



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF AUGUST 18, 2025**

Members: Don McDowell, Laura Streets**, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent: Christopher Palermo,

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent; Tyler Machia, Zoning Administrator

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Melissa & Chris Leblanc, Attorney Brice Simon, Attorney David Rugh*, Tom Cloutier*, Jerry Throne

**participating via Zoom ** arrived late*

4:00PM - OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Don McDowell opened the public hearing at 4pm.

1. Appeal of Chris & Melissa LeBlanc re: Denial of Application for permit for private use of town Right-of-Way for sewer line access to public wastewater treatment at 265 Cottage Street

The Selectboard held a duly warned public hearing to consider the appeal of Chris and Melissa LeBlanc regarding the denial of their application for a permit to use the Town Highway right-of-way for the installation of a private sewer force main line. The Chair opened the hearing by reviewing the procedure, which included sworn testimony from the applicants, a presentation by Town staff, the opportunity for public comment, and potential board deliberation. Attorney Brice Simon, applicants Chris LeBlanc and Melissa LeBlanc, Highway Superintendent, Jordan St. Onge and Town Manager, Brent Raymond were sworn in before any testimony was given.

Attorney Simon and applicants LeBlancs explained their efforts to comply with zoning regulations and village ordinances and argued that the denial of their permit was arbitrary and capricious. They emphasized that the reasons for denial appeared to shift during the review process, and they expressed frustration at the lack of objective justification or consistency in the decision-making.

Following the applicants' testimony, Jordan St. Onge described the process by which right-of-way permits are reviewed in Morristown and underscored the requirement that such approvals must serve the public good. Jordan explained that a private, pressurized sewer line under a town road presented maintenance and leakage concerns, as well as potential conflicts with future infrastructure. He stressed that because the proposed line would benefit only a single property, it did not meet the standard of public necessity. Instead, Jordan encouraged the applicants to consider alternatives, such as utilizing an on-site soil-based system, extending the sewer main under town ownership, or exploring options with Morrisville Water and Light.

A couple of questions were raised by the Selectboard members about how the proposed pump station would function, particularly considering elevation changes and design considerations. The conversation also broadened to include discussion of long-term sewer system extensions in the village.

Board members acknowledged existing limitations in the current system but noted the importance of expanding sewer access to encourage growth and attract new residents.

After discussion, the Selectboard determined that additional review and consultation were needed before making a decision. The hearing was continued to **September 3rd at 5:30 PM**, with the intention of gathering more input, including information from Morrisville Water and Light regarding the feasibility of a sewer extension. The meeting was then recessed until that time.

5:00PM - ADJOURN

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