



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 12, 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

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jamie Jaret, Carol Lauber, Dan McLaughlin

**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

Addition of the local option tax and its articles for the warning under Old Business number 2.

Addition of section Other Business with an executive session - legal.

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

A comment regarding concerns about the right-of-way and size of roads on Hutchins and Railroad Streets, highlighting issues with sidewalk plowing and parking.

5:50PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Continuation of Manager's proposed budget discussions

The board reviewed the town manager's proposed budget. Laura questioned how the library funding was allocated and proposed consistency that would preclude an annual discussion. Brent commented that each year presented different circumstances with the library's financing and explained that this was the first year they used CPI to determine increases. He stated the library's funding would be evaluated annually rather than following a set formula.

Discussion regarding town feedback at the Pie for Breakfast town meeting included town salaries and the plea for a town summer recreation program. Leah noted that, based on a comparative salary and benefits assessment, the town was fair and in line with those included in the data. Brent assured the SB and public that he is consistently assessing the workforce salaries and performing analysis on the Town of Morristown staff in all departments. The board also considered allocating funds for a recreation program, with suggestions for a volunteer recreation committee and a potential quarter-cent appropriation. They debated whether to include this in the standard budget or as a special article, considering the pros and cons of each option. The discussion centered on the need to define a clear charge for any volunteer recreation committee, with George emphasizing the importance of establishing specific expectations and limitations. The board also debated whether to include additional funding for recreation in the current budget, with Brent expressing concern about the timing and potential impact on other departments. He also noted the current budget already includes a 6.8% increase with the two-cent highway infrastructure appropriation. The Selectboard wondered if Adele and MACC could assist in developing a plan for a comprehensive recreation volunteer program with a mission statement for the next year. At the January 20,

2026 Selectboard meeting, the budget will be finalized and draft warning will be presented.

2. Continuation of Local Option Tax Articles for the warning

Brent explained that legal counsel recommended keeping the language of the Local Tax Article simple as per Vermont League of Cities and Towns advice. The board agreed to follow this recommendation and develop a policy over the next few weeks to specify how LOT funds would be used if voters approve the tax. Laura questioned what is covered under the use of LOT funds. Brent will research and clarify which expenditures are permissible under the Local Options Tax funds and report back to the board.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session

I move that the Selectboard enter into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney–client communications made for the purpose of providing legal advice and to invite Town Manager Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant Judi Alberi.

Motion made by Richard Craig to enter into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing legal advice and to invite Town Manager Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Submitted and filed this 1/13/26.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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