



## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Brian Kellogg

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Mary Ann Wilson, TC; Chief Richard Keith; MFD Chief Wally Reeve and Carol Bradley, FS

Guests: John Meyer, Heidi Krantz, Amy Noyes and Geoff Rogg

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light Facility.

### GUESTS

#### PUBLIC FORUM UPDATE:

Community Coordinator Heidi Krantz presented the Selectboard with a draft flyer pertaining to the upcoming Community Forums. The purpose of these Forums will be to discuss Town related projects and members of the community will be invited to come and share their thoughts on the various issues. Topics include the *Relocation of the Town Offices; Downtown Designation; The Annual Pie Social; Conservation and Trails; Sprawl, Smart Growth and Sewers* as well as a *Recreation Plan*.

Forums will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) with time and location to be announced.

Heidi informed the Board that a "Downtown Designation" draft would be available soon. The Town Administrator questioned where the "sewer issue agreement" stood. Chair Greenia reported that they did not have a full board at their last Committee meeting, but it was the general consensus that action was needed soon.

#### MORRISTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION CANDIDATES:

Residents John Meyer and Geoff Rogg both attended the meeting at the request of the Selectboard. As a matter of procedure, the Board invites prospective candidates interested in serving on any board or commission to come to a Selectboard meeting to meet the Board members and learn their reasons for wishing to serve the community in whatever capacity.



## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

John Meyer stated that he wanted to be more involved with local government and feels it important and a duty to see where we as a town are going and how to get there.

Geoff Rogg informed the Board that he wished to serve only if his membership would be beneficial in the opinions of the MPC Board members. He hoped that his experience in the International Business world would attract European companies to Morristown.

The Selectboard agreed to discuss the MPC vacancy further in Executive Session, and both parties would be notified of the outcome.

## OLD BUSINESS

### MINUTES:

***On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by James Paige, the Board accepted the minutes of August 18, 2003 as presented.***

Chief Wally Reeve arrived at this time.

### PORTLAND STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE:

The Town Administrator gave a brief update on his meeting with Laurie Smith held earlier that morning. (Map attached to the Administration Office hard copy) Various options regarding design were discussed. After discussion, the general consensus of the Board was to change the design to construct the sidewalk down Pleasant Street from the municipal parking lot to the entrance of the recreation path and from the Portland Street sidewalk across to the path entrance in front of the Oriental Station building as depicted in green on the map. This design would link various paths together for alternate transportation and would serve the same population and goals as the original application.

There was concern by the Board that if the project was scrapped at this point, further projects from Morristown might not be funded. In Ms. Smith's email, she referred to the abandoned Railway line owned by VTrans, and currently used by VAST. She stated there are potential plans for the rehabilitation of the historic train depot with the possibility of future Enhancement grant monies for that purpose.

***On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Board agreed unanimously to change the design of the sidewalk project to that as was depicted on the map in green.***



## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Further discussion included additional costs and additional easements to be handled up front. A meeting with Mr. Loati of Morrisville Lumber was requested ASAP. The Town Administrator will handle in the morning before he leaves for vacation.

Heidi Krantz suggested a letter be written to the owners of the Oriental Station notifying them of our plans.

## NEW BUSINESS

### SETTING OF THE TAX RATE:

Town Clerk, Mary Ann Wilson provided a worksheet (Attached to the Administration Office hard copy) depicting how she arrived at the proposed Tax Rate of \$2.12 for the Selectboard to review. She explained that the figures on the worksheet were pre BCA appeals, which number twenty two. She further stated that there was no rush, as the appeals would not have any bearing on the tax rate. Adjustments would be made to the 2005 taxes. As usual, the Town's portion consists of about one-third of taxes with the balance for School.

***On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard set the tax rate at \$2.12 as recommended by the Town Clerk.***

The Board thanked Mary Ann for her efforts in preparing the necessary information.

### MFD REQUESTS:

Chief Reeve requested permission to spend \$2,200 for the purchase of a new deck gun. Discussion included the number of fires where one might be used; if the department had one now or ever in the past and where the money would come from. Chief Reeve stated that it would be very beneficial in the downtown area where buildings are close together and municipal water available. He further stated that the plan to sell Worcester the old truck was now void. Originally the fully equipped truck was to be sold for \$15,000 and now the truck has been stripped of hose etc. and is for sale for \$5,000. The truck is inspected and runs good.

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board authorized the purchase of a new deck gun for \$2,200 with monies to be used in the new equipment account. Mark Struhsacker opposed.***



## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Further discussion included length of service to the Department by various volunteers.

### REPARATIVE BOARD VACANCY:

A request for volunteers to serve on various Reporative Boards in Lamoille County was discussed briefly.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### NEEDLE'S EYE ROAD BRIDGE:

Right of way issues and yield signs were discussed for the bridge at Needle's Eye Road. It was determined by the Police Chief that traffic going down through the bridge had the right of way.

Carol Bradley arrived at this time.

#### DUHAMEL PIT PHASE 2:

Brian Greenia informed the Board of the meeting held last week with the Town Administrator, Town Highway Foreman, Ned Houston and others regarding Phase 2 of the ACT 250 permit. Discussion included recreation activities as discussed with Steve Rae and Mike Stafford.

### WARRANTS

***On a motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by James Paige, the Board authorized payment of the warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated 09/02/03. (Attached)***

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town Administrator's report was reviewed.

- Discussion included his upcoming vacation. He suggested letting Barb and Carol handle the day to day issues. The Board agreed and offered their help if needed.
- The TA advised the Board that Barb and the Chief had the revised Ordinance packet well in hand and hopefully would be ready for review at the next Board meeting otherwise the Parking Ordinance would have to be warned separately.
- The Zoning Permit Issue was discussed and the following action taken.



## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Board authorized payment of \$300 to the aggrieved property owner.***

The Selectboard requested that the other parcels in this particular subdivision be researched for any other discrepancies.

- It was noted that the Three Property Assessment Final Report was in the Selectboard's wall pockets.

## GENERAL OPEN DISCUSSION

### BRIDGE STREET AND BROOKLYN STREET INTERSECTION:

It was asked that the road conditions at the above mentioned intersection be looked as construction in the road due to an earlier water leak has left the road in bad shape.

### MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2003:

The Administrative Assistant reported that during her leave, approval of the minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup> had not been warned for the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, nor had they been approved. The Board requested copies of the minutes in question for the next meeting.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 7:55 PM to discuss a new hire candidate, MPC vacancy and a Fields and Parks issue with the Town Administrator, the Town Clerk and the Fiscal Services Officer.***

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard moved out of Executive Session at 9:54 PM.***

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard appointed John Meyer to the Morristown Planning Commission.***

***On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard accepted the recommendation for the new hire with modification to the wage. Wage to be offered was set at \$11.00. Shaun Bryer and Mark Struhsacker opposed.***



SELECTBOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

ADJOURN

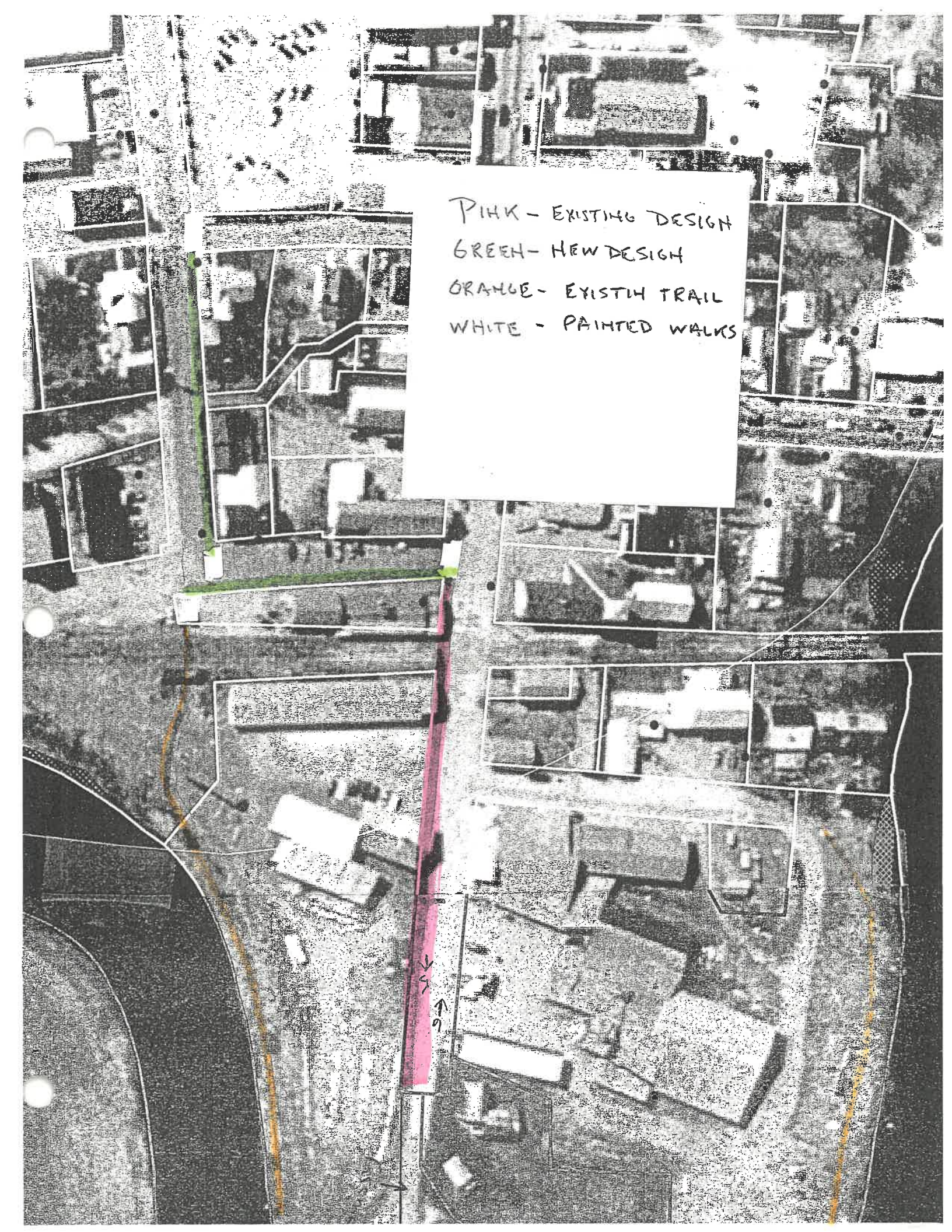
*On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard adjourned at 10:01 PM.*

Respectfully submitted and filed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2003.  
Barbara Cochran, Administrative Assistant

Minutes to be presented for approval at the next Selectboard meeting.

Barbara Cochran  
Minutes Approved

9/15/03  
Date

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood with various design overlays. A pink line runs vertically through the center, with two arrows pointing downwards. A green line runs horizontally across the middle. An orange line runs vertically on the left side. White lines outline property boundaries and some street layouts. A legend box is in the upper right.

PIKK - EXISTING DESIGN  
GREEN - NEW DESIGN  
ORANGE - EXISTING TRAIL  
WHITE - PAINTED WALKS

from  
man

Date: September 2, 2003  
To: Select Board  
From: Town Treasurer's Office

The Grand List for 2003 has been computed and lodged in this office as of August 15, 2003.

**MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST:** (1% of listed value) **\$3,829,763.02**

Due to the reappraisal, this represents an increase of \$992,040 or 35% from the 2002 Grand List after grievances and before any 2003 B.C.A. appeals.

**EDUCATION GRAND LIST:** **\$3,757,697.02**

Due to the reappraisal, this represents an increase of \$1,000.846 or 36% from the 2002 Education Grand List after grievances and before any 2003 B.C.A. appeals.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TAX DOLLARS VOTED AT TOWN MEETING 3/4/03:**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Town:</b>                   | <b>\$2,681,950</b> |
| Less Surplus to reduce taxes   | (N/A)              |
| Less Hold Harmless/Current Use | (80,047)           |
| Less P.I.L.O.T.                | <u>( 5,401)</u>    |

**Revised Municipal**

**\$2,596,502**

(2.1%) *increase*

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Municipal tax rate | \$1,584,336 = \$ .4137        |
| Highway tax rate   | <u>1,012,166 = .2643</u>      |
|                    | <b>\$2,596,502 = \$ .6780</b> |

This represents an increase of \$52,811 or 2.1% over FY2003.

**2003-2004 STATE EDUCATION AND LOCAL SHARE PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY:**

**School:**

|                                                                         |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| State Education tax liability                                           | <b>\$3,723,599</b> |
| (as determined by the Dept. of Taxes)                                   |                    |
| This represents an increase of \$293,348 or 8.6% from FY2003 liability. |                    |

|                                                                        |                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Local Share tax liability                                              | <b><u>\$ 1,683,551</u></b> |
| (as determined by the Dept. of Taxes)                                  |                            |
| This represents an increase of \$45,263 or 2.7% from FY2003 liability. |                            |

|                                                                         |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Total state and local tax liability</b>                              | <b>\$5,407,150 (6.7%)</b> |
| This represents an increase of \$338,611 or 6.7% from FY2003 liability. |                           |

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| State Education property tax | \$ .9909        |
| Local Share property tax     | <u>.4480</u>    |
|                              | <b>\$1.4389</b> |

|                                                                  |                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b><u>ACTUAL TAX DOLLARS TO BE RAISED - Town and School:</u></b> | <b>\$8,003,652 (+5.1%)</b> |
| This represents an increase of \$391,422 or 5.1% over FY2003.    |                            |

9/2/2003 11:45 AM

|                       |         |                            |                            |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Tax Liability:</u> | School: | State Liability            | 3,723,599.00               |
|                       |         | Local Liability            | 1,683,551.00               |
|                       | Town:   | Municipal Liability        | 1,584,336.00               |
|                       |         | Highway Liability          | <u>1,012,166.00</u>        |
|                       |         | <b>Total Tax Liability</b> | <b><u>8,003,652.00</u></b> |

| <u>Actual tax rates would raise:</u> | <u>Rate:</u>    |     | <u>Grand List:</u> | <u>Dollars Raised:</u>     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| School (state)                       | 0.990926        | EGL | 3,757,697.0200     | 3,723,599.68               |
| School (local)                       | 0.448027        | EGL | 3,757,697.0200     | 1,683,549.72               |
| Municipal                            | 0.413690        | MGL | 3,829,763.0200     | 1,584,334.66               |
| Highway                              | <u>0.264289</u> | MGL | 3,829,763.0200     | <u>1,012,164.24</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>2.116933</b> |     |                    | <b><u>8,003,648.30</u></b> |

Adjustment to proposed tax rate::

|                |               |     |                |                            |
|----------------|---------------|-----|----------------|----------------------------|
| School (state) | 0.9909        | EGL | 3,757,697.0200 | 3,723,501.98               |
| School (local) | 0.4480        | EGL | 3,757,697.0200 | 1,683,448.26               |
| Municipal      | 0.4168        | MGL | 3,829,763.0200 | 1,596,245.23               |
| Highway        | <u>0.2643</u> | MGL | 3,829,763.0200 | <u>1,012,206.37</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>2.1200</b> |     |                | <b><u>8,015,401.84</u></b> |

DIFFERENCE Between Liability and Proposed Tax Rate of \$2.12: 11,749.83

Minus Grange taxes exempted -Town & School (1,789.28)  
 (\$84,400 assessment @ \$2.12)

Estimated Breakage/Excess: 9,960.55

**EFFECT ON APPRAISED VALUES:**

|                      |         |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Appraised Value 2002 | 75,000  | 100,000 | 150,000 | 200,000 | 250,000 |
| 2003 reapl Add 35%   | 101,250 | 135,000 | 202,500 | 270,000 | 337,500 |
| 2003/\$2.12          | 2146.50 | 2862    | 4293    | 5724    | 7155    |
| 2002/\$2.74          | 2055.00 | 2740    | 4110    | 5480    | 6850    |
| \$ increase          | 91.50   | 122     | 183     | 244     | 305     |
| % increase           | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5     |

**TAX RATE - MULTI-YEAR COMPARISON:**

| YEAR:     | TAX RATE: = | SCHOOL State & Local + MUNI + HWY | % of change |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 2003-2004 | 2.12        | 0.9909 .4480 .4168 .2643          | (22.63)     |
| 2002-2003 | 2.74        | 1.2443 .5943 .5380 .3634          | 8.30        |
| 2001-2002 | 2.55        | 1.1737 .4833 .5283 .3647          | 6.25        |
| 2000-2001 | 2.39        | 1.1500 .4603 .4560 .3237          | 9.63        |
| 1999-2000 | 2.18        | 1.1327 .2678 .4022 .3797          | 10.10       |
| 1998-99   | 1.99        | 1.1383 .0754 .3900 .3863          | (4.30)      |
| 1997-98   | 2.08        | 1.394 .3170 .3690                 | .50         |

# Memorandum

**To:** Selectboard

**From:** Carol L. Bradley, Bookkeeper

**Date:** 09/02/03

**Re:** Warrants presented for Board Meeting on September 2, 2003

## **General Fund:**

|                                                              |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Warrant #03009– PR Related Invoices from pay PPE 08/23/03    | \$ 4,727.88  |
| Warrant #03010- AP Unpaid Invoices due 09/03/03              | \$ 54,408.27 |
| Payroll Warrant for pay period ending 08/23/03 - Pd 08/27/03 | \$ 32,382.71 |
| Warrant #ML-02 for August 2003                               | \$ 34,476.14 |

## **Other Funds: Recreation**

|                                                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Warrant #03-06 – AP Paid Invoices due on 9/03/03 | \$ 4,015.30 |
| Warrant #MLAug for August 2003                   | \$ 1,827.00 |

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECT BOARD

PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT NAME

PRINT ADDRESS

John Meyer  
Amy Wages

64 Sun Valley Rd.  
NewsCitizen