



**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 22, 2026**

Members: Charlie Burnham, Donnie Blake, Don McDowell, Ed Wilson, Judy Bickford, Julia Compagna, Leah Hollenberger, Monte Mason, Richard Craig, Roland Billings, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney*, Urban Martin, and Sara Haskins (Clerk).

Absent: Darcie Abbene, George Cormier, Laura Streets, Yvette Mason

Guest:

participating via zoom*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Donnie Blake called the Board of Civil Authority meeting to order at 6:15 PM at the Morrystown Municipal Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Correct the year to 2025 in the item: Approve minutes of September 8, 2026

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of September 8, 2026

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025. Motion seconded by Shap Smith. Motion carried with Don McDowell abstaining because he was not present at that meeting. (14/0/1)

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set polling hours and locations for 2026

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger and seconded by Shap Smith to set the 2026 Morrystown polling locations and hours as follows:

- The Annual Town Meeting, Annual School Meeting, and State August Primary shall be held at the Morrystown Municipal Building, with polling hours from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*
- The General Election shall be held at the Morrystown Municipal Building, with polling hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*
- The Annual Village Meeting shall be held at the Morrisville VFW, beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

Motion carried. (15/0)

2. Appoint Election Officials for 2026

Motion made by Shap Smith to appoint all Morrystown registered voters designated by the Town Clerk to be election officials for 2026. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (15/0)

3. Appoint Presiding Officer in case Town Clerk is unable to preside

Motion made by Shap Smith to appoint Mitzi Fleming, Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer, to be the presiding officer in the case the Town Clerk is unable to preside over a 2026 Morristown or Morrisville election. Motion seconded by Shelley Nolan. Motion carried. (15/0)

4. Discuss upcoming elections

The Board discussed the upcoming March elections, noting that the logistics will remain the same as last year. Concerns were raised about potential delays in mail processing, and the Board requested that Sara Haskins post an announcement on the Front Porch Forum encouraging voters to drop off ballots in the secure official drop box, bring them to the Clerk's office, or take them to the polling location on election day. Sara will also be sending out a Google form to determine volunteer availability to work at the election and process absentee ballots. Additionally, Sara shared that there are a few election-related bills currently under review in the legislature and indicated that she will provide updates to the Board if any of these bills gain traction.

5. Appoint JOP to deliver annual meeting ballots

Judy Bickford, Ed Wilson, Shelley Nolan and Urban Martin volunteered to deliver ballots to ill or physically disabled voters.

6. Review checklist changes

Sara Haskins presented a list of changes to the voter checklist since the last time reviewed on September 4, 2025. There have been 95 new voter registrations, 58 voters challenged, 25 voters purged and 57 voters transferred to other towns in Vermont. There are currently 4357 voters on the checklist. The BCA reviewed the changes. ***Motion made by Richard Craig to accept the list as presented. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (15/0).***

7. Discuss VMCTA statement about threatening of Election Officials

Sara Haskins read a statement recently adopted by the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association regarding threats to election officials. The statement, which addresses all election workers—not just Town Clerk staff—is currently under review for endorsement by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office and the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Sara also shared that bill H.541, related to interference with voters and election officials, is currently being considered in the Judiciary Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

none

ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (15/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Submitted and filed this January 23, 2026.

Sara Haskins, Clerk

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Board of Civil Authority meeting.



Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association (VMCTA) Statement about Threatening of Election Officials

The VMCTA strongly condemns threatening, harassing, bribing, or interfering with election officials, either while performing their duties, or outside of their work hours. We also condemn threatening, harassing, or interfering with the lives of their family members, pets, or close friends. Election officials perform their work under oath to uphold the laws of their state and of the United States Constitution. Injurious acts toward election officials will not change the outcome of a vote. Anyone with a complaint about the acts of an election official should follow the procedures of law, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 15512(a), and 17 V.S.A. § 2458.