



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 16, 2025**

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

Absent: Don McDowell

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Town Clerk/Treasurer, Sara Haskins

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Martin Green, Mason Kemerer, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Alex Cyr, Susan Wickert

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chris Palermo called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:33 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Evelyn Throne noted that the Saturday event with Senator Bernie Sanders at Oxbow Park was a great community event with a big crowd, and she thanked the Morristown Police and Judi Alberi for their contributions to the event.

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 6/2/25

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 6/2/25. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Sign Annual Financial Management Questionnaire

Sara Haskins, Town Treasurer, explained that the yearly questionnaire showed no differences from last year and asked the board to sign.

Chris Palermo asked for a copy of the policy and procedures of the financial management, which is kept by Judi Alberi.

Motion made by Richard Craig to receive the annual financial management questionnaire as presented by Town Treasurer, Sara Haskins and approve Vice-Chair Chris Palermo to sign the form on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

2. Ambulance write-offs

Brent noted that the Selectboard approves the write-offs from the ambulance service on an annual basis. Tina Sweets, Finance Director, puts great effort into working with families to receive payment; thus, this year's write-off's are lower than last year's and much below industry standard.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the write-off of \$32,511.68 for uncollectible ambulance calls for FY 23-24. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

3. Elmore EMS annual payments

Discussion ensued regarding the town of Elmore's partial payment for Morristown's ambulance services. The Selectboard was considerate regarding people's need for ambulance services and wanted to address these while making arrangements with Elmore regarding the cost of these services. The need for equity for both towns' fiscal responsibility was discussed.

Motion made by George Cormier that the Town of Morristown continue to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the Town of Elmore until such time as Elmore contracts with another EMS provider, or until July 31, 2025, whichever comes first. The Town of Morristown will consider submitting a bid for continued EMS service to Elmore. Should Morristown continue to provide EMS services to Elmore after July 31, 2025, a written contract between the two towns must be executed. Morristown's expectation is that Elmore will remit the additional \$4,500 for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0)

Brent will put the motion in writing to Elmore's Selectboard.

4. 2025 Anticipated plan for road projects - Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent

Jordan St. Onge reported on the anticipated 2025 plan to address work required on the roads and identified specific roads with additional storm damage. All the work planned is within the budget with FEMA money and grants. This still leaves years of aggressive road work to restore and repair all the town roads. George Cormier praised the excellent work of Jordan and the road crews in addressing this project and cited Jordan's remarkable leadership.

Summer 2025

Completed Work

Started spring off good with a relatively easy mud season

As soon as the roads dried out, we replaced 8 Culverts including

1 on Moren Loop

1 on Elmore Mountain rd

1 on Mckee Rd

1 on Churchill

4 on the paved portion of Cote Hill

We then started ditching and de-berming completing

Paved section of Lower Elmore Mnt Rd

Entire length of Churchill Rd

And the paved portion of Cote Hill. We also stone lined that section of Cote hill in preparation for paving

We have added inexpensive slope meters to our graders to achieve proper crown and had our gravel roads in good shape to apply calcium chloride.

Then we were then hit by a thunderstorm with torrential rain on May 25th that severely damaged 18 roads with an estimated repair cost of over \$32,000

We hauled over 125 loads of material to repair damages and at the same time make the affected areas more flood resistant.

Damaged roads included

Samoset, Long Branch, Mckee, Sterling Valley, Cole Hill, Call Rd, Mud City Loop, Golf Course Rd, Lawrence Farm Rd, Magoon Rd, Ross Hill, Gallup Rd, Frazier Rd, Moren Loop, A and B Street, Needle Eye Rd, Neel Rd, and Cady's Fall Rd.

This storm helped us prioritize some of our most flood sensitive areas, and once we had everything patched up, we started rebuilding them to be more flood resilient.

This included a complete rebuild of Samoset Rd that included ditching and stone lining the entirety of the road.

We are now working on ditching and de-berming the entirety of Cole Hill, and stone lining nearly the entire length of the road. This section is nearing completion.

Once we complete Cole Hill, we will be moving to Stagecoach Rd to repair and reshape the damaged shoulders to prevent them from washing out again.

We have gotten our gravel roads back into shape and have begun spraying calcium chloride. It is doing a great job of reducing the dust, and more importantly helping us get compaction that keeps our roads smooth and prevents potholes from forming. As you are out driving the gravel roads when they look dark, hard, and smooth, that is from the calcium chloride. Not all the roads have been treated yet, and we are planning to apply more the week of 6/23.

Planned Work

All summer long we will be ditching, de-berming, and stone lining all around town every chance we get.

Included in this are 7 hydrologically connected sections that will be paid for by VTRANS Municipal Grants in Aid. They include parts of:

Fitzgerald Rd, Lower Elmore Mountain Rd, Elmore Mountain Rd and Bliss Hill

We also have several more culvert replacements planned to include:

- 2 on Cole Hill

- 1 on Walton Rd

- 1 on A-B Street (aka Feline Loop)

As part of the better roads grant we are being awarded, we will be replacing

- 1 on Sterling Valley near Pumpkin Hill Rd

- 1 on Moren Loop

- 1 on Cottage St just above Randolph Rd

We anticipate finding and replacing several more failed or undersized culverts this summer

Sidewalks

The sidewalks throughout the Village need lots of work.

With a mix of contractors and our team we plan to fully replace around 1500' of sidewalk, making them ADA compliant, more welcoming to walk on, and easier on our sidewalk machine to plow.

Some of the sidewalks we are considering are Court St, East High St, Lower Bridge St, Brigham St, Wilkins St, and Howard St.

We will also be replacing numerous individual sidewalk panels throughout the village including some on Brooklyn St, Munson Ave, Foss St, Jersey Way, and Foundry St.

Paving

Our paving plans this year include a mix of full depth reclamations, shim and overlays, and mill and fills. The paving will be done by SD Ireland, and the shoulder graveling will be done by our team. The timing is fluid, but it is currently planned for August.

Walton Rd from and including the Morristown 4 corners intersection to just before the bridge near

Cole Hill will be getting a ½" shim, and a 1 ½" overlay.

From there to the end of the paved portion, Walton Rd will be getting a full depth reclamation and 4" of asphalt.

The entirety of the paved portion of Cote Hill will be getting a full depth reclamation and 4" of asphalt.

The Favreau Bridge on Bridge St will be getting a 1-2" mill and fill, and replacement of the plug joint on the expansion end of the bridge. We have been recommended for the award of a structures grant that will pay for this work, as well as for media blasting and painting the metal structure. It is made of A588 weathering steel, that is not holding up to our climate. The surfaces that get washed by rain fall are in good shape, but all the steel that doesn't see rain fall has significant rust that is leading to scaling and material loss. This media blasting and painting is a 35–40-year fix. We hope to get it done this fall but may end up being in the spring of 2026.

Bridge St at the intersection of Portland St where we had the water line break this winter will be getting a full depth reclamation and 4" of asphalt.

Richmond St will be getting a combination of mill and fill in front of the library to include the parking spots directly in front of the library, and a ½" shim, and a 1 ½" overlay over the remainder of the street.

We were also recommended for the award of a class 2 roadways grant that will be paying for paving 1.1 miles of Stagecoach Rd just before the Stowe town line. This is the section that has significant delamination.

Grants

Better Roads Grant Cat B (culvert replacement) - \$18,335

Grants in Aid (Stone lining ditches) - \$25,250

Structures Grant (Favreau Bridge Repairs) - \$175,000

Class 2 Roadways Grant (Paving Stagecoach) - \$134,675

Total expected grant funding: \$353,260

5. Consideration of discontinuance of dead-end roads that do not meet the minimum requirements according to the Town Road Policy - Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent

Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent, provided a detailed analysis of the fiscally responsible usage of town resources by proposing the discontinuance of maintenance and plowing of dead-end roads that do not meet the minimum requirements under the Town Road Policy. Many of these roads are too narrow for the plows to turn around, these are dead ends, some are no longer active farms, and some owners no longer want the town to plow their roads. By eliminating 19 private driveways and substandard roads in keeping with the Town Road Policy, the highway department will operate in a fiscal manner that profits taxpayers. There will need to be a public hearing for each road identified in this plan. The Selectboard concurred with Jordan's findings and gave Brent and Jordan permission to move forward on this action. Thanks goes to Jordan for an excellent presentation.

6. Consideration of Bike Ped Grant application and required Selectboard letter of support- Mason Kemmerer

Mason Kemmerer applied for a Bike Ped Grant funded by VTrans with a cost of \$10,000 from the town, which would conduct a scoping study of traffic flow with the inclusion of biking accommodations, that would open revenue opportunities for merchants from the rail trail bikers and

pedestrians. He is asking for approval and \$10,000 from the town to compete for the grant. The \$10,000 cost would be available from the Bridge structure fund. There was concern about future grants in light of the government's uncertainties. With the knowledge of the town's infrastructure needs, it was determined worth the risk. The Selectboard thanked Mason for his awareness of the grant and his initiative in making the application.

Motion made by Richard Craig to Motion to authorize the vice-chair Chris Palermo, to sign a letter of support for the Town's application to the Vermont Bike & Pedestrian Grant Program and to commit \$10,000 in local funds as the required match for the scoping study. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

7:00PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

7:02PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier . Motion carried. (4/0)

7:05PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Thursday, June 26, 2025 - SB Public Hearing, Proposed Zoning Bylaws - 5:30PM**
Monday, July 21, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

7:10PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

7:15PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

Submitted and filed this 6/18/2025.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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