SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

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

Absent:

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

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Attorney David Rugh*, Attorney Brice Simon, Scott Johnstone, Melissa & Chris Leblanc, Reese Branon, Tom Cloutier, Chris Audy, Leah Hollenberger, Carol Lauber

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL PUBLIC HEARING FROM 9-3-2025

Don McDowell called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

1. **Continue 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 Public Hearing of the Appeal of Chris & Melissa LeBlanc on 9/22/2025 began with Don McDowell determining that there was no conflict of interest from the board members. He introduced Scott Johnstone, General Manager of the Morrisville Water and Light Department, who had been asked to appear to answer the Board's questions regarding its role in the permitting process.Attorney Brice Simon; applicants Chris LeBlanc and Melissa LeBlanc; Reese Branon, Mumley Engineering; Highway Superintendent, Jordan St.Onge and General Manager, Scott Johnstone were sworn in before any testimony was given.

   Don asked Scott a series of detailed questions from the board regarding the Water & Lights Department's role in the permit application. Scott talked about the ordinances of the Water and Light Department, including sewer capacity and transportation right-of-way waivers; the aspects of a private line running perpendicular to the road; and reviewed the three options available to the LeBlancs' request for a private sewer line on their property. He outlined the first option as follows: 1. The utility owns the sewer lines. This option was not allowed by the Water and Light Department. 2 The second option was that easements must be obtained to use others' property to run the sewer lines for the LeBlancs. The LeBlancs want a sewer line running perpendicularly to the road on their property. And the third option 3 an on-site septic system, would be established on their property. This option went against the current Water & Light Department ordinances. The Department does not grant waivers for sewerage.

   Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent, contributed that the Highway policy disagrees with the private sewer line. This would be an exception to the policy. He noted that exceptions to policy should only be made for utilities, not private citizens. This sets a precedent that creates more exceptional circumstances. He then presented a map that outlined several options for locating the sewer line outside of the traffic right-of-way.

2. **Possible deliberation of the board**
   The Public Hearing was closed, and the Selectboard went into a deliberation session.

6:40PM - ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm
Submitted and filed this 9/24/25.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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