



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

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

Absent:

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

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Tom Cloutier, Leah Hollenberger, Laura Green, Molly Pease, Jamie Jaret, Thea Alvin, Kristin Fogdall, Dale Touchette

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CONTINUE ZONING BYLAWS PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, Sept 2nd members of the bodies opened the Public Hearing Meeting at 5:30. Selectboard members present: Chair Don McDowell, Richard Craig, Laura Streets, George Cormier; Village Trustees present: Chair Brad Limoge, Robert Heanue, Carl Fortune, Travis Knapp, Tom Snipp; Planning Commission members present: Chair Etienne Hancock, Josh Goldstein*, Wally Reeve, Jamie Morris, John Meyer

The Selectboard members invited Morrisville Village Trustees and the Planning Commission to join them at the table for a joint meeting of the 3 bodies to discuss the legal review of the proposed 2025 Zoning Bylaws. It was noted that the information discussed predated Tyler Machia's employment.

All three bodies opened the public hearing to discuss revisions to the 2025 zoning bylaws, specifically reviewing legal counsel's comments. Selectboard members and Village Trustees expressed concerns about the complexity of the proposed changes and the risk of legal liability if vague or noncompliant language remained. Particular emphasis was given to sections dealing with design standards, building height restrictions, and provisions around vested rights, as well as clarifying exemptions for emergency services use of helipads. After considerable discussion, the Selectboard and Trustees voted to send the draft bylaws back to the Planning Commission for further revisions, resetting the statutory review timeline. The expectation is that revised bylaws will return with more specific language that complies with state statute, addresses legal concerns, and narrows the scope of applicability in key sections.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warned 2025 Zoning Bylaws changes as proposed. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion failed (0/4).

Motion made by Brad Limoge to approve the warned 2025 Zoning Bylaws changes as proposed. Motion seconded by Bob Heanue. Motion failed (0/5).

Motion made by Richard Craig to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Bob Heanue to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Carl Fortune. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Wally Reeve to close the Planning Commission meeting. Motion seconded by John Meyer. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by George Cormier to take a 5 minute recess. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

7:00PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:34 PM at the Tegu Building after a 5 minute recess from the close of the Public Hearing.

7:01PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

7:02PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

7:13PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 8-7-25 Emergency Meeting

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 8/7/25. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

2. Approve minutes of Public Hearing - 8-18-25

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on 8/18/25. Motion seconded by Laura Syreets. Motion carried. (4/0)

3. Approve minutes of 8-18-25

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 8/18/25. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

7:15PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Contractor selection for 2025 sidewalk replacement - Court Street & East High Street

Jordan St. Onge, Highway Supervisor, reported that there is a plan to complete the replacement of sidewalks on Court St. and East High St, which are not ADA compliant and too rough to maintain during the winter months. This work was budgeted at \$104,217 and, if approved, will be completed this Fall. The price for the job was kept low due to Jordan's use of his department's involvement in several aspects of the work.

Motion made by Laura Streets to accept the bid from Percy's at \$104,891 for Court Street and East High Street sidewalk replacement. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

2. Village 1-Ton Dump Truck replacement due to accident

Jordan St. Onge reported that there was a need to replace Morristown's 2022 F-350 Diesel 1-Ton dump truck, which was recently rear-ended while stopped at a construction zone in Johnson, VT. The vehicle had been totaled with a payout of \$61,605.60. An examination of the competitive bids

indicated that Lamoille Valley Chevrolet had a new replacement truck for \$60,578, which was below the insurance payout.

Motion made by Laura Streets to approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet 3500 HD as a replacement truck due to an accident, from Lamoille Valley Chevrolet for \$60,578. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to authorize Treasurer Sara Haskins to solicit bids for financing, if needed, in an amount not to exceed \$60,578 pending the insurance payout, and grant authority to Brent Raymond to select the financing option offering the most favorable terms. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

3. Abate small balances due

Sara Haskins, Treasurer, noted that the law has changed, giving the Selectboard the authority to abate unpaid taxes, generally very small amounts, due to errors in writing out checks. The Selectboard approved the abatement of small property tax balances on 24 accounts totaling \$39.87.

Motion made by Laura Streets to eliminate small property tax balances due in an amount not to exceed \$10 per parcel and submit an annual report of the abated parcels to the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

4. Approve Proposed Capital Improvement Plan necessary for Downtown Designation and set date for Public Hearing

Brent Raymond explained that, in order to complete the Downtown Designation application, the town must have the proposed downtown capital improvement plan approved and provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Motion made by Laura Streets to set a public hearing date of September 30, 2025, at 5:30 for the proposed downtown capital improvement plan, which is needed for downtown designation. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0)

5. Acceptance of Chris Palermo Resignation from Selectboard

Don McDowell announced that Chris Palermo has resigned from his position on the Selectboard. He thanked Chris for his involvement with the town and the work of the Selectboard. He was regretful that Chris was ending his tenure as a board member and wished Chris and his family the best.

Motion made by Laura Streets to accept the resignation of Chris Palermo from the Selectboard with regret. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (4/0).

6. Review options for filling the vacant Selectboard seat by Appointment or Election

The Selectboard discussed options for filling a vacant seat and noted that the term of the seat ends with elections in March 2026. It was decided to use an appointment system rather than have a special election. They agreed to begin accepting applications from the public with a due date of September 19, 2025. The board also discussed the possibility of holding open interviews for candidates, though they noted some uncertainty about the legality of this process. The decision to appoint was based on the need for a "forthwith" solution and the belief that the board could make an informed decision. The vacancy will be posted in the News & Citizen, on Front Porch Forum and the town's website, along with the necessary notices by statute.

8:00PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Memo from VHB regarding dust emissions at 2322 Laporte Road - DL1614-1

The Selectboard reviewed a letter received late in the day from VHB regarding dust emissions at 2322 Laporte Road — DL1614-1. They discussed a memo comparing dust control measures between the Airport Industrial Park project and the town's Duhamel extraction operation, noting that the new project proposed more extensive measures than the town's current practices. Don McDowell noted the difference between topography, neighborhood and the product being produced and felt it was not an accurate comparison.

2. Authorize Selectboard letter to be sent to ACT 250 District 5 DEC regarding 2322 Laporte Road - 5L1614-1

The Town Attorney, David Rugh, wrote a letter representing the Town to be submitted to Act 250 by Friday, September 5th. The item was tabled until September 3, 2025 at 5:30pm due to the Attorney/Client privilege written on the letter and in draft form.

8:02PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

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

8:05PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Wednesday, September 3, 2025 - Continue Leblanc Appeal Public Hearing - 5:30PM**
Monday, September 15, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - SB Public Hearing - 5:30PM pending Capital Improvement Plan approval
Monday, October 6, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - Special SB Meeting - 5:30PM (Jeff Carr, Economist)

8:10PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

8:15PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm
Submitted and filed this 9/8/25.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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