



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF JANUARY 5, 2026**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jamie Jaret, Laura Green, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Carol Lauber, Ed Loewenton, Joshua Goldstein\*

*\*participating via Zoom*

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**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**

Don reminded the participants that, for everyone's health, please stay home if you are showing signs of illness.

**5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES**

**1. Approve minutes of 12-15-25**

*Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 12/15/25. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0) with amendments.*

*Notation that the EMS discussion was moved prior to the completion of New Business to accommodate guests in the audience.*

**2. Approve minutes of 12-15-25 Special**

*Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 12/15/25. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).*

**3. Approve minutes of 12-30-25 Special**

*Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 12/30/25. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (5/0)*

**5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consideration to appoint David Durand to MCC**

*Motion made by Richard Craig to appoint David Durand to the Morristown Conservation Commission for the remaining 4-year term, which expires on March 3, 2026. Motion seconded by Laura Streets.*

***Motion carried (5/0).***

**2. Road approval - Powder Day Lane**

Two weeks ago, the name of the new road was approved, and now the new road is being approved.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the private road, Powder Day Lane, to be constructed to town private road standards according to the site plan provided with the permit, Town of Morristown Highway/Right of Way Access Policy, and appendix B conditions. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).***

**3. Consideration of discontinuance proceedings under 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7 for Lanphear Rd, Stub Towne Rd, and Class 4 section of Lazy Lane (Bucket #1)**

As previously discussed, the Highway Department has a plan to discontinue some class 3 roads. These are the first roads identified in the plan. The discontinuance is a complex procedure that requires 60 days to secure the necessary legal title searches before the public hearing is scheduled. Once a road is discontinued, the town no longer provides maintenance, which is a cost savings.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to commence consideration of discontinuance proceedings under 19.V.S.A. Chapter 7 for each of the three roads or road segments identified in Bucket #1, specifically Lanphear Rd, Stub Town Rd, and Class 4 section of Lazy Lane. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).***

**4. Review and discuss proposed voter education initiatives related to the Local Option Tax, including messaging, outreach methods, timeline, and budget considerations, to ensure voters have clear and accurate information in advance of the vote.**

The Selectboard reviewed the educational materials presented by the administration with the plan to use at the Saturday, January 10th, Community Meeting Day. It was agreed that all three versions of the material would be needed as they represent various learning styles and would be helpful for comprehension. The educational materials will be displayed on the town website and on Front Porch Forum. They agreed to print 100 copies of each of the three versions for the upcoming Pie for Breakfast event. Leah suggested adding Jeff Carr's data to the educational materials to illustrate the estimated income gained from the LOT as compared to the property tax. George suggested adding a footnote that the figures are an estimate. This information is already on the website. They decided to include QR codes linking to Jeff Carr's economist report with revenue estimates. The remaining educational handouts from the meeting will be taken to the town library for distribution.

**7:00PM - OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Continuation of Manager's proposed budget discussions**

Although the budget had an overage of 9.5%, there was concern about cutting the budget drastically and impeding the benefits gained in repairing neglected roads made by the highway department. Don reconsidered his suggestion to cut all four articles and suggested 1/2 cent for Fire Dept Capital Equip fund and Highway Dept Capital Equip Fund as a possibility, plus fund the Bridge and Highway Infrastructure Fund . After discussion, the decision by majority of the board was to allocate 2 cents to the Bridge and Highway Infrastructure Fund, postpone funding for the Fire and Highway Capital Equipment Fun. It was discussed that the cut in funding is for this year only.

**2. Continuation of Local Option Tax Articles for the warning**

The language of the articles for the LOT warning was reviewed, with Leah agreeing to change her previous suggestion. She would prefer using bullet points in the articles for clarification purposes. Brent will check this format with the legal department. It was agreed that all three articles look the

same.

**7:30PM - APPROVE WARRANTS**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)***

**7:35PM - SCHEDULE**

1. **Saturday, January 10, 2026 - Community Meeting Day - Pie for Breakfast begins at 8AM Meeting begins at 9AM**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM**  
**Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**  
**Monday, January 26, 2026 - SB Special Meeting - 5:30PM**

**7:40PM - OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**7:45PM - ADJOURN**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)***

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm  
Submitted and filed this 1/8/26.  
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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