



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 1, 2026**

Members: Don McDowell, Richard Craig, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger, Rose Belanger

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Kevin Petrochko, Lister/Assessor; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Carol Lauber, Chantal Binginot, Jamie Jaret, Martin Green

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:36 PM at the Tegu Building.

The Selectboard meeting began with Don acknowledging the life of Sergeant Ron Audet of the Morrystown Police Department. He read a tribute to Sergeant Audet, which reviewed his long and impressive record of service to the town and the impact he had on the Police Department, and upon those who knew him. Don requested a moment of silence in honor of Sergeant Audet and then announced that a procession is planned from Hardwick to the VFW on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Additional item under new business Item #1 - Award 2026 Billings Scholarship

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes 5-18-26

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 5/18/26. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Award the Billings Scholarship

A discussion was held regarding the Billings Scholarship following a review of the account's accumulated funds. It was noted that the scholarship is restricted to specific educational specialties and has not been awarded annually. The group agreed to increase the award amount to \$1,000, pending confirmation from Sara Haskins that this change is permissible.

Motion made by Richard Craig to award the Billings Scholarship for \$1,000 to Magnus Hayden, pending confirmation of it being permissible. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Private road name - Beaver Creek Lane

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the private road name "Beaver Creek Lane" as presented and authorize Chair Don McDowell to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (5/0).

3. Approve 4th of July Fireworks Permit for the Town of Morristown

Don acknowledged Judi Alberi and Adele Taplin for the work they undertook to secure a vendor for the fireworks and named several sponsors who contributed to financing the event, which enabled the town to have the fireworks at the Fourth of July celebration.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the Fireworks Display Permit for the Town of Morristown for the 4th of July Celebration, to be held on July 4, 2026 (rain date July 8, 2026) and authorize Chair Don McDowell to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Approve Highway equipment repair invoice

The Selectboard reviewed the equipment repair invoice, and Leah appreciated that the proposal included a plan for future preventive maintenance.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the Highway Department equipment repair invoice from Chadwick Baross in the amount of \$12,373 for repairs to the Holder sidewalk plow, as recommended by the Highway Superintendent. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

5. Designate the Town's voting delegate as Brent Raymond for the VLCT special membership meeting on June 22, 2026

Motion made by Richard Craig to designate Town Manager Brent Raymond as the Town of Morristown's voting delegate for the VLCT Special Membership Meeting on June 22, 2026. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Consider approval of the Tegu Building Re-Roofing and Insulating Project Contract to replace the existing roofing and insulation and insulate the exterior attic walls.

The Selectboard discussed the proposed roofing and insulation project for the Tegu Building and inspected the attic area identified for insulation prior to reviewing the proposal. The total estimated project cost is \$294,000. Approximately \$50,000 in MERP grant funding may be applied toward the insulation portion. The remaining balance will be funded from the Municipal Buildings Fund, which currently has an approximate balance of \$806,000.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the contract with Shenk Enterprises, LLC for the Tegu Building Re-Roofing and Insulating Project in the amount of \$294,000.00, in accordance with the contract documents prepared by Scott + Partners, Inc., and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Town of Morristown. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

7. Consider possible action to set a hearing date on the Planning Commission's proposed zoning bylaws, including warning a public hearing for June 25, 2026.

Motion made by Richard Craig to accept the Planning Commission's proposed zoning bylaws and to

warn a Special Selectboard public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaws for Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 5:30 PM, as a Joint Selectboard/Trustees Public Hearing, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4442. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

8. Update on public records requests received by the Town, and review resulting legal fees and their impact on the budget

Don expressed concern about the amount of time required for administrative staff to fulfill public records requests, noting that the volume has increased to an unmanageable level. He presented a graph showing a steady rise in requests over the past three years. George explained that individual requests may include multiple types of records, such as letters, emails, and body camera footage, and often require legal review to ensure confidentiality protections are maintained. A significant increase in requests was noted, including 121 submissions from a single individual.

The Board emphasized that the Town is committed to transparency and the public records request process as a fundamental component of accountable governance, recognizing that access to public information supports accountability and is essential to a healthy democracy. At the same time, the Board discussed the growing financial and operational impacts of fulfilling requests, including approximately \$12,000 in legal fees incurred over a seven-month period. Leah and Rose agreed to gather comparative data from other municipalities to support potential legislative changes to public records law.

6:20PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:20PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:30PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Tuesday, June 2, 2026- Site Visit - 4:30PM - Lyle McKee Farm Rd
Tuesday, June 2, 2026 - Public Hearing - 5:30PM - Lyle McKee Farm Rd
Monday, June 15, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, June 22, 2026 - Site Visit - 4:30PM - Sand Ridge Rd
Monday, June 22, 2026 - Public Hearing - 5:30PM - Sand Ridge Rd
Thursday, June 25, 2026 - Joint SB/Trustees Public Hearing Proposed Zoning Bylaws - 5:30PM**

6:35PM - OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Executive Session - Personnel, Contracts, and Union Matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), and (a)(1)(E)
*Motion made by Richard Craig to find that premature general public knowledge of the Town's labor relations and collective bargaining matters would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage because such disclosure would reveal the Town's bargaining position and negotiating strategy. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).***

Motion made by Richard Craig that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements, including the negotiation of the union contract to

include Brent Raymond, Judi Alberi, and Cyndi Wiltshire. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to find that premature general public knowledge of the Town's contract negotiation matters would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage because such disclosure would reveal the Town's bargaining position and negotiating strategy. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss the Town's contract and the negotiations to include Brent Raymond, Judi Alberi, and Cyndi Wiltshire. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee, to include Brent Raymond, Judi Alberi, and Cyndi Wiltshire. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:45 PM. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to ratify a union contract for administration and EMS personnel and authorize Brent Raymond, Town Manager, to sign the contract on behalf of the Town. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to authorize ETO payout of 100 hours at the rate of 1-1 for the Town Manager and to transfer any remaining ETO hours to fiscal year 26-27. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

6:40PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm
Submitted and filed this 6/4/26
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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