



SELECTBOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2015

Members Present: Bob Beeman, Brian Kellogg, Steve Rae, Eric Dodge & Joni Lanphear.

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, Town Administrator; Richard Keith, Chief of Police; Denny DiGregorio, Fire Chief; Mary Ann Wilson, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Carol Bradley, Finance Director; Roland Boivin, Highway Foreman; Min Cote, Village Foreman; Nathan Pickard, EMS Chief & Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator.

Guests: Tina Sweet, Shawn Goodell, Anne Rebaud Conway, Brice Simon, Fred Duplessis, Brian Audet & JJ Staples

Bob Beeman called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:00PM

I. AGENDA CHANGES OR ADDITIONS

1. Clarify Contractual is for Family Center & Personnel is at the Request of the Fire Department.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

1. **Motion made by Eric Dodge, seconded by Joni Lanphear to approve Minutes of November 23, 2015. Motion carried. (4/0)**
2. **Motion made by Eric Dodge, seconded by Steve Rae to approve Minutes of November 30, 2015. Motion carried. (3/0) (1) Bob Beeman abstained.**

III. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Denny DiGregorio - thank you to parties(s) responsible for putting old lights back up on the poles.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **REVIEW AUDIT WITH TOWN AUDITORS- SULLIVAN & POWERS-** Fred Duplessis reviewed the Town Audit with the Selectboard. Overall the audit went very well. Fred did recommend having more available in reserves, revising our purchasing policy & budgeting for education tax admin fee income.
2. **RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT APPLICATION-** Bob Grundstein is applying for a permit to dig in the Towns ROW to install a water line to hook onto the Cady's Falls Water Co-op Line. Brice Simon spoke on behalf of some of the neighbors with concerns regarding a large maple tree that stands near the area to be excavated, neighbors are requesting having an arborist look at the tree to determine if digging in that area would harm the tree. There is also a driveway that will be disturbed for a short time that the property owners would rather

not see disturbed at all. Brice also mentioned he would like to see documentation showing ownership by Mr. Grundstein or at least a purchase and sale agreement with the owner of the house. The Selectboard listened to both parties. Mr. Grundstein needs water to the property as he has been without water for over a year. The neighbors would like to see as little damage as possible to the areas of concern. The Selectboard ask the parties to work with the Town Administrator Dan Lindley to solve the issues and to keep in touch with the Selectboard as to the progress.

3. APPOINT FULLTIME OFFICER – Richard would like to appoint Lance Lamb as a fulltime officer to begin December 13, 2015 at a pay rate of \$18.50 per hour.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Eric Dodge to appoint Lance Lamb as a Fulltime Officer for Morristown Police Department at \$18.50 per hour. Motion carried. (5/0)

4. APPROVE RADIO TOWER LEASE- Lease Between Bruce & Gloria Paine and the Town of Morristown for the lease of the radio tower located on their property. Lease is in the amount of \$100 per year for the Fire Department and \$1000 per year for the Highway Department.

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Rae to approve lease agreement and to authorize Dan Lindley, Town Administrator to sign. Motion carried. (5/0)

5. REGIONAL PLAN- Todd Thomas would like the Selectboard to consider vetoing the proposed regional plan per 24 VSA §4348(f). Todd said that the Morrisville Village Trustees similarly voted to veto the proposed regional plan earlier in the evening. Todd said that the regional plan is in conflict with the Town Plan and portions of the regional plan could be used as a regulatory document to stop local development projects desired by the Town. He cited the difference between the regional and town plan and its underlying regulations regarding flood zones as an example of such. Todd showed the Board that the regional plan did not allow development in flood zones, while the Town plan allows development in flood zones that meet NFIP standards. Todd said that there is nothing wrong with developing in a flood zone as long as the bottom floor of the structure was elevated above the base flood elevation - a common development technique used through the county. After reviewing how much of Morristown was in a flood zone and that these properties were likely no longer developable in an Act 250 proceeding due to the new regional plan, Todd cited other issues with land use chapter of the regional plan that were not friendly to new development. He said that this land use chapter would make large residential subdivisions hard for the State to approve outside of the village and “enterprise” zones in the town. He also showed where the regional plan tried to give LCPC standing to comment to Act 250 regarding prime ag issues even when there was not a “substantial regional impact.” Finally, he cited sections of the regional plan that were critical of the location of the village’s new sewer plant because it was in the 100 year flood zone, with language suggested that the sewer plant should be elevated or moved. Dan agreed that the Board should be concerned with these issues raised and said that the regional plan sewer plant language lacked common sense. Todd added that the regional plan was in many places contrary to the community that Morristown wants to be. He said that the regional plan too often paints the entire county with a broad brush, as a rural and agricultural area that does not want to change, without acknowledging that development is desired in Morristown because it is the hub and job center of the county.

**Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Eric Dodge to Veto the Regional Plan.
Motion carried. (4/0)**

Discussion: Selectboard would like to follow up with a letter to the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission outlining the reasons why they are vetoing the plan.

Motion carried. (5/0)

6. BUDGET REVIEW- CAPITAL & REVENUES- Reviewed capital budget and revenues with the Selectboard. There is a reduction in the EMS budget – Nathan has rearranged his budget to help with keeping it at a minimum increase, he also would like to request the Selectboard to adopt the rate increase for ambulance calls for the next agenda as the rate increase can help offset some of the current deficit. There is also a reduction in Town Clerks Office reserve fund under digitization. \$1.00 will be going into the Records Preservation Reserve Fund and the remaining collection of fees will be going into the general fund as required by Statute.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. BOARD OF LIQUOR CONTROL

None

VII. TA REPORT

1. Working with Craig to put together a plan for the reconstruction of Lower Bridge Street from Brooklyn Street to the Bypass. Looking at a Spring start date.
2. Final Design for the HVAC System- will be going out to bid locally.
3. There are trees that still need to be cut on Cote Hill. The property owners that wanted to cut their own trees were not able to cut to the spec's needed by the highway department.
4. Dan is working on setting up a viewing of a different tree cutting machine.
5. We will be having another Budget Meeting on December 14, 2015
6. Selectboard meeting on Dec. 22 for Ron Terrill Rd. site walk.

VIII. SELECTBOARD CONCERNS

Joni Lanphear-

- None

Steve Rae-

- None.

Brian Kellogg-

- None.

Bob Beeman- None

IX. APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Steve Rae, seconded by Joni Lanphear to approve warrants as presented though December 7, 2015. Motion carried.(5/0)

X. OTHER BUSINESS-

Personnel Issue-

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Rae to find that premature general public knowledge of employee relations to the body will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Rae to find that premature general public knowledge of pending Contract with Lamoille Family Center to the body will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Rae to enter executive session to discuss employee relations and pending contract with Lamoille Family Center under the provisions of Title 1 Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Rae to come out of Executive Session at 9:00PM. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Eric Dodge to approve Contract agreement with the Lamoille Family Center. Motion Failed. (0/5)

Motion made by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Joni Lanphear adjourn at 9:15PM. Motion carried. (5/0)

Respectfully submitted and filed this 7th day of December 2015
Erica Allen, Scribe

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