SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MAY 5, 2025

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Kevin Petrochko, Assistant Assessor; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Martin Green, Jerry Throne, Tom Stames, Jim Pease, Evelyn Throne, Laura Green, Dan McLaughlin, Peter Danforth

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:37 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Under new business:
Move Item #6 LCCD Silver Ridge Stormwater Project to #2.
Add Job announcement before item #1 under New Business

5:32PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Brewster said that he was disappointed with the lack of content during the joint Trustees/Selectboard meeting. He also praised the many changes happening with the Planning Commission and administrative changes to the town, but would also like to see a more efficient way of expediting the process among the committees. Mr. Throne would like to see the speeding on side streets addressed.

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. **Approve minutes SB/Trustees Meeting of 4-16-25**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 4/16/2025. Motion seconded by Richard Caig. Motion carried. (5/0)
2. **Approve minutes of 4-21-25**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 4/21/2025. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:52PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. **Job Announcement -Tyler Machia, Zoning and Planning Administrator**
   Brent Raymond announced that the position of Zoning and Planning Administrator has been filled by Tyler Machia of Morristown. He will begin in mid-May. Brent thanked George Cormier for his help with the search for this position.
2. **Appoint Kevin Petrochko as Town of Morristown Lister**

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Kevin Petrochko as a Morristown Lister until the next local election. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

3. LCCD Silver Ridge Stormwater Project letter of support request

Peter Danforth, Lamoille County Conservation District and Jim Pease came to the meeting to propose a stormwater management project on Silver Ridge Road in Morristown, aimed at addressing persistent drainage issues. The project involves installing a bio-retention system, specifically a rain garden, on private property owned by Kent Derek Hedberg. This green infrastructure will help manage and filter stormwater runoff, improve local water quality and support environmental goals. The Conservation District is seeking a letter of support from the Town of Morristown to apply for Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) funds to finance the project.

Key points included the need for the town's support without assuming any financial responsibility or long-term maintenance obligations. The possibility of indemnifying the municipality from any construction or maintenance costs was also considered. Importantly, the landowner has approved the installation of the rain garden on his property, and the Conservation District will pursue future grants to fund ongoing maintenance, ensuring the town is not burdened with these expenses.

Ultimately, the Selectboard agreed to provide a letter of support for the Silver Ridge Road Stormwater Project, with a clear understanding that the town will have no financial or maintenance liability. This agreement allows the Conservation District to move forward with grant applications and implement the project, improving stormwater management and water quality in the area while protecting the town from any future costs or obligations.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to support the Silver Ridge Stormwater Project on Silver Ridge Road as proposed by LCCD provided that there will be no construction cost, maintenance cost, financial obligations or liability to the Town of Morristown. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Professional Municipal Clerk Week - Recognition

May 4th to May 10th is Professional Municipal Clerks' Week. Municipal Clerks are the backbone of local government operations, overseeing functions like record-keeping, election management, and maintaining public trust. The annual observance offers an opportunity to recognize and honor the critical role municipal clerks play in communities. Don read a proclamation, acknowledging the dedication of the clerks and their commitment to transparency and accountability. The Morristown Selectboard also adopted a proclamation for the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks' Week.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adopt the proclamation of Professional Municipal Clerk's Week. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

5. VT Town Road and Bridges Standard - Jordan St. Onge

Jordan St.Onge presented the financial advantages of complying with the Vt Town roads and bridges standard, which includes 10% more state funding on class 2 roadways grants and structure grants and a 5% increase in state FEMA match, as well as FEMA repairs being made up to the new standard as opposed to condition prior to damage. The standards also improve road safety, reduce lifecycle costs, and protect waterways. The potential savings of $37,000 on two grants and $49,000 were missed in the last two years. The main disadvantage is the cost of stone-lining ditches, but the town's budget already includes a line item for this and receives state funding, and the new standards match the existing MRGP standards that the town is already required to meet. Also addressed were the

misconceptions about the standards, including the need to bring all roads up to standard and the potential impact on the town's highway budget.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adopt and sign the most current Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Town Road and Bridge Standards, specifically the version dated June 5, 2019, as the minimum codes and standards for all Town Highway projects and grant programs, ensuring compliance with all applicable state and federal statues, standards, specifications, and guidelines. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to sign the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory of Morristown's highway system. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0).

6. **Overview of the May 3rd Re-envision of Oxbow Park forum by LCCD, Peter Danforth**
   Peter Danforth discussed the re-envisioning of Oxbow Park at the forum held by LCCD. 30 community members were in attendance. The forum aimed to gather information on flood-prone areas and potential solutions, with discussions on development, reforestation, and educational programs. Peter mentioned that the meeting was well-supported and informative, with panelists providing valuable insights. He also mentioned that the meeting's notes and survey results would be shared with attendees and posted on their website.
7. **Update on proposed Morristown Charter**
   The Morristown Charter was first passed in August. David Yacovone called to tell the Selectboard that the Governor signed the Charter today.

6:45PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:46PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:50PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Monday, May 19, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
   Monday, June 2, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

6:53PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

6:55PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 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.