job prioritizing which roads needed attention first and to make sure emergency vehicles could get through. They also documented information in case this is considered a FEMA.

VI. APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Towne to approve Warrants through November 4, 2019. Motion seconded by Eric Dodge. Motion carried. (5/0)

VII. TA REPORT

- Onsite hearing for Belanger Lane Nov. 13th @ 4PM.
- Signs for Community Center
- Town paving has been completed

VIII. SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Chris Towne- Any updated on the Dog Park? Sara Haskins, said they are still raising money.

Brian Kellogg- Happy Birthday to Bob!

Eric Dodge-None

Bob Beeman- Thank you to the road crew, police and emergency services for all their time and good work on the Halloween storm.

Judy Bickford- Update on the Cemetery? Sara said that she has been working with Jane Paine & Dennis Smith on finding software for mapping out the plots better. Judy also mentioned that there will be a public discussion at the Library on Homelessness.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion made by Eric Dodge to find 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 Chris Towne. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Eric Dodge 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 Dan Lindley, Town Administrator & Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Motion seconded by Chris Towne. Motion Carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Eric Dodge to come out of Executive Session at 7:55PM. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion Carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Eric Dodge to hire Jim Barlow to assist Sara Haskins on the researching of Cemetery Deeds. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Eric Dodge to hire Brian Monahan to represent the Town in its tax appeal case from Water & Light to Superior Court. Motion seconded by Chris Towne. Motion carried. (5/0)

X. ADJOURN

Motion made by Eric Dodge to adjourn. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0) Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted and filed this 5th day of November, 2019
Erica Allen, Scribe

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