



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2025

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Mitzi Fleming, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer; Tina Sweet, Finance Director

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS:

**participating via Zoom*

CALL COMMUNITY MEETING TO ORDER

1. Moderator, Shap Smith, will review the rules of procedure

Moderator Shap Smith called the Selectboard Community Meeting Day to order at 9am at the Peoples Academy Gym.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

The order of the agenda was changed up to allow community comments to be the final item.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review Budget summary and Town Financials

Brent Raymond reviewed the proposed changes to the FY 25/26 budget.

2. Presentation by Social Service Agencies

Joining our community meeting were the following agencies: Home Health & Hospice, MACC, Lamoille Child Advocacy Center & Special Investigation Unit, Clarina Howard, Lamoille Restorative Center, Lamoille Family Center, Lamoille Housing Partnership, River Arts, Morristown Conservation Commission, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Farms, and Capstone Community Action. The presentations collectively emphasized how tax dollars have been used to support and enhance education, healthcare, mental health services, senior care, career development, and other social services in Morristown. Each agency stressed the importance of continued appropriations to maintain and improve these essential community services.

3. Community Comments

The inaugural "Pie for Breakfast" event provided a platform for community members to voice their opinions on various local matters. Here are the key points from the community comments:

Summer Recreation Program

- Widespread approval for the continuation of the summer recreation program
- Program to be led by Gail Beck
- Structured as a 7-week seasonal summer camp
- Capacity for 75 children

Library Funding

- Strong community support for level funding
- Selectboard proposing an \$80,000 cut due to:
 - One-time bequest of \$300,000 from a donor
 - Strong performance of the \$2 million endowment fund

Budget Presentation

- Attendees praised the town manager/finance director and Selectboard for:
 - Transparent budget presentation
 - Making the budget easily understandable to the general public

Highway Department

- Positive reception for Jordan St. Onge, the new highway superintendent

Revenue Sources

- Discussion about potential additional revenue streams
- Suggestion of implementing a local option tax

The community meeting demonstrated active engagement from Morristown residents in local affairs and budget decisions.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:52AM

Submitted and filed this 1-9-25.

Judi Alberi, Scribe

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