SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES – BUDGET
JANUARY 10, 2022
AMENDED BY SARAH HYDE ON January 19, 2022

MEMBERS: Bob Beeman, Judy Bickford, Jessica Graham, Brian Kellogg (via Zoom) and Gary Nolan

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, *Town Administrator*; Tina Sweet, *Finance Director*; Paula Beattie, *Assistant. Finance Director*; Sarah Hyde, *Administrator's Assistant;* Jason Luneau, *Interim Police Chief*; William Mapes, *EMS Chief*; Corey Boisvert, *Assistant EMS Chief*; Colby Masse, *EMT*; Todd Thomas, *Zoning Administrator & Planning Director;* Sara Haskins, *Town Clerk*

PARTICIPANTS: Stephanie Hoffman, Kendra Aber-Ferri, Julie Pickett, John Buttolph, Tom Cloutier, Laura Streets

Chair Bob Beeman called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

1. Delete "Old Business" and add "Discuss possible budget cuts" under "Budget Discussion and Finalization"

NEW BUSINESS

1. MORRISTOWN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY PRESENTATION
MCL Trustee Stephanie Hoffman gave a presentation on "Understanding the 2022 Appropriation". She then asked the Selectboard to level fund the library to the '20-'21 budget allocation. Bob Beeman explained that, at the previous meeting, Gary Nolan had suggested cutting the library funding down to 40% after noting that the library's endowment climbed almost $500,000 to a balance of $1.7 million at the time of the audit, and that they had received two PPP loans. Jessica Graham opposed cutting the library's funding, as did Judy Bickford. Gary Nolan proposed revisiting the budget based on the presentation information. The board decided to discuss their decision about cutting the budget in this area at the budget discussion portion of the meeting.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE FEE STRUCTURE INCREASE
Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator, proposed a new fee schedule that would bring

Morristown's fee structure in line with peer towns. He proposed a .40-cent per square foot fee for new residential and commercial structures. He also raised the Lot Line Adjustment fee from $50 to $95. Todd said the fees are relatively low compared to other towns comparable in size. Jess Graham opposed the proposal and felt it could be increased more largely because we only charged per building footprint. She questioned the impact fees for new development.

Motion made by Gary Nolan to approve revised fee schedule. Judy Bickford seconded the motion. Roll call: Bob Beeman Y, Judy Bickford Y, Jessica Graham N, Brian Kellogg Y and Gary Nolan Y. Motion carried (4/1).

3. SIGN HIGHWAY MILEAGE CERTIFICATE
   The Agency of Transportation requires a completed certificate of highway mileage for the Town each year. There were no changes to the mileage amount. The board needs to sign the certificate.

   Motion made by Gary Nolan to approve and sign the highway mileage certificate. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Roll Call: Bob Beeman Y, Judy Bickford Y, Jessica Graham Y, Brian Kellogg Y and Gary Nolan Y. Motion carried (5/0).

BUDGET DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION

Eric Dodge, Town Administrator, proposed eliminating a paid part-time position in EMS, stating that it would save the town $30,829. Eric also proposed changing the proposed full-time Parks & Rec Director position to a full-time seasonal position of 18 weeks of full time pay and the rest of the year at part-time pay. This would save the town $36,539. At this time, Eric suggested the board finalize the budget. Judy recommended fully funding the library as requested in their letter. Gary stated that he would like to level fund with Fiscal Year 20/21 as the library offered. Brian agreed with Gary. Jessica would like to fund the library with their initial request. Bob reported he'd like to level fund with last year. The board settled on level funding the library with the FY 21-22 budget amount.

Judy mentioned she would like the board to think about having a facilitated community conversation because of the public distrust of various boards.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Gary Nolan. Roll Call: Bob Beeman Y, Judy Bickford Y, Jessica Graham Y, Brian Kellogg Y, Gary Nolan Y. Motion carried (5/0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this January 12, 2022

Sarah Hyde, Scribe

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