



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661
5:30 PM Monday, January 26, 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. 5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Mailing of annual school ballots
 - 2. Pleasant View Cemetery Association continued discussions
 - 3. Approve and sign Town Meeting Warning
- V. 6:30PM - ADJOURN**



SELECTBOARD MEMORANDUM

To: Selectboard
From: Sara Haskins, Town Clerk
Date: January 26, 2026
Subject: Mailing of annual school ballots

Suggested Motion:

Motion to approve the automatic mailing of annual school ballots to all active voters.

Attachments:

None

History: On Town Meeting Day March 6, 2001, the Town voted to *“take its burial ground out of the charge of the Town Board of Cemetery Commissioners, place the same under the charge of the Selectboard and authorize the Selectboard to delegate appropriate duties and tasks to third parties”*. Don Anderson explained that this is being done so that the Town and Pleasant View Cemetery Assoc. can reorganize to better serve the Pleasant View Cemetery. On April 16, 2001, the Selectboard voted to turn the daily operation and funds of the Cemetery Commission over to the Cemetery Association. Motion passed.

Today: The Morristown Selectboard and Administration have serious concerns about the financial management of Pleasant View Cemetery and the stewardship of the endowment/perpetual care investment fund.

Outlined below is a summary of concerns:

1. The ongoing unrestrained depletion of the endowment/perpetual care fund. In September 2021 the value of the endowment/perpetual care fund was \$364,401.00. As of April 2025, it is \$123,487.00
2. The excessive withdrawal rate of the fund has had a severe impact on its viability.
3. The substantial withdrawals over the past 3 years brought the fund below the previous Investment Policy floor of \$250,000.00. The remedy the PVC board took was to lower the floor to \$50,000.00. This is unacceptable fiduciary responsibility of these funds.
4. In the PVC Association’s current budget proposal for FY 25/26, it shows an additional \$25,000.00 withdrawal from the fund to meet their current projected expenses. This is unsustainable.
5. The PVC Association has awarded contracts with companies to do tree cutting, stone cleaning, building repair and cemetery mapping requiring no bids.
6. Clegg Memorials was given a \$44,290.00 no-bid contract to clean cemetery memorials.
7. Construction repair no-bid contract for \$22,130.00 on the so-called Caretakers House was awarded to the cemetery caretaker’s girlfriend’s father. This calls into question a violation of their own Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.
8. Since 2013 PVC has paid out in mostly no-bid arrangements for tree removal services totaling \$152,376.00
9. Lazarus Cemetery Mapping Company was awarded a \$21,259.00 contract to map PVC burial lots. This was done even though the municipality had, several years ago, purchased a similar program for PVC and the Town Cemetery Association to use. The Town Cemetery Association is currently utilizing the program with success. PVC decided not to.
10. Vermont Monuments of Morrisville has been banned from doing any memorial work in PVC giving it’s only in-town competitor (Clegg Memorials) exclusive local ability to serve the area. Mr. John Clegg now sits on the PVC Association board. This too is likely a violation of their Conflict of Interest Policy.
11. Endowment/perpetual care money was used to purchase and install an \$10,762.00 monument to honor Gloria Wing. This was purchased on a no-bid contract from Clegg Memorials. There was no consideration to try and raise private funds to do this project.

12. Perpetual care money is paid to cemeteries at the time a cemetery plot(s) is purchased. It is to assure the plot owner that mowing and trimming is done in perpetuity. In the 2016/2017 town audit, the Town Auditor researched what portion of the so-called “endowment fund” money is attributed to perpetual care money. The research showed that of the \$368,492.00 total value at that time, \$200,000.00 was determined to be perpetual care funds and should be deemed non-spendable. The balance of the funds at that time, \$168,492.00, were considered restricted. This was shared with the PVC board, and they agreed to this on October 19, 2017. The current total value of all funds is \$140,785.00, well below the minimum non-spendable amount.
13. December 15, 2020, PVC received a check for \$10,000.00 to be used exclusively for the “replacement and upkeep” for the Sheldon, Slayton, and Noyes family stones. The principal and interest of these funds are comingled with current investments and there has been no attempt to provide individual accounting for this money.
14. The PVC board has continued the practice of hiring employees to maintain the cemetery. This practice mandates workers compensation coverage, FICA payroll taxes, State and Federal unemployment taxes. One employee annually collects unemployment. PVC provides all equipment, fuel, equipment repairs and misc. supplies. The proposed budget for FY25/26 for payroll and related employment expenses is \$33,650.00. In addition, the budget calls for \$3,350.00 in fuel, small equipment, equipment maintenance, and capital equipment. A total of \$37,000.00. A new mower and part-time employee were removed from the original budget proposal. In contrast, the Town’s seven cemeteries contract out summer maintenance, which includes spring and fall cleanup. A bid was accepted for \$19,000.00. PVC has indicated that they have no interest in putting the grounds maintenance out for bid.
15. The PVC board has stated they had approached a former Selectboard about projects they felt needed to be addressed at the cemetery. They state the board at that time told them they had a sizeable endowment, and they should utilize it. We have not been able to verify that conversation or context. What is evident is the sizable depletion of endowment/perpetual care funds with no intent to change practices or a plan to build back the fund.
16. It appears that in March 2025 that PVCA transferred \$13,266.00 from the Endowment/Perpetual Care Fund into a new account. The Town would like to know what the use of this transfer of funds is designated for. More to the point, is the Association using these funds for any other purpose than what perpetual care funds are designated for?

Conclusion:

Based on the above information and previous discussions with the PVC board, it should be concluded that the Town of Morristown should take back the management of Pleasant View Cemetery and the fiduciary responsibility of the Endowment/Perpetual Care Funds.

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:

ARTICLE 1: 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

Town Clerk for a term of three (3) years

Town Treasurer for a term of three (3) years

Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three (3) years

ARTICLE 2: 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 p.m. Eastern Standard Time?

ARTICLE 3: 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?

ARTICLE 4: 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?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on sales pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(1)?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on meals and alcoholic beverages pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(2)?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on rooms pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(3)?

ARTICLE 8: 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