



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF APRIL 6, 2026**

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

Absent: Rose Belanger

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jamie Jaret, Monelle Cote, Jerry Throne, Dan McLaughlin, Erica Scott

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Richard Craig called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:33PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 3-16-26

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the minutes of 3/16/26. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (4/0)

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Fireworks application for LACiNg Up for Cancer Walk - Erica Scott

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the fireworks' application for the LACiNg Up for Cancer Walk on June 20, 2026, and authorize Richard Craig to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

2. Review of LURB Comments on Planned Growth Area, Map, Flood Hazard Areas, and LCPC's planned response

The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) has received formal comments from the Land Use Review Board (LURB) regarding the Lamoille County Regional Plan. Several of these comments relate specifically to Morristown's Planned Growth Areas (PGAs), particularly where those areas overlap with mapped flood hazard or river corridor areas. PGAs may only include flood hazard areas if those areas meet the definition of "infill development" as outlined in Section 29-201 of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule. The LURB has determined that certain areas within Morristown's designated PGAs do not meet this definition and therefore require revision. Brent explained that this is an issue with a technical term that involves floodplain areas and doesn't change any boundaries. They discussed and approved LCPC's proposed changes to the planned growth area map, which will relabel certain areas as the downtown district without changing existing zoning bylaws.

Motion made by George Cormier to support the LCPC's proposed changes to the Planned Growth Area map and to authorize LCPC staff to proceed with the revised mapping for submittal to LURB. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

- 3. Accept bid to finance the purchase of a tandem axle dump/plow truck approved 25/26 budget**
Town Treasurer, Sara Haskins, received bids from 7 different loan services in the area for the Selectboard to choose from. After careful consideration, Northfield Savings Bank was selected.

Motion made by George Cormier to accept the bid from Northfield Savings Bank at 4.8% interest rate, with semi-annual fixed payments of \$23,153 to finance the purchase of a tandem axle dump/plow truck. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

- 4. Rubber Tire Excavator - Review bid results and consider award - approved 26/27 budget**
Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent, received bids for a rubber tire excavator to replace a 2008 backhoe. Jordan presented three options, recommending the Takeuchi TB395W at \$172,900, which was \$17,100 under budget. The board discussed financing options, with Brent Raymond clarifying that the financing amount would be approximately \$97,900 after a \$75,000 down payment from the equipment fund. Don and George raised concerns regarding the payment but, after some discussion, were confident in the numbers presented.

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to award the bid for the rubber-tire excavator to Anderson Equipment for the Takeuchi TB395W at \$172,900, based on the reviewed bid results, and further move to authorize Town Manager Brent Raymond to select the most favorable financing option available through the Town Treasurer's bid process. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

- 5. Tandem Axle dump/plow truck - Review bid results and consider award - approved 26/27 budget**
Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent, recommended Charlebois for their exceptional after-sale support. While the Freightliner purchase is \$10,764 over budget, the \$17,100 savings from the Takeuchi selection results in a net surplus of \$6,336, staying well within the equipment funds approved by voters as part of the FY26/27 General Budget.

Motion made by George Cormier to award the bid for the tandem-axle dump/plow truck to Charlebois Freightliner for \$273,764, including upfitting by Viking-Cives based on the reviewed bid results, and further move to authorize Town Manager Brent Raymond to select the most favorable financing option available through the Town Treasurer's bid process. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

- 6. Elmore Street sidewalk replacement - Contractor selection**
Jordan St. Onge stated the project involves replacing 800 feet of sidewalk and setting 630 feet of granite curb from 499 Upper Main St. to Home Acres St. The sidewalk is only 4' wide, has no curb, and is badly damaged. The estimated project cost is \$150,000. We received a VTrans Small Scale Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program of \$75,000. There will be a match in-kind by the highway department's completion of all demo, flagging, material hauling, back-filling, seeding, and patch paving in-house. Work is to be completed this summer, between mid-May and the end of September. Brent thanked and acknowledged Jordan for his pursuit of grant funds.

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to award the contract for the Elmore Street sidewalk replacement to EEC Excavating for \$85,500, as the successful bidder, based on the reviewed bid

results and execution of a signed performance expectations document with Highway Superintendent, Jordan St. Onge. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

7. Highway Department - Review and discussion of 2026 summer work plans

Jordan presented the Highway Department's 2026 summer plans, which include replacing 800 feet of sidewalk on Elmore Street, 250 feet on Walburn Avenue, replacing 22 sidewalk panels with ADA warning devices, restoring the ability to plow Cherry Ave. sidewalks, painting the Francis Favreau Bridge, among many other projects. The department also reported a \$40,000 savings in salt usage this winter due to new ground speed control systems, and discussed potential challenges with asphalt pricing due to rising oil costs. George and Leah thanked Jordan and commented on the amount of work planned for the summer, as well as his efforts in pursuing grant funding.

8. Lazy Lane - Consider granting permission to the Loati family to make improvements to a Class 4 Town Highway

The Highway Department received a formal request from resident Nichole Loati to improve Lazy Lane, a Class 4 town highway, by widening it and installing stabilization materials. All requests to improve a Class 4 highway will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Selectboard during a public meeting. Jordan's review found that the proposed materials and methods are consistent with standard road construction practices, and the Loatis are the only abutters on this section of road. He recommended that the Selectboard approve this request and noted 1. all costs associated with these improvements and future maintenance remain the responsibility of the applicant, and 2. future maintenance of this section of Lazy Lane does not require additional approval. The board discussed liability concerns but ultimately approved the improvement project based on precedent and road policy.

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to grant permission to the Loati family to make improvements to Lazy Lane, which is a Class 4 Town Highway. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

9. Consideration of discontinuance proceedings under 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7 for Lazy Lane, Lanphear Rd, Stub Towne Rd, Lyle McKee Farm Rd, and Sand Ridge Rd (see schedule in section VIII)

There was a question from Jerry Throne regarding the Sand Ridge Rd discontinuance. Leah Hollenberger by point of order suggested that this conversation was more suited to public hearing on June 22, 2026 for that conversation.

Motion made by George Cormier that the Town of Morristown, Selectboard initiate discontinuance proceedings by its own motion, and ratify its January 5th motion to initiate such proceedings, under 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7 for the following town highways: Lazy Lane, Lanphear Rd, Stub Towne Rd, Lyle McKee Farm Rd, and Sand Ridge Rd.

I further move that the Selectboard schedule, and in the case of Lanphear Rd and Lazy Lane ratify the scheduling of, the following site visits and public hearings as part of these proceedings:

Monday, April 27, 2026: Site Visit at 4:00 PM for Lanphear Rd; Site Visit at 4:30 PM for Lazy Lane; Public Hearing at 5:30 PM for Lanphear Rd; Public Hearing at 5:45 PM for Lazy Lane.

Monday, May 4, 2026: Site Visit at 4:30 PM for Stub Towne Rd; Public Hearing at 5:30 PM for Stub Towne Rd.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026: Site Visit at 4:30 PM for Lyle McKee Farm Rd; Public Hearing at 5:30 PM for Lyle McKee Farm Rd

Monday, June 22, 2026: Site Visit at 4:30 PM for Sand Ridge Rd; Public Hearing at 5:30 PM for Sand Ridge Rd

Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0)

10. Review and accept Quit Claim Deed from Howard Manosh to the Town for the property located at Jersey Heights Residential Subdivision known as the Common Land on Parcel 20-1

The board approved a Quitclaim deed from Howard A. Manosh. Inc. for property at Jersey Heights Residential Subdivision that will be used for stormwater management. Brent noted that this was concerning the stormwater at Jersey Heights, and he had sought legal counsel on this matter. Leah disclosed that she is a resident of this area, and the Board agreed that she did not need to recuse herself.

Motion made by George Cormier to accept the Quit Claim Deed from Howard Manosh to the Town for the property at the Jersey Heights Residential Subdivision, specifically the Common Land on Parcel 20-1. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

7:00PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

7:01PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by George Cormier to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call. (4/0)

7:05PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Monday, April 20, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
Monday, April 27, 2026 - Site Visit - 4:00PM Lanphear Rd
Monday, April 27, 2026 - Site Visit - 4:30PM Lazy Lane
Monday, April 27, 2025 - Public Hearing - 5:30PM Lanphear Rd; 5:45PM Lazy Lane
Monday, May 4, 2026 - Site Visit - 4:30PM Stub Towne Rd
Monday, May 4, 2026 - Public Hearing - 5:30PM Stub Towne Rd
Monday, May 4, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:31PM immediately following public hearing

7:15PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Executive Session - Contract negotiations and legal advice**
Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to find that premature general public knowledge of pending contract negotiations would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to enter into executive session to discuss pending contract negotiations, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) and to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, and Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to find that premature general public knowledge of the discussion concerning confidential attorney-client communications would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (4/0).

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to enter into executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F), and to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, and Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call. (4/0).

7:20PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by George Cormier to adjourn. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried by roll call. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm
Submitted and filed this 4/9/2026.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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