

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday November 25th 2024

5:00 P.M.

Present: Eric Pope - Chair of the Board, Bruce Remick, Larry Labor, TammyLee Morin – Clerk to the board, Jim Judd – Delinquent Tax Collector.

1. Call the meeting to order.

A motion was made and seconded to call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Review and approve minutes of November 11th 2024 as written.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

3. Make any changes/additions to the draft agenda as needed.

- a. Valley Road Culvert Project: Stone Environmental, working on behalf of Memphremagog Watershed Association has released their preliminary design plans to replace a culvert on Valley Road as part of the ongoing VT Fish and Wildlife habitat restoration project taking place on the former Farrow Farm. The existing Structure is an 18” culvert that has been overwhelmed by heavy volume rain events in recent years, the proposed replacement structure is a 10’ x 5’ concrete box. Eric has requested a meeting with Patrick Hurley (MWA) and project designer Branden Martin (Stone Environmental) to discuss the design and seek the reasoning and hydraulic justification for the drastic structure upsizing. Eric will report back following the meeting for further discussion.
- b. The last 3 quarterly PFAS samples have come in under the Maximum allowable of 20 ng/l, and the last 2 samples have come in under 15 ng/l (most recent result was 8.4 ng/l), if two more consecutive quarterly samples come back with results under 15 ng/l, monitoring and sampling will be reduced to annual sampling as opposed to quarterly. Should the lower results trend continue, the system could be deemed “in compliance” and have reduced or no mitigation requirements. The Selectboard decided the best course is to pause any additional water system action until the results of the next two quarterly samples are known.

- c. Larry wrote a letter on behalf of the Town of Morgan showing support of retaining North Country Hospital's present Health services.

A motion was made and seconded to sign the letter and send it to Brian Smith to present to the Governor along with similar letters written by area municipalities.

- d. The understanding of Services for Audit services from Telling and Hillman to review approve and sign for 2023-2024 Auditing Services.

4. Let any guests speak.

Jim Judd was asked to attend the meeting for a discussion of the delinquent tax process. There have been several examples of residents being assessed late fee penalties for taxes being paid beyond the October 31st deadline due to mortgage escrow account inefficiencies between Mortgage Lenders and the Company ("Core Logic") they use to supply them the tax bills. Many other area Towns are reporting similar problems.

Jim Judd has been talking the affected Morgan residents and Town Treasurer TammyLee Morin has been reaching out to Core logic as well as Mortgage lenders with the expectation that either company pay the late tax bill without any cost to the escrow account holders. Several of these penalties have already been resolved with more expected to be in the near future.

The Selectboard discussed actions to take to attempt to mitigate or alleviate this issue in the future – Larry labor is going to investigate it on a legislative front to determine how widespread the issue is Statewide and discuss with his colleagues; and potentially the Attorney General's office if legal action or guidance is warranted to improve the current system.

Additionally, a motion was made and seconded that Tammy will have electronic payment set up for the 2025-2026 tax year.

The Board appreciates Jim and Tammy's efforts.

5. Continued from November 11th meeting #10 Community House discussion on painter.

A motion was made and seconded to table the next meeting of December 9th 2024.

6. MERP Implement Award Letter & Grant Agreement (for the school) has been approved and awarded \$222,431.00.

A motion was made and seconded to have discussion of this on the meeting of December 23rd 2024.

7. Ambulance Service Agreement to review approve and sign per agreement.

A motion was made and seconded to approve and sign the January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025 Ambulance Service Agreement and payment of \$40,015.00 which \$36,972.00 is for the Town contract and \$3,43.00 is for dispatching. This will be paid by the Town in July of 2025.

8. VLCT Member Visit.

A visit from Larry Smith for a routine hazard identification survey of the Town office, Community House & Transfer Station.

The Town Office, Community House & Transfer Station all need a Fire Extinguisher inspection update, and it was recommended that we get on an automatic annual inspection list. - Tammy notified Vermont Fire Extinguisher and could not get an inspection until March and will be put on an automatic inspection for the future.

The Community House– Exit signs did not test properly – batteries need to be replaced or restore the unit to proper operating condition and ensure exit lighting, alarm system, and other emergency equipment are properly maintained, tested and on good working order. – Tammy will notify Jane Malgeri of the Community House Committee to be sure these things are completed by 02-11-2025 as requested.

The Transfer Station – The restroom, although not being used, should be cleaned out for sanitation reasons. There is also a step that poses a tripping hazard, it was recommended that it be painted with high visibility paint to increase employee awareness and safety. – Tammy notified Supervisor Robert Durgin, and he has taken care of everything.

9. Other Business:

N/A

10. Orders #24032 AP Shawn Austin in the amount of \$221,481.00 FEMA Storm #2 to review approve and sign for payment.

Approval of this check was made verbally by the Board on 11-18-2024 and submitted to Shawn Austin.

11. Orders #24033 & #24034 for Accounts Payable and Payroll.

A motion was made and seconded to approve orders #24033 in the amounts of \$2,004,993.06 for Accounts payable and \$6,977.44 for payroll.

A motion was made and seconded to approve and sign order #24035 in the amount of \$2,326.00 for accounts payable.

12. Adjourn the meeting.

Amotion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 9th, 2024, at 5pm