



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF August 1, 2022
AMENDED BY JUDI ALBERI
August 16, 2022

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

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, *Town Administrator*; Judi Alberi, *Administrator's Assistant*; Kevin Barrows, *Highway Superintendent*; Paula Beattie, *Human Resources Director*; Sara Haskins, *Town Clerk/Treasurer*; Tricia Follert*, *Community Development Coordinator*, Ron Audet, *Sergeant*, Bill Mapes, *EMS Chief*.

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jessica Dambach, Mary Lou Nichols, Duane Sprague, Philip Rochette, David Campbell, Steve Leach, Tom Cloutier, Kristin Marriott, Mary Ann Wilson, Laura Green, Nancy Pritchard, Luke Auperlee, Ron Stancliff, Ronald Andre, Sam Guy, Martin Green, Attorney James Barlow.

**participating via Zoom*

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:58PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve the minutes of July 18, 2022. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried (4/0).

Under new business #10 add "Selectboard would like to revisit the setbacks"

Under Selectboard concerns amend last sentence to read "A resident called Jessica to mention that E-bikes on the rail trail are going fast and was concerned. We understand it is the purview of VTrans and not the Town of Morristown. Under Community Concerns add "Cote Hill" to the roads and add to the end of the last sentence "Zoning Bylaws west of Brooklyn Street. Community concern that "Community concerns move back to the beginning of the meeting and that we cap it at 30 minutes with 5 minutes per person."

LIQUOR CONTROL

None

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction of new Morrisville Village Manager, Scott Johnstone

Scott Johnstone was unable to join the meeting in person and was prepared to join via Zoom. Due to loss of internet connection he was unable to join. Eric Dodge will reschedule with Scott to join us at another time.

2. Attorney James Barlow will address ideas regarding the structure of Morristown Development Fund

Eric Dodge invited Attorney Barlow to review the current bylaws and policies and procedures for the MDF board and then present that to the Selectboard. Attorney Barlow reviewed the current by-laws and reported the following: MDF is an incorporated non-profit public benefit corporation established with the State of Vermont in 1987 as a member organization.

Attorney Barlow presented the Selectboard with two options for going forward that were presented to the MDF Board on July 17, 2022. Steve Leach informed the Selectboard that there must be some changes to the bylaws. One option is for the MDF Board to revise their by-laws, open their own banking account, and take back all decision-making, loan servicing and management of the funds. The second option is to dissolve the non-profit corporation, turn over all decision making, loan serving and management of the funds to the Selectboard. The MDF board would act solely as an advisory board to the Selectboard for loan applications. This second option is the direction that the MDF board would like to go in. The MDF will review loan applications and bring a recommendation to the Selectboard and the outsourcing of the loan would go to a bank for servicing. The process for changing the bylaws would involve going to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development with the anticipated asset transfer agreement from MDF to Town of Morristown. The MDF suggested changing the name of the MDF to Morrisville Development Loan Fund.

There is approximately \$600,000 in the MDF. The current MDF board is Peter Merrill, Sam Guy, Steven Leach, Mary Ann Wilson, and Bob Beeman as a liaison for the Selectboard. Sara Haskins is also part of the board for signature authority as treasurer.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve Attorney Barlow to continue the process of rewriting the bylaws with the end goal being that MDF becomes an advisory to the Selectboard and the Selectboard has the final say on loan approval. Motion seconded by Jessica Graham. Motion carried. (4/0)

In a discussion, Steve Leach made one point of clarification about having MDF looking at the paperwork before going to the bank and keeping client's information private.

3. Approve Grand List Errors & Omissions – Morristown Real Estate LLC

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve Grand List Errors & Omissions presented. Motion seconded by Don McDowell.

Duane Sprague explained to the Selectboard that this property is across from Rock Art Brewery and the land was adjusted. Sara Haskins also informed the Selectboard that these adjustments must be approved by the Selectboard between now and December 31, 2022.

Motion carried. (4/0)

4. Proposed Street name ordinance

Last fall Eric Dodge missed the deadline to properly adopt the changed ordinance. By adopting this change to the ordinance we officially reset the clock for adopting the change.

Motion made by Don McDowell to adopt Article 0807-11B: Street Naming and Street Numbering. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

5. Review bids for financing Ford F250

Sara submitted 4 bids to obtain loan financing for the highway truck Ford F250 that was approved to purchase at the Selectboard meeting July 18, 2022. Sara has received 2 bids and is advising the Selectboard to choose the lower interest rate bid from Union Bank and sign the loan documents once received.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to accept the bid from Union Bank at 3.39% for a term of 5 years. Motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (4/0)

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Caught up with Jackie Cassino, head of the State of Vermont rail trail. Discussed mowing of the rail trail. State will mow once this calendar year and twice next calendar year. The State will not allow volunteers to mow any longer. Would like to see mowing three times a year. Eric asked Jackie about the E-Bikes having a speed limit such as the snowmobiles do as we have received a complaint about E-Bikes going too fast.
2. Went to a conservation committee meeting last week. Asked if they could be an additional set of eyes to monitor any sightings of Japanese knotweed for management.
3. Finished annual reviews and goal setting with the employees. All went well and folks are motivated and would like more training opportunities.
4. 1111 permit came in from the State of Vermont so we can continue Bridge Street park and ride. More parking is beneficial to the town. There is no timeframe slated at this time for completion due to more work needed to be done to the sidewalk for ease of allowing bus to pull over and not into the parking lot.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Brian Kellogg None

Jessica Graham would like to continue the conversation of subordinate boards having a remote option. Eric discussed that the town will need more staffing to accommodate this request. Eric will looking into the cost and options. Parking Committee meet again and were able to gain feedback from Eric Dodge, Kevin Barrows, and Jason Luneau regarding the feasibility of their ideas.

Don McDowell met with Tina and had Financing 101 and it went great and really shined a light on the huge respect given to Tina for her job at the town. Also met with Ryan Heraty and the last 10 years there has been a decline in student numbers. Ryan feels that there is plenty of room for students in the schools. Would like to see remote options for town boards as well.

Judy Bickford informed all that Bob is not here due to work travel issues. Would like to express that Eric is a wonderful addition to the Town after initial reservations. He is very competent, caring, an

excellent writer who is very articulate. Eric is a visionary who has done an excellent job.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Several community folks attended the meeting this evening. Concerns presented to the Selectboard consisted of more discussion from the guest regarding the proposed change to the zoning bylaws. Eric Dodge informed the folks that their voices have been heard and they should attend the hearing this fall when the Selectboard is presented with the proposed changes to vote on whether adopting the changes or not. Eric will look into spot zoning but does not believe that is an option. Changes to zoning that affected Fairway Parkway and Brooklyn Heights was discussed in length. The Planning Council is looking into this issue.

Other community concerns were folks mentioned they do not want to be limited to 2 hours a month too be heard by the Selectboard. Community members were encouraged to reach out to the town staff for clarity surrounding any concerns they have. Growth of the town was suggested to be almost 400% increase on the west side of Brooklyn Street Community members expressed concerns that this rate of growth will not be supported by the electric grid. Community members would like to see the town boards be more transparent and remote options for viewing could be a move in the direction of transparency.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion made by Don McDowell to enter into Executive session because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Don made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(F). To include the Town Administrator, Eric Dodge. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to enter into Executive session because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Don made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss employment performance subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). To include the Town Administrator, Eric Dodge, Recreation Coordinator, Anna McCormick and Human Resources Director, Paula Beattie. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion by Don McDowell to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM
Submitted and filed this August 5, 2022

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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