TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661
5:30 PM Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting or by phone join via conference call (audio only): 1 (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: 810 342 4528 | Passcode 05661
The meeting will be live streamed on the Town of Morristown's website: https://www.morristownvt.gov/community/page/meetings-agendas-minutes and on Town GMATV YouTube Channel when possible

I. 5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

II. 5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

III. 5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

IV. 5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 1-5-26
2. Approve minutes of 1-9-26 Special Meeting
3. Approve minutes of 1-10-26 Community Meeting Day
4. Approve minutes of 1-12-26 Special Meeting

V. 5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Letter - Common Level of Appraisal dated 1-2-26
2. Review and sign Letter of Support for Vermont Recreational Trails Program Planning Grant
3. Discussion and possible action — Discontinuing use of postmark date for property tax payments.
4. Finalize FY 26/27 budget
5. Review draft warning for Town Meeting

VI. 6:50PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion on Draft Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy

VII. 7:10PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

VIII. 7:14PM - SCHEDULE

1. Monday, January 26, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
   Monday, February 2, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
   Tuesday, February 27, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

IX. 7:18PM - OTHER BUSINESS

X. 7:20PM - ADJOURN

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*

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 possiblilty, 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.

State of Vermont Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 9, 2026

Members: Don McDowell*, Richard Craig*, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger

Absent: Laura Streets

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Tyler Machia*, Zoning Administrator

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Attorney David Rugh, Associate Zachary Handelman

**participating via Zoom*

3:00PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell and Richard Craig joined the meeting via zoom and George Cormier was asked to facilitate the Selectboard meeting.
George Cormier called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 3:00PM at the Tegu Building.

3:01PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

3:03PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

3:10PM - 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 Attorney David Rugh, Town Manager Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant Judi Alberi, and Zoning/Planning Administrator Tyler Machia.
   Motion by Leah Hollenberger 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 Attorney David Rugh, Associate Zachary Handelman, Town Manager Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant Judi Alberi, and Zoning/Planning Administrator Tyler Machia. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0) by roll call.
   Don McDowell left the meeting at 3:45PM
   Motion by Leah Hollenberger to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (3/0) by roll call.

   George Cormier announced that the Selectboard will be taking no action at this time on the 2322 Laporte Road LLC project. Selectboard will be awaiting comments and/or communications from interested parties and any further responses from the District 5 Commissioners.

3:45PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (3/0) by roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm
Submitted and filed this 1/12/26.
Judi Alberi, Scribe

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

MORRISTOWN
State of Vermont — Chartered in 1781

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 10, 2026

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Shap Smith, Moderator, Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Tina Sweet, Finance Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Approx 50 residents including Findlay Wilkins, Kelly Dolan, Summer Capiga, Shannon Carchidi, Susan Drew, Erica Scott, Kathy Demars, Carol Lang-Godin, Becky Gonyeau, Heather Hobart, Robin Pierce, Jonah Rabinowitz, Alison Calderara, Kim Lipinski, Tom Cloutier, Dennis & Lorinda Smith, Martin Green, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Nancy Banks, Chris Yates, Cara Hansy, Gary Nolan, Maggie Cleary, Shelley Nolan, Carol Lauber, Joie Marshall.

**participating via Zoom*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. **Moderator, Shap Smith, will review the rules of procedure**
   The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Moderator Shap Smith. The Moderator introduced town officials, including Town Manager Brent Raymond, Finance Director Tina Sweet, the Selectboard, Don, Richard, Laura, George and Leah. He reviewed the rules of procedure, noting the meeting followed Robert's Rules of Order, with speakers limited to two minutes per turn and two turns per topic. The meeting was recorded by GMATV.

   Pie was served by the Morristown Soccer Club Euro Trip team to raise funds for their 2026 trip to Spain.
   Shap reminded residents that all town and school officials are now elected by Australian ballot, with a petition deadline of January 26, 2026.
   Shap also reminded folks of the Town Report dedication and a raffle for the 2026 Morristown dog tag number one would be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review Budget Summary and Town Financials**
   Town Manager Brent Raymond provided an overview of the proposed $10.38 million operating base budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. He noted that the operating base budget represents a 0.54% increase over the previous year, while anticipated revenues are expected to decrease by over $290,000. A key factor contributing to this budgetary pressure is the absence of the ability to use $500,000 from the unallocated fund balance to offset taxes this year. In addition, the state's current use reimbursement is projected to decline by approximately $140,000. Departmental highlights

included a significant increase in costs for the Police Department's body camera and taser contracts, now totaling $39,000 annually; a small increase in the Fire Department budget; and a decrease in Highway Department personnel costs primarily due to the transition from Blue Cross Blue Shield to MVP for health insurance coverage. The Recreation Department budget again does not include funding for a full-time recreation employee, though the Manager acknowledged ongoing community interest in expanded recreation services. The budget also addresses deferred maintenance needs for roads, bridges, and sidewalks; however, Raymond warned that current infrastructure funding levels are not sustainable.

2. **Community Comments**

   Residents expressed a range of opinions and concerns regarding the proposed budget. Tom Cloutier questioned the long-term sustainability of allocating $5–6 million toward salaries and benefits for town employees. Martin Green and Jerry Throne spoke in favor of honoring existing employee agreements and maintaining fair compensation to help retain experienced staff. Nancy Banks and Jerry Throne also voiced support for the proposed Local Option Tax (LOT), which is projected to generate approximately $1.2 million in its first full year if approved. In contrast, Chris Yates and Cara Hansy expressed emotional opposition to the continued lack of funding for recreation programs, emphasizing their importance for families and children in the community. Gary Nolan suggested that the Town explore additional revenue opportunities through the airport and by supporting industrial development.

3. **Presentation by Social Service Agencies**

   Several agencies highlighted their impact on Morristown residents and expressed the need for appropriations to be passed again this year.

4. **Announce the Town Report 2025 Dedication Recipient**

   Don McDowell announced that the 2025 Annual Town Report will be dedicated to Lorinda and Dennis Smith. Lifelong residents, the Smiths were honored for their extensive civic service, particularly their decades of leadership with the Morristown Cemetery Association. Dennis also served 20 years with the Fire Department, while Lorinda served on the Firefighters' Auxiliary and spent 21 years with Lamoille Home Health and Hospice.

5. **Announce the #1 dog tag**

   The #1 Dog Tag for 2026 goes to "Clover" owner Lisa Zinn.

ADJOURN

Moderator Shap Smith in closing, noted that next year's event is scheduled for January 9, 2027.

Meeting adjourned at 11am
Submitted and filed this January 15, 2026.
Judi Alberi, Scribe

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

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.

State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Agency of Administration

Phone: **(802) 828-5860**

January 2, 2026

00558

Chair, Selectboard
Town of Morristown
PO Box 748
Morrisville, VT 05661

2025 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2025 equalization study. Every year PVR is required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	$1,164,370,540
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	$1,309,031,974
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	**88.95% or 0.8895**
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	16.25%
2025 Statewide Adjustment (SA):	70.33% or 0.7033
2025 SA Applied to Your Tax Rates:	[0.8895]/[0.7033] = **126.48% or 1.2648**

In 2024 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 183, which updates the adjustment factor applied to education tax rates starting with the 2025-2026 property tax year, effective on July 1, 2025.

Historically, education tax rates were adjusted by a municipality's CLA from the Equalization Study. Going forward, the new adjustment factor applied to education tax rates is the CLA divided by a single "statewide adjustment." The "statewide adjustment" is the average level of appraisal for all of Vermont.

For example, if a municipality has a CLA of 60%, and the statewide adjustment is 75%, then the adjustment factor applied to the municipality's education property tax rates will be 0.60 / 0.75 = 0.80 or 80%.

All Vermont property will still be taxed at 100% of fair market value, but the factor applied to education property tax rates will be calculated differently. More information is available at tax.vermont.gov/statewide-adjustment.

Key Definitions

The **education grand list** in VTPIE is what your municipality reported to the state on the 411 form and includes (if applicable) your municipality's cable and/or tax increment financing (TIF) amounts.

The education grand list represents the municipality's total property value subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA.

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily mandated estimate of your municipality's education grand list total fair market value. It serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA.

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your municipality is generally assessed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally assessed for less than its fair market value.
The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your municipality. It reflects the average deviation of sales ratios (assessed value ÷ sale price) from the median. A high COD means many taxpayers in your municipality are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. **A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal** (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals
A municipality may petition the director of PVR for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. Submissions can be made by sending a PDF of the appeal to tax.pvr@vermont.gov or by mailing to Department of Taxes, Attn: **PVR; 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401. PVR must receive petitions by the close of business on the 35th day after the mailing of this letter.**

Additional Information
If you have questions about your results, please contact your District Advisor or call 802-828-5860. To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined, and to see how the current year property tax rates for your municipality were calculated, please see the Department's education tax resources at tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates.
To learn more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials.
Municipal officials can view your municipality's final computation sheet and final certified sales report in your VTPIE account. Complete Statewide results can be found here: Equalization Study | Department of Taxes.

Sincerely,

Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Assessor
Chair, Board of Listers
Chair, School Board
Superintendent of Schools SD026
Town Clerk

State of Vermont Chartered in 1781

MORRISTOWN

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801

January 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

The Town of Morristown Selectboard strongly supports the Town of Morristown's application to the Vermont Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Planning Grant for the Morristown Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project. This project is being undertaken in partnership with the Morristown Conservation Commission (MCC) and other regional partners.

Morristown's local trail network connects residents and visitors to schools, parks, conserved lands, and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), a key regional recreation and economic resource. This planning project will provide a comprehensive understanding of trail conditions, uses, and gaps, and identify opportunities to strengthen connections between community destinations and regional trail systems.

The project supports goals in the Morristown Town Plan related to recreation, wellness, environmental stewardship, and economic development. By training volunteers, community engagement, and analyzing trail conditions, the Town and MCC will prioritize future trail work, improve trail sustainability and safety, and ensure responsible management of recreational assets.

Trails are a significant economic driver for Morristown, supporting tourism, local businesses, workforce attraction, and quality of life. This planning effort will position the Town to make strategic, environmentally responsible decisions for future trail improvements while maintaining the value of these assets for the community and visitors.

The Selectboard fully supports this project and its collaborative approach. We believe it is an important step toward strengthening the trail network and ensuring its long-term benefit to the community and local economy.

Sincerely,

Don McDowell, Selectboard Chair
Town of Morristown

43 Portland Street – PO Box 748 – Morrisville VT 05661

Statements

Postmarking Myths and Facts

Jan. 2, 2026

MYTH: How the Postal Service applies postmarks is changing.

FACT: The Postal Service has not changed and is not changing our postmarking practices, which have been consistent since we began moving away from hand-canceling every item at Post Offices decades ago. Postmarks are generally applied by machines at our originating processing facilities and will continue to be applied at those facilities in the same manner and to the same extent as before. Postmarks applied at those facilities will continue to contain the name or location of the facility that applied the postmark and the date on which the first automated processing operation was performed on that mailpiece.

While we are not changing our postmarking practices, we have made adjustments to our transportation operations that will result in some mailpieces not arriving at our originating processing facilities on the same day that they are mailed. This means that the date on the postmarks applied at our processing facilities will not necessarily match the date on which the customer's mailpiece was collected by a letter carrier or dropped off at a retail location.

As before, a customer can ensure that a postmark is applied to his or her mailpiece, and that the date on the postmark matches the date of mailing, by visiting a Postal Service retail location and requesting a manual (local) postmark at the retail counter when tendering their mailpiece. Manual postmarks will be applied free of charge.

MYTH: The Postal Service has long offered the postmark as a way of proving when mail was sent.

FACT: Customers have used postmarking for their own purposes, but postmarking is not and has not been a service that the Postal Service has provided to the public for such purposes. The postmark has always fundamentally existed to perform functions (including cancelation of postage) internal to Postal Service operations.

Customers who wish to obtain a postmark aligning with the date of mailing may request a manual (local) postmark at a retail location. Customers who wish to retain a record or proof of the date on which the Postal Service first accepted possession of their mailpiece(s) may purchase a Certificate of Mailing. Registered Mail and Certified Mail services also provide mailing receipts for individual mailpieces.

MYTH: The Postal Service didn't notify the public about this update to its language.

FACT: The Postal Service engaged in discussions with customer groups, posted information on our website, and initiated a public notice and comment period in the Federal Register in August 2025, which concluded when the Postal Service published its final notice on this topic, including responses to the comments received, in November 2025. Federal Register :: Postmarks and Postal Possession. The filing also includes details about our efforts to communicate this information with the public and various interest groups. The updated Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) language clarifies our practices so that customers who need a postmark, including a postmark with a date that aligns with the date of mailing, can plan accordingly.

MYTH: Postmarks show when and where the Postal Service took possession of my mail.

FACT: A postmark date does not necessarily indicate the first day that the Postal Service took possession of the mailpiece. Rather, it confirms that the Postal Service accepted custody of a mailpiece, and that the mailpiece was in the possession of the Postal Service on the identified date. Also note that the absence of a postmark does not necessarily imply that the Postal Service did not accept custody of a mailpiece, because the Postal Service does not postmark all mail in the ordinary course of operations and because occasional circumstances may arise where a legible postmark is not applied.

Again, if a customer wants to ensure that their mailpiece receives a postmark, and that the date on the postmark aligns with the date of mailing, the customer may take the mailpiece to a Postal Service retail location and request a manual (local) postmark at the retail counter when tendering their mailpiece. The manual postmark will be applied free of charge.

Back to top

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN					
Budget Overview					
Article	2024-25 VOTED Budget	2025-2026 VOTED Budget	**2026-2027 PROPOSED Budget**	**Increase/ Decrease**	% Change
General Government - Includes Library Maintenance	$ 2,767,660	$ 2,991,735	$ 2,933,544	$ (58,191)	-1.95%
Other Organizations/Appropriations					
Cemeteries	58,000	61,746	75,300	13,554	21.95%
Morristown Centennial Library - Appropriation	$ 286,448	$ 206,041	$ 211,810	5,769	2.80%
Other Organizations	$ 8,500	$ 8,500	$ 8,500	-	0.00%
Police Department	2,121,517	2,334,203	2,466,650	132,447	5.67%
Fire Department	385,735	426,442	433,835	7,393	1.73%
EMS Department	1,099,015	1,079,269	1,130,975	51,706	4.79%
Highway Department	3,019,689	3,218,693	3,121,702	(96,991)	-3.01%
Total OPERATING BASE Budgets	9,746,564	10,326,629	10,382,316	55,687	0.54%
LESS: Anticipated Revenues	(1,517,085)	(1,761,164)	(1,469,268)	(291,896)	-16.57%
LESS: Unallocated Fund Balance	(500,000)	(500,000)	-	500,000	-100.00%
Total OPERATING BASE Budgets	**$ 7,729,479**	**$ 8,065,465**	**$ 8,913,048**	**$ 847,583**	10.51%
Special Warning Items					
Fire Dept Capital Equip. Fund (1₵)	$ 111,570	$ 115,457	$ -	(115,457)	-100.0%
Highway Dept Capital Equip. Fund (1₵)	$ 111,570	$ 115,457	$ -	(115,457)	-100.0%
Conservation Commission Fund (1/4₵)	$ -	$ 28,864	$ -	$ 28,864	100.0%
Bridge & Highway Infrastructure Fund (2₵)	$ 55,785	$ 230,914	$ 233,500	2,586	1.1%
Total Special Warning Items	**$ 278,925**	**$ 490,692**	**$ 233,500**	**$ (257,192)**	-52.4%
Sub-Total Town Budget	**$ 8,008,404**	**$ 8,556,157**	**$ 9,146,548**	**$ 590,391**	6.9%
Appropriations					
Service Agencies	$ 87,969	$ 83,969	$ 83,969	$ -	
North Central VT Recovery Center	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	
River Arts	$ 6,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ 98,969	$ 83,969	$ 83,969	$ -	0.0%
Veterans Exemption	$ 9,631	$ 9,631	$ 8,510	$ -	0.0%
Total Appropriations	**$ 108,600**	**$ 93,600**	**$ 92,479**	**$ -**	-1.2%
Total Warned	**$ 8,117,004**	**$ 8,649,757**	**$ 9,239,027**	**$ 589,270**	**6.8%**
			$ 589,270		Increase

1/9/2026 @ 10:43 AM

WARNING

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Morristown are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Morristown Municipal Building, 43 Portland Street in said Town on March 3, 2026 from 8:00 am – 7:00 pm to transact the following business by Australian ballot:

<u>ARTICLE 1:</u> To elect all Town Officers required by law:
Moderator for a term of one (1) year
Lister for a term of three (3) years
Lister for a two (2) year remainder of a three (3) year term
Selectboard Member for a term of two (2) years
Selectboard Member for a term of three (3) years
Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three (3) years
Town Clerk for a term of three (3) years
Town Treasurer for a term of three (3) years

<u>ARTICLE 2:</u> Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in two equal installments, with the due dates being November 16, 2026 and May 17, 2027 by physical delivery to the Town Treasurer before 4:00 pm on that date or delivery to the Municipal Office postmarked on or before that date?

<u>ARTICLE 3:</u> Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of $10,382,316 of which $8,913,048 shall be raised by taxes and $1,469,268 by non-tax revenues?

<u>ARTICLE 4:</u> Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on sales pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(1)?

<u>ARTICLE 5:</u> Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on meals and alcoholic beverages pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(2)?

<u>ARTICLE 6:</u> Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on rooms pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(3)?

<u>ARTICLE 7:</u> Shall the voters authorize raising taxes equal to two (2) cents on the Grand List approximately $233,500 to be dedicated to the Bridge, Sidewalk, and Infrastructure Reserve Fund?

<u>ARTICLE 8:</u>Shall the voters, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 3254, levy a special assessment not to exceed $300,000 for the purpose of constructing stormwater improvements to benefit 64 parcels. 63 parcels having frontages on Foss Street, Jersey Court, Jersey Way and Sterling Court, and one parcel with frontage on Cottage Street, said 64 parcels being designated as the "Jersey Heights Special Assessment District" with said special assessment being apportioned among these 64 parcels based on the impervious surface present on each parcel and the assessment being payable over a period not to exceed twenty (20) years in semiannual installments.

(NOTE: Only the 64 parcels comprising the Jersey Heights Special Assessment District will be assessed for these costs. A complete list of the parcels to be assessed, identified by their respective street addresses, and the taxes proposed to be assessed to each parcel is available for review at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours).

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Morristown authorize borrowing an amount not to exceed $300,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed twenty (20) years, to pay for State-required stormwater infrastructure improvements in the Jersey Heights Special Assessment District?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters appropriate $900 for the support of Capstone Community Action, formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council, which helps Vermonters achieve economic sufficiency with dignity through individual and family development?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters appropriate $2,900 for the support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE) which is a community-based non-profit that provides free adult education and literacy services to out-of-school adults?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters appropriate $2,500 for the support of Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) which supports older adults and family caregivers to age with dignity, remain healthy, and stay active and connected to communities through a variety of programs and services?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters appropriate $1,750 for the support of Clarina Howard Nichols Center which works to end domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking through advocacy, outreach and education, prevention, and social change?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters appropriate $1,000 for the support of Justice for Dogs which is a local animal rescue group helping only local dogs and cats when the need arises?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters appropriate $5,000 for the support of Lamoille County Food Share which is dedicated to providing food security for our neighbors in Lamoille County through a food pantry where families can come and receive basic food and other grocery items to stretch their food dollars?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the voters appropriate $1,000 for the support of Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity which builds perpetually affordable homes for low-income, hardworking families?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the voters appropriate $3,900 for the support of Lamoille County Mental Health/Community Connections which provides behavioral health services to residents of Lamoille County, including a 24/7 mobile crisis team?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the voters appropriate $3,375 for the support of Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit which responds to reports of child sexual abuse, adult sex assaults, serious child physical abuse, and abuse to vulnerable adults in Lamoille County?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the voters appropriate $4,000 for the support of Lamoille Day Services which provides adults with an alternative choice for long-term healthcare while remaining as independent as possible in the care setting of their choice?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the voters appropriate $3,000 for the support of Lamoille Family Center which offers services and programs that promote the well-being of Lamoille Valley children, youth and families, supporting them in meeting life's challenges through education, direct service, and advocacy?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the voters appropriate $15,681 for the support of Lamoille Home Health and Hospice which provides home and hospice care to residents of Morristown in their homes, keeping them out of hospitals and facilities?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the voters appropriate $1,000 for the support of Lamoille Housing Partnership which collaborates with communities to create and preserve quality affordable housing opportunities in Lamoille County for households earning lower and moderate incomes through employment or social security?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the voters appropriate $1,500 for the support of Lamoille Restorative Center (LRC-formerly known as Lamoille Court Diversion) LRC which provides services in its 13 programs which serve youth and adults involved in the legal system, support youth around engaging in school and employment, and train and consult with many organizations in restorative practices?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the voters appropriate $10,000 for the support of Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County whose mission is to improve health and enhance the quality of life for our community elders by providing nutritious meals and social interaction?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the voters appropriate $1,000 for the support of North Country Animal League (NCAL) which provides animal stray and surrenders services, pet food assistance, adoption services, low-cost wellness clinics, and humane education programs to youth?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the voters appropriate $5,000 for the support of Northern Central Vermont Recovery Center which provides a safe, welcoming, substance-free environment for individuals and families on their paths to lasting recovery from substance use disorder?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the voters appropriate $1,000 for the support of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) whose volunteers help create a caring network of support to help older Vermonters continue to live independently while staying socially connected?

ARTICLE 28: Shall the voters appropriate $6,000 for the support of River Arts with a mission of arts for everyone, ensuring that art is accessible to all, regardless of race, gender expression, age, ability, or financial means?

ARTICLE 29: Shall the voters appropriate $10,963 for the support of Rural Community Transportation (RCT) which provides public transportation services for everyone that are safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable to enhance the economic, social, and environmental health of the community?

ARTICLE 30: Shall the voters appropriate $2,500 for the support of Salvation Farms which connects communities with local farms surplus production, collecting, processing, and distributing locally grown food that would otherwise never make it off farms in Vermont?

Dated this _____ day of January 2026

By the Selectboard of the Town of Morristown:

Don McDowell

Richard Craig

Laura Streets

George Cormier

Leah Hollenberger

Attest:

Sara Haskins, Town Clerk

Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy

Title and Authority

This policy shall be known as the **Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy** for the Town of Morristown, Vermont, and is adopted by the Morristown Selectboard under the authority granted to municipalities to assess a one percent (1%) local option tax pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b).

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish clear and consistent guidelines for the use of revenues generated by the one percent (1%) Local Option Sales Tax assessed in Morristown.
- Ensure that such revenues are dedicated to long-term community benefit, fiscal responsibility, and reduced reliance on municipal property taxes.

Establishment of Local Option Tax Fund

- All net revenues received by the Town of Morristown from the Local Option Sales Tax shall be deposited into a separate, dedicated **Local Option Tax Fund** within the Town's financial system.
- Monies in the Local Option Tax Fund shall be appropriated only as authorized by this policy and by formal action of the Morristown Selectboard at a duly warned meeting.

Authorized Uses of Funds

Revenues in the Local Option Tax Fund shall be dedicated to the following purposes, which may be used individually or in combination as determined by the Selectboard during the annual budget process or by separate action:

Capital projects and infrastructure

- Funding design, construction, repair, and maintenance of municipal roads, bridges, sidewalks, stormwater systems, and related **infrastructure** necessary to support safe and efficient transportation and public services.
- Supporting other capital improvements to Town-owned facilities and equipment that extend useful life and reduce future operating or borrowing costs.

Public safety (EMS, fire, police)

- Purchasing, replacing, or upgrading capital equipment, vehicles, apparatus, and facilities for Emergency Medical Services, Fire, and Police departments.ve
- Supporting major one-time investments that enhance public safety, emergency preparedness, and response capacity, but not for routine ongoing operating expenses whenever reasonably avoidable.

Debt reduction

- Paying down existing municipal debt principal and interest on approved capital projects to reduce long-term obligations.
- Avoiding or reducing the need for future borrowing when feasible by cash-funding appropriate capital expenditures.

Future emergency needs

- Building and maintaining a reserve within the Local Option Tax Fund or related reserve accounts for unanticipated emergencies, natural disasters, major equipment failures, or other unforeseen municipal needs requiring immediate financial response.
- Using such reserves only upon Selectboard approval at a duly warned meeting where the emergency nature of the expenditure is clearly identified.

Economic and community development

- Supporting economic and community development initiatives that strengthen Morristown's tax base, local businesses, housing opportunities, tourism, and overall quality of life.
- Examples may include, but are not limited to, downtown improvements, wayfinding, public spaces, placemaking projects, business support programs, and planning or implementation efforts in coordination with regional and state partners.

Reduction of municipal property taxes

- Applying a portion of Local Option Tax revenues to offset the municipal property tax requirement as part of the annual budget, thereby reducing the amount that would otherwise be raised from property taxpayers.
- The amount or percentage to be applied for property tax reduction shall be determined annually by the Selectboard during budget deliberations and clearly identified in the proposed budget presented to voters.

Administration and Oversight

- The Town Manager, or designee, shall be responsible for administering the Local Option Tax Fund, including accounting, recordkeeping, and preparation of recommendations to the Selectboard for the use of funds consistent with this policy.
- The Selectboard shall authorize all expenditures from the Local Option Tax Fund by vote at a duly warned meeting, either as part of the annual budget adoption process or through specific actions on warned agenda items.

Transparency and Reporting

- The Town shall provide an annual report on Local Option Tax revenues, expenditures, and fund balance in the Town's Annual Report or equivalent public document.
- The report shall summarize how funds were used within each authorized category (capital projects, public safety, debt reduction, emergency reserves, economic and community development, and property tax reduction).

Relationship to Other Policies and Budget Decisions

- This policy is intended to guide Selectboard decisions and public expectations regarding the use of Local Option Tax revenues and shall be applied in conjunction with the Town's capital improvement planning and annual budgeting processes.
- Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Town's voters to approve or reject municipal budgets or capital projects, or the authority of the Selectboard to amend this policy in the future by majority vote at a duly warned meeting.

Amendment or Repeal

- This policy may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Morristown Selectboard at a duly warned meeting, with any proposed changes listed as a separate agenda item.
- Any such action shall be recorded in the Selectboard minutes, and the updated policy shall be made available on the Town's website and in the Town offices.

Selectboard Adoption

Adopted this ____ day of __________, 2026, by the Morristown Selectboard:

Selectboard for the Town of Morristown

______________________________	______________________________
Don McDowell, Chair	**Richard Craig, Vice Chair**
______________________________	______________________________
Laura Streets	**George Cormier**
______________________________	
Leah Hollenberger	