



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF October 17, 2022

MEMBERS: Bob Beeman, Judy Bickford, Jessica Graham*, Brian Kellogg and Don McDowell

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, *Town Administrator*; Judi Alberi, *Administrator's Assistant*; Dennis DiGregorio, *Fire Chief*; Jason Luneau, *Police Chief*; Bill Mapes *EMS Chief*; Stacey Ferriman, *Assistant Finance Director*; Tina Sweet, *Finance Director*; Todd Thomas, *Planning/Zoning Director*; Paula Beattie, *Human Resources Director*

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: David Ring, Scott Thompson, Martin Green, Duane Sprague, Tom Cloutier, Barry Russo, Nancy Pritchard, Ronald Stancliff, Jess Dambach, Scott Droney

**participating via Zoom*

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

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Add the word "financing" to item #7 "Review & Accept Police car financing bids"

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the minutes of October 3, 2022. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (4/0) Bob Beeman abstained.

LIQUOR CONTROL

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Sole Source Vendor – Fire Dept Radio

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve to use Radio North as our sole source vendor for purchasing radios for the Fire Department. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0)

2. Approve purchase of radios for Fire Dept.

Volunteer firefighter, Scott Droney presented the board with information on the purchase of the radios. He discussed why they are choosing these particular radios and the fact that there is no competition to go out to bid. The current radios the fire department are using are extremely old and they are surprised that they are still working. Chief DiGregorio stated that this is not in his budget,

but he will put off doing other projects in order to purchase these radios. Unfortunately there are no grants available to Morristown for this purchase.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the purchase of 8 radios from Radio North for \$47,879.60 for the Fire Department. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0)

3. Accepting Conservation Easement Deed

Motion made by Judy Bickford to accept and sign the conservation easement deed consisting of 21.17 acres of land accessed from First Light Lane or Eventide Lane, from Stowe Land, LLC. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (5/0)

4. Approve New HRA (Health Reimbursement Acct) amount.

Motion made by Don McDowell to authorize renewal for 2023 HRA with levels of \$10,100 for two-person, adult plus child(ren) and family plans, and \$4,550 for single plans. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0)

5. VTRANS grant application for LVRT – Tricia Follert

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve Community Development Coordinator, Tricia Follert to apply for a grant for the LVRT from VTRANS up to \$40,000. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0)

6. Approve Fireworks 7.4.23 - \$12,500

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve Northstar Fireworks as the vendor for July 4th 2023 fireworks display at a minimum cost of \$12,500. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (4/1) Jess Graham opposed.

7. Review and Accept Police Car financing bids

Motion made by Judy Bickford to accept bid by Union bank for \$43,060.00 at an interest rate of 4.35%, semi-annual fixed for 3 years. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0)

8. Approve & Sign E&O

Motion made by Don McDowell to accept the errors and omissions certificate as presented. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0)

9. Town Road ROW request

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve ROW permit for Vermont Electric for Cote Hill Road. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (5/0)

10. Fire Dept level one training in the town forest.

The fire department will participate in training put on by the agency of natural resources on Saturday October 22, 2022. As a back-up location the fire department has requested permission to hold this training in the town forest. There will be no trees taken down or fires started for this training. They have provided adequate liability insurance.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve Fire Dept. level one training in the town forest. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Parking Report

The Parking Committee submitted an implementation plan with actionable items for the Selectboard to consider on September 19, 2022.

Todd Thomas was present this evening and spoke regarding the parking signage for 2 hour parking on Route 100 sections of Lower Main Street, Portland Street, and Bridge Street and then on Pleasant Street. Currently there is signage on one side of Lower Main Street but not the other side. Chief Luneau expressed he does not have the resources to monitor and enforce the 2 hour signage. Todd expressed that ensuring on-street parking is not used as commuter parking is important to downtown business.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to add signage indicating 2 hour parking between 8am – 6pm for on street parking as soon as reasonably possible on Lower Main Street, Portland Street, Pleasant Street and Bridge Street and enforced once the Motor Vehicle Ordinance is updated. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

APPROVE WARRANTS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. VLCT Town Fair 2022 was October 6th & 7th. Staff employees, Kevin, Paula, Judi and Eric attended the Town Fair and chose a variety of workshops to attend. Chief Luneau was also in attendance with other officers. Lots of great information was received by all. Kevin had a great conversation with gentlemen from Casella and learned more regarding recycling.
2. Reclaiming work, part of phase II, has been completed for Duhamel Pit. Highway went up and hydro seeded the area.
3. Highway crew is picking up leaves until Nov 4th if weather permits. Leaves are being picked up in areas where there are storm drains to prevent them from plugging up the system.
4. Nov 7th public hearing will be held at the VFW due to crowd anticipation.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Don McDowell – All set

Judy Bickford – Send condolences to the LaCasse family for the recent passing of Ray LaCasse, Highway crew member. Highway department has done an excellent job supporting the LaCasse family during this difficult time. Thanks to all the folks doing volunteer work for our community.

Jessica Graham – All set

Brian Kellogg missed Ray's funeral due to work commitment. Thanks all our volunteers in the town.

Bob Beeman Thanks to all volunteering in our community.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Bob Beeman would like to have clarity regarding the community concerns as an agenda item. Sara Haskins has been at various trainings and recalls hearing that only actionable items should be on an agenda. If the item is not on the agenda and it is discussed the public has not been properly warned regarding the subject discussed. Eric Dodge will get clarity regarding this question.

Some of the community concerns voiced this evening involved road safety around the Jersey Heights area due to new development and the increase in turning movements. Development in Morrisville is still a concern, and the question was asked about a moratorium for new construction.

Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer wanted to take the time to let residents know that ballots have gone out. Halloween candy drive is going on and the bins to donate candy are at Hannaford, School, Union Bank and letters have been sent to property owners on Maple Street, Cherry Ave, Harrison Ave, easterly side of Union Street, Summer Street, Court Street and Olive Street reminding them that their streets will be closed on Halloween, Oct 31st 5pm – 7:30pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion made by Don McDowell to go into Executive Session because we find that premature general public knowledge of pending or probable civil litigation 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 to enter executive session to discuss pending or probable civil litigation to which the public body is or may be party subject to Title 1 § 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. To include the Town Administrator, Eric Dodge and Planning Director/Zoning Administrator, Todd Thomas.

Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

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

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm

Submitted and filed this October 21, 2022

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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