



MONTGOMERY
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Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION**

PSB Conference Room

Monday, September 12th 2016 6:30 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

Selectboard members present: Charlie Hancock-Chair, Scott Perry-Vice chair, Mark Brouillette, Sarah Silva, Colin Sorenson

Visitors: Sue Wilson, Brent Godin, Sharon Perry, Paul Ballou, Carol Farmer, Patrick Farmer, Marijke Dollois, Sue McGinley, Stephne Batten, John Batten, Marlene Mercy, Titus Presler, Jane Presler, Lynn Locher, Curtt Perry, Karen Frascella, Cindy Weed, Paul Fernald, Joe Sherman, Michelle Schaap, Titus H Presler, Susan Delear, Tim Chapin

Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

- 1. Review and make any changes to the agenda.** Visitor comment/question item was added to the agenda.

Visitors: Charlie addressed the visitors and asked that each introduce themselves and take a few minutes to make a statement if they choose before the board makes a decision on the November vote. Several residents stated that they came to the meeting in support of the bond vote and that they feel their votes would be best represented during the general election when there is statistically a larger voter turnout for the town. Many felt that the dissent over two days and the interpretation of the legality of the vote does not outweigh the fact that a bond vote in conjunction with a presidential election would truly represent the will of the people. Marijke Dollois queried whether residents planned to sue the town and what that would do to a bond vote, Colin stated it would halt the vote, and Scott noted it would prevent any work from moving forward if the town had to focus on a lawsuit if that happens. Charlie reviewed the statute in question and the legal advice that the town did obtain on this matter for residents.

Scott recapped the events from the start of the bond vote when the need for space was first brought to the selectboards' attention three years ago by the previous town clerk. The first bond vote asked for a bond authority of 1.2 million which failed by a 2:1 ratio, with voter turnout at

25%. The board reigned in their ideas when voters at informational meetings said that it was too costly and too many options given making it complicated and unclear. The selectboard took in resident feedback and in addition to that created the citizens New Town Office committee to survey locations, mail information to poll voters, and come up with different solutions for either a new building or renovating the old building. The second vote was held after further changes were made to the original plans and this failed by a 2:1 ratio. Once again the board resumed their work and research to find a better solution that was more cost effective. The committee and engineers modified the concept design for the building by reducing the number of windows/dormers. The feasibility studies showed that the most sensible location would be the PSB site as it would allow more square footage than the old building as well as get the town records out of a flood plain; the most recent vote failed by two votes with a 40% voter turnout. Sharon Perry during her statement indicated that in the last ten years the number of land record volumes has doubled thus citing the need to have a larger office space than what can be used on Main Street. Discussion took place regarding getting a larger turnout and whether this could be achieved for a vote should it happen after the fact. Joe Sherman suggested putting more information about the status and history of the bond vote on the Montgomery website to garner more attention and encourage others to get informed. Further discussion took place.

2. Public Works:

a. Town Office Repairs, Bond Vote, Resolution of Need/Warning/Ballot.

Charlie polled the board once more asking each to answer whether they see a need for more office space for the town office, other officials/boards, the selectboard, and meeting purposes. Scott stated that there is a need for more space as the paperwork and retention requirements that accompanies most of what is recorded in the office increases so too will the number of books; the need was present three years ago, and is even more so now. Mark stated that the space is already so limited at the old building that it does not make sense to invest in a building that is not going to meet future needs and is still susceptible to flooding issues; he believes that a new building will be the best route for the future of the town. Colin stated that he cannot support the bond vote at this time and they need more time to look at all options with the space in the current building. Sarah agreed with Colin stating that there are many different projects here in town and a lot of ways of solving the need for space while still maintaining the other buildings owned by the town; she noted that until they as a board can produce a comprehensive plan that covers all aspects of this she cannot support the bond vote and will not sign documentation for the vote, she submitted a letter to the board at this time. Charlie cited that he sees the need for increased office space and feels that the cost of a new building, that will provide room to grow versus renovating an old building that will have limitations on growth, is the best value to the taxpayers. Discussion ensued. Mark motioned to hold a Bond Vote for a New Town Office on November 15th 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$625,300.00 seconded by Scott, who requested this motion be a roll call vote. The motion was passed 3-2 by a roll call vote of: Sarah-nay, Colin-nay, Mark-yea, Scott-yea, and Charlie-yea. Scott motioned to adopt a Resolution of need, Warning, and Ballot this was seconded by Mark; the motion passed 3-2. Board members signed the newly adopted bond paperwork.

3. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters (e.g. Next meeting agenda). All other orders were signed at this time.

Scott motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Mark, board adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Reighley

Notice to the Montgomery Select Board and Montgomery Townspeople

At this time, 9/12/16, I am providing notice that I will not sign documentation pertaining to the upcoming Municipal Building Bond Vote scheduled to take place in November, 2016. I have deep concerns regarding the legal impact of the board's past, present, and future proceedings as they pertain to Statute Title 24 V.S.A 1755 (b) in relation to this matter. This notice is not a resignation from the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Silva". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sarah Silva

Montgomery, VT Select person