



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF AUGUST 4, 2025**

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

Absent: Richard Craig

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Kate Greenmun, Arthur Kuper, Walt Young, Angela & Christian Strong, Don Howell, Yuri Zelinsky, Bruce LaRow, Christine LaRow, Dacia & Jay Rockwood, Mary & Jerry Audy, Ed Loewenton, Hannah Farda, Morgan Del Ciello, David Eisenbaum, Nancy Dunavan, Tommy Dunavan, Pam Stanyon, Jane Brown, Thom Brown, Jamie Jaret, Scott Droney, Gary Cole, Bill Westermann, Lauren Sullivan, Leah Hollenberger, Gary Briggs, Meredith Williams, Bob Bortree, Martin Green, Brent LaBree II, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Robyn Alvin, Dale Touchette, Thea Alvin, Kristin Marriott, Patrick Towne, James Pease, Joe Poleio, Mason Kemerer, Rachel Duffy, Tom Cloutier*

**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

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

5:43PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 7-21-25

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 7/21/25. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:45PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve financing for Class A Fire Truck

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the bid from M&T Bank for \$500,000, semi-annual payments at 4.544% for a 10-year term to finance the Class A Fire Truck. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

2. Dedication of E-1 Firetruck to Chief Dennis DiGregorio

Don McDowell read the letter from the members of the Morrisville Fire Department asking for support to dedicate the new E-1 Firetruck to the current Chief, Dennis DiGregorio, and for permission to add the following message on the passenger side of the new engine truck: "This truck is dedicated to Dennis DiGregorio for his years of service, leadership and dedication to the Morrisville Fire Department." Both the Assistant Fire Chief and Chris Palermo praised Chief DiGregorio for his many

fine qualities, including his knowledge, decisiveness, and fortitude in performing his job.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the dedication of E-1 firetruck to Chief Dennis DiGregorio. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

3. Request for Lazy Lane, Class 4 Road discontinuation on private land - Nichole & Kurt Loati

1. Kurt (aka abutting landowner and petitioner) was present and gave a presentation to the board and requested Lazy Lane be discontinued from a Class 4 road.
2. Kurt agreed to cover expenses to discontinue the road
3. Don detailed the lengthy process and length of time to properly discontinue this or any road
4. Discussion occurred concerning the loss of public access among other issues

Motion made by Chris Palermo for the Selectboard to begin the process of Class 4 road discontinuation of Lazy Lane on private land as per 19 VSA 710: 711 & 717 as applicable. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

4. Appoint two representatives to the Lamoille County Planning Commission's Board of Directors

There was a discussion about how the public hears about possible openings on both the LCPC Board and the TAC appointment.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Judy Bickford and Dan McLaughlin to the Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors for a one-year term. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (3/1). Laura Streets Nay

5. Appoint representative to the Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Gerald Throne as Primary Representative and Martin Green as Alternate Representative to the Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee for a one-year term and authorize Brent Raymond, Town Manager, to sign. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (3/1). Laura Streets Nay

6. Approve and sign the Resolution and Reinvestment Agreement for Downtown Designation application

Don McDowell read the Application for Downtown Designation under the Downtown Development Act. Laura Streets noted that the town should be aware of not duplicating efforts by the MACC as the town and MACC work together.

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adopt, approve, and sign the Resolution Authorizing Application for Downtown Designation under the Downtown Development Act as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo, resolving that the Morristown Selectboard fully approves and supports the Community Reinvestment Agreement and the Downtown Morristown Community Reinvestment Agreement as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

7. Discussion on Public Health Concerns related to 2322 Laporte Road - rock crushing and silica dust - Kristin Fogdall & Thea Alvin

Kristin Fogdall and Thea Alvin requested the ability to present to the Selectboard and the residents in regard to the projects at 2322 Laporte Rd. The development of the MSI Industrial Park and a rock-crushing quarry intended to extract and sell crystalline silica. Laboratory tests submitted to the Act 250

Commission show the rock contains 80-100% crystalline silica, a substance regulated by OSHA due to its hazardous health effects. Residents and presenters, including Thea Alvin, raised significant concerns about silica dust exposure from crushing operations, which can cause serious respiratory diseases such as COPD, lung cancer, and kidney failure. The site's proximity to homes—some as close as 420 feet—and the expected increase in truck traffic transporting silica dust amplified worries over air and water pollution, noise, and wetland contamination. Comparisons were made to past health crises like the Eden asbestos mines, highlighting potential risks if safety and environmental controls are inadequate.

The community questioned the Development Review Board's approval of the quarry, noting conflicts with the town's residential zoning and comprehensive plan. Concerns were also voiced about the lack of enforcement at a similar nearby quarry experiencing dust and noise issues. Attendees emphasized the need for independent oversight and strict protocols to mitigate pollution, recommending that a qualified compliance officer be appointed onsite to ensure adherence to safety standards throughout the project's estimated 10-year construction and operation period. Many residents expressed opposition to the quarry, fearing health impacts and property devaluation, with some considering relocating.

In response, the Selectboard acknowledged the health and environmental concerns. They committed to drafting formal letters to the District 5 Environmental Commission and the Agency of Natural Resources urging thorough review of updated silica data and public safety considerations. The board questioned whether to engage actively in the Act 250 permitting process, advocated for ongoing independent compliance monitoring, and carefully discussed a possible review of the project's permit for possible revocation due to zoning conflicts and permit misrepresentation. Residents encouraged the Selectboard to halt or reconsider the project to protect public health and preserve community well-being.

7:20PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Elmore EMS Update

The Elmore Selectboard agreed to send the money owed to the town for EMS services coverage. However, it did not make a final decision regarding the October deadline included in Morristown's last correspondence. The Morristown Selectboard wants a decision by December 1st.

7:30PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

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

7:32PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Monday, August 18, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

7:35PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session - Union Contracts

Motion made by Chris Palermo to find that premature public knowledge regarding contract and labor relations would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to go into executive session to discuss contract and labor relations agreements under the provisions of. 1.V.S.A. 313 (a)(1)(B) to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond; Police Chief, Jason Luneau. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the agreement between the Town of Morristown and the IDEW local Union #300 pertaining to the Morristown Police Unit as corrected and authorize Town Manager, Brent Raymond, to sign on behalf of the town. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

8:00PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Chris Palermo to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm
Submitted and filed this 8/6/2025.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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