SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2022

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

TOWN STAFF: Kevin Barrows, *Highway Superintendent*; Dennis DiGregorio, *Fire Chief*; Eric Dodge, *Town Administrator*; Sara Haskins, *Town Clerk & Treasurer*; Garth Christensen, *Police Sergeant*; Tina Sweet, *Finance Director;* Bill Mapes, *EMS Chief*

PARTICIPANTS: Ron Stancliff, Tom Cloutier, Stuart May, Gina Spirtoso, Sheila Tarbox, Anthony Cote, James Brewster, Laura Streets, Harold Cross, Ed Loewenton*

**participating via Zoom*

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

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

1. Appoint Police Officer
2. Appoint Assistant Animal Control Officer
3. Appoint Pound Keeper
4. Set compensation for Animal Control Officer

APPROVE MINUTES

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2022
Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve the minutes of March 7, 2022, with three corrections: inclusion of "Christy Snipp shared her experience that although there were a few people that expressed interest, she was the only interested applicant that showed up to the interviews for a DRB position.", changing Jessica Graham to a yes vote under #5 set regular meeting schedule and moving Judy Bickford's exit to after the discussion of the Park Street sidewalk. Motion seconded by Jessica Graham. Motion carried (5/0).

COMMUNITY CONCERNS
Anthony Cote expressed his opinion that Cote Hill, the road he lives on is not being maintained adequately. He shared with the Board that he rode with Kevin Barrows two years ago to point out his concerns about the condition of the road. He feels the road is now in worse condition and asked the Board to have it be fixed. Kevin Barrows let him know that it is on the list of roads to be fixed.

LIQUOR CONTROL

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to enter into Board of Liquor Control, motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

Liquor license renewals were received from Walgreen Eastern Company Inc, Sharon McGaughan & Rock Art Brewery LLC for the Board's approval.

Applicant/ Location	First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Outside Consumption
Walgreen Eastern Co Inc DBA Walgreens #18977 48 Congress St		Yes		
McGaughan, Sharon DBA (CKA The 10th Hole) 3266 Laporte Rd	Yes		Yes	Yes
Rock Art Brewery LLC 632 Laporte Rd	Yes			Yes

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to approve liquor license renewals as presented, motion seconded by Don McDowell. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to come out of Liquor Control, motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (5/0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Police Officer

Brian Tomlinson has been working for the town for a year and has finished his training and probationary period.

Motion made by Don McDowell to appoint Brian Tomlinson as a permanent full-time police officer. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Appoint Assistant Animal Control Officer

Brian Kellogg is willing to stay on as an assistant animal control officer and help train and transition John St Amour until he is comfortable to fully take it over.

Motion made by Don McDowell to appoint Brian Kellogg as an assistant animal control officer. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (4/0). Brian Kellogg abstained.

3. Appoint Pound Keeper

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to appoint Jeff Foss as pound keeper. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Set compensation for Animal Control Officer

The Board discussed setting the compensation for the animal control officer. Board members inquired about the past history of complaints and tickets that were given out. Brian Kellogg & Officer Garth Christensen explained that only a small portion of the money collected for civil tickets goes to the Town. The Board discussed reviewing the animal control ordinance and fees in the future.

Motion made by Judy to compensate John St Amour $50.00 per response for animal control and $25.00 an hour for any response that exceeds 2 hours. Motion seconded by Jessica Graham. Motion carried (5/0).

5. Presentation on Community Center by Stuart May of Lamoille Health Partners

Stuart May of Lamoille Health Partners gave a presentation on the Community Center. Lamoille Health Partners is in the process of acquiring the assets of E=MCC, pending the final approval from the Attorney General. They plan to reopen the center again for middle school-aged youth the week of April 18th during school vacation. There is a great need for a safe place for students to go during the hours between when school gets out and parents arrive home from work. They plan to partner with other agencies and groups in the community to offer free after-school programs from 3:00-6:30 during the academic year with healthy snacks and both physical and educational opportunities. They anticipate 20-25 students and participants will have to sign a code of conduct to attend. The allocation from the town is a big portion of their budget for this year and Mr. May thanked the voters and the community for the approval of the funding. Laura Streets voiced her concerns about if social service allocations should be done differently and shared examples from other Towns. Discussion followed surrounding Morristown's social service allocation policy and if the process and requirements for social service agencies to receive funds should be revised.

6. Town Plan discussion – review and accept final changes

Todd Thomas, Planning Director presented the 30th version of the 2022-2030 Town plan that was recently adopted by the Village. The changes in this version are mostly the deletion of language in the transportation chapter as suggested by Eric Dodge. Eric spoke with LCPC. They passed along concerns with the existing language which prompted this change.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to approve all changes as presented to the 2022-2030 Town Plan. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

7. Review and sign "Rules of Procedure for Jointly Appointed Subordinate Committees & Boards"

Todd Thomas presented the 2016 adopted Rules of Procedure for Jointly Appointed Subordinate Committees & Boards for the Morristown Selectboard & Village Trustees. Jessica Graham expressed concerns for sections #4 and #9 surrounding vacancies and appointments and asked that "his" be changed to "their" throughout the document. The Board discussed the process for informing the public and interested parties when vacancies arise. They asked both the Town Administrator and Village General Manager to maintain a list for 12 months of interested candidates for Board positions and to review and notify people on that list before filling open positions. A revised draft will be presented at the next meeting.

8. Review and sign "Morristown Declaration of Inclusion"

The board reviewed the declaration of inclusion that was modeled after the Town of Waterbury and revised for Morristown. Jessica Graham requested to change the word equal to equitable and the declaration was updated to reflect that change. Jamie Brewster recommended that the Board include the additional sentence "and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment." Judy Bickford shared that templates would be coming out soon as how to implement this mission. After discussion, the Board voted to adopt the Declaration as presented at this time.

Motion made by Don McDowell to adopt the declaration of inclusion as presented. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

9. Review and approve purchase of 2022 Volvo wheel loader

The current Volvo wheel loader needs to be replaced. All quotes came in slightly under budget. Kevin Barrows recommends purchasing the volvo as it has the longest warranty, is only an hour away for repairs and they have had a very good experience with the previous one.

Motion made by Don McDowell to approve the purchase of the 2022 Volvo L60H Wheel Loader from Wood's CRW for a total purchase price of $168,900. This includes a 7-year warranty. $50,000 to be utilized from the Highway Capital Equipment Fund and financing the balance for 5 years. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

10. Amend original truck purchase motion of 2022 International dump truck

The 2022 International dump truck that was previously approved to be purchased now has an added surcharge from the manufacturer of $3500 due to supply & demand that was not factored in at the time the purchase was originally approved.

Motion made by Don McDowell to amend the motion of the purchase of the 2022 International dump truck from Clarks for a total price of $97,535.00 – to be "I move to approve the purchase of the 2023 International dump truck from Allegiance for $101,037.00. This includes a 7-year

warranty. $50,000 to be utilized from the Highway Capital Equipment Fund and financing the balance for 5 years. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

11. Accept resignation of Administrative Assistant

Sarah Hyde, Administrative Assistant has regrettable given her letter of resignation. Her last day was today.

Motion made by Judy Bickford to accept Sarah Hyde's letter of resignation with regrets. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg with the request a thank you card be sent. Motion carried (5/0).

12. Appoint Agent to Convey Real Estate for all eight Cemeteries

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to appoint Dennis Smith as the Agent to Convey Real Estate to the Morristown Cemetery Association and Joie Marshall as the Agent to Convey Real Estate to the Pleasant View Cemetery Association. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried (5/0).

APPROVE WARRANTS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Eric Dodge reported the following notes out of the Administration Office:

- Eric has been working closely with Kendra Aber-Ferri at the library surrounding issues with the boiler and the smell of propane.
- Eric asked Kevin Barrows to give an update about the class III roads in the town over the past three days and the work that the highway department has been doing to maintain them. Kevin informed the Board that due to temperatures rising too quickly and holding for too long that the muddy conditions of some roads became difficult to maneuver. In order to assure that roads were passable for emergency vehicles, they needed to hire additional trucks to help haul gravel. All stone from the pits in the surrounding area were depleted during the 3 day period. The John Deer grader is currently in the shop but they are hoping it could be back in commission by Wednesday. Kevin recommends that travelers stay off dirt roads for the next 10 days unless necessary. The Board thanked the highway crew for all their hard work.
- Eric met with Neagley & Chase and LCCD to discuss mutual construction projects and eliminate any possible overlap.
- Mark Faith has retired and Eric is working with Sara Haskins and Dennis Smith to get a system in place for the Sexton duties.

- Due to the current economic climate the cost of hot mix is expected to go up significantly and we might not to be able to do as much paving as anticipated.
- Eric has set up a meeting with Ryan Heraty and Penny Jones to discuss capital projects for the Town, School & Village.
- Eric spoke with Jim Barlow about DRB & Planning Council appointments. DRB members can only be appointed but a resolution setting term limits can be adopted by both the Town & Village Boards. Planning Council members can be elected at Annual Town Meeting but they would also have to be voted at the Village Annual Meeting as they are joint members. The Planning Councils terms cannot be limited.

SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Bob Beeman: Thank you to Gary Nolan for his service on the Selectboard. Bob spent time at the highway garage on Cochran Road and has concerns about the unsafe conditions of the sand shed and the unnecessary added labor expense to fill it. Eric responded that there are plans to demolish it this summer.

Judy Bickford: Welcomed Don McDowell to the Board and thanked Gary Nolan for his integrity and honesty and she expressed it was a delight to work with him. She also inquired about the status of hiring for the recreation coordinator.

Jessica Graham: Received the email about mask lifting in the municipal building and asked if the mask policy could be revisited in the event of another surge or guidance from the CDC or VT Dept. of Health.

Brian Kellogg: Thanked the Highway Department for their work. He has heard a lot of positive feedback.

Don McDowell: Thanked Kevin Barrows and the highway crew for their hard work on the roads. He appreciated Eric & Todd for taking the time to meet with him. He enjoyed meeting staff at the staff meeting. He met with Matt Lindemer to learn more about his cannabis business. He plans to meet with Jason Luneau and learn more about the police department this coming week.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sara Haskins reminded everyone that dog licenses are due April 1st and that there will be a rabies clinic at the Morrisville VFW on Saturday, March 26th from 8:30-10:00 AM.

Motion made by Don McDowell to enter Executive Session to discuss appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee subject to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (4) of the Vermont Statutes to include Eric Dodge, Town Administrator and Sara Haskins, Town Clerk. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

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

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM.
Respectfully submitted and filed this March 23, 2022

Sara Haskins, Scribe