



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MAY 1, 2025**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Tina Sweet, Finance Director

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Joie Marshall, Tony Cote, Tom Cloutier, Mary Lou Nichols, Connie Demars, John Clegg, Nancy Stewart, Maria Ward, Dennis Smith*, Laura Nepveu, Jeff Pignona, Dot Reeves, Joanne Godfrey, Gabriel Tatro, Jessie Johnson, Herman Fiess, Jeff Foss, Robyn Pugh, Linda Charette

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:35PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of terminating Pleasant View Cemetery Association's (PVCA) fiscal and operational management of the Pleasant View Cemetery.

The Selectboard expressed serious concerns about the financial management of Pleasant View Cemetery Association (PVCA) and the stewardship of its Endowment/Perpetual Care Investment Fund. The Selectboard noted that the fund has been depleted by over two-thirds due to excessive withdrawals, threatening its long-term viability. They emphasized that perpetual care funds must be used only for their intended purpose-ongoing maintenance of the cemetery-and warned that poor management could ultimately burden taxpayers. Given these issues, the Selectboard suggested that the town consider taking back operational and financial control of the cemetery to ensure its sustainability.

In response, Joie Marshall, president of PVCA, disputed several of the Selectboard's claims. She explained that the PVCA is a private 501(c) organization run by volunteers and that they had invested in new cemetery mapping software and hired an employee for cost savings. Marshall also stated that when the cemetery's budget was not increased, they used available funds to cover expenses. She felt the Selectboard was adversarial and not open to hearing the PVCA's perspective, while the Selectboard maintained that multiple attempts had been made to communicate with the cemetery association.

The discussion also covered budget details, expressing an employee is more expensive yearly than a three-year mowing contract which ranges from \$36,500 to \$37,500 annually. Contractors carry their own insurance, and the town holds \$8,000 of the cemetery's funds, with total investments at

\$143,000-below the \$200,000 auditors recommend. While the cemetery is reportedly well-maintained, the Selectboard stressed that financial mismanagement must stop to protect the cemetery's future.

Overall, the meeting highlighted a significant disconnect between the Selectboard and the PVCA board regarding financial oversight, communication, and the appropriate use of perpetual care funds. Both parties agree on the importance of maintaining the cemetery but differ on how to achieve that goal and who should be responsible. The Selectboard is considering more direct control to safeguard the cemetery's sustainability and ensure compliance with legal requirements, while PVCA seeks greater support and collaboration from the town.

Motion made by George Cormier to ratify the Selectboard's decision on February 18, 2025, to terminate the Pleasant View Cemetery Association's (PVCA) fiscal and operational management of the Pleasant View Cemetery and any related action taken by the Town subsequent to such decision. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (4/1) Laura Streets Nay.

2. **Consideration to direct PVCA that all Pleasant View Cemetery funds and other assets be turned over to the Town of Morristown.**

Motion made by George Cormier to direct the Town Manager to put PVCA on further notice that it should not act as the Town's agent with respect to Pleasant View Cemetery nor expend or commit any funds in relation to the fiscal and operational management of such cemetery, and the Selectboard will not approve any warrants relating to such prohibited actions. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (4/1) Laura Streets Nay.

Motion made by George Cormier to direct the Town Manager to demand an accounting from Pleasant View Cemetery Association (PVCA) with respect to funds provided to it by the Town for the purposes of PVCA's fiscal and operational management of the Pleasant View Cemetery and the return of any such funds and any other Town assets in possession of PVCA. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried (4/1) Laura Streets Nay.

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm
Submitted and filed this 5/5/2025.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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