



**MONTGOMERY**  
FOUNDED 1780

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MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION  
Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021  
6:30pm

Full Recording of the meeting can be found here:  
[https://zoom.us/rec/share/Lw7SScGhZrjnpUBifOFst3fnzv1xsdHwSbIxlFuEGnajkL3lnd6efzxKL8aVuXw.ttuElqDrozH8R0\\_I](https://zoom.us/rec/share/Lw7SScGhZrjnpUBifOFst3fnzv1xsdHwSbIxlFuEGnajkL3lnd6efzxKL8aVuXw.ttuElqDrozH8R0_I) Passcode: 3yg8P.lb

Attendees: Charlie Hancock, Emily Kimball, Suzanne Dollois, Leanne Barnard, Mark Brouillette  
Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild

Visitors: NWA-TV (recording meeting), Carol Farmer, Pat Farmer, Sue Wilson, Chi Nguyen, Larry Letourneau, Anita Woodward

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
2. Discussion of Infrastructure Projects considering Town Meeting Day vote(s); status of funds received/applied for; possible/required next steps (*discussion/board action*)

Charlie recapped the three articles from Town Meeting about Town infrastructure projects, specifically the Wastewater project; Articles 5-7 addressed this project, and Articles 5 and 7 passed while Article 6 did not. This result puts the financing into question.

Charlie brought up some questions about the Local Option tax: when is it collected, and if the project doesn't move forward, is the Town legally required to collect it. We will receive advice from the Town lawyer. We did submit a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Project) grant to help finance the Streetscaping project for Summer 2021 (to cover survey work, engineering as we work towards final design), so the Board needs to make a decision on whether to continue with this application. By accepting the TAP and USDA funds, the project will be "federalized" making it a little more complicated. Charlie opened up the floor to the Board for reflections and discussion.

Mark asked if we could come back around to the Streetscaping project; Charlie responded that yes, we have 5 years to use the USDA funds. The \$300,000 in TAP funding would cover initial design work and surveying, and once that is complete, the Town would apply for bigger federal BUILD grant funding to finish the rest of the project (or equivalent coming out of any federal infrastructure bill). Mark asked if the Wastewater could be scaled down to only include the

Center and not the Village at first; Charlie responded that a change in the project to that degree would affect the offer from the USDA, so there are potential unknowns. Leanne suggested that we move to vote on an increase in tax assessment (Article 6) again, as there seemed to be a lack of knowledge and the vote was close. Suzanne suggested there might be a broader marketing campaign. Mark asked if we could look at lowering the \$.06/\$100 assessed for tax bills. Discussion ensued.

Charlie explained the Town submitted the TAP application with the intention to begin survey work this summer. If the Wastewater project stalls, then the Streetscaping stalls, and there's a risk of losing the TAP funding, or starting the project and spending some money then not having the project progress. As a result, the Town might not look good for reapplying for this funding for the future.

Chi questioned the marketing aspect of the Thrives site and information presented to the public and suggested that it could be revamped for re-engagement. Genevieve asked about timing for a vote and deadlines. Carol asked for clarification around the margins needed for a petition-brought vote to pass versus a vote put forth by the Board. Pat proposed that a number lower than \$.06 for the increase in the taxes could help the measure pass. Sue suggested that the Thrives site information might benefit from an overhaul and re-engagement. Larry suggested that there is too much reliance on digital media engagement, and a different approach, like a postal mailing, might help. He also noted that an emphasis on how the Wastewater system would affect those who won't be on the system is important.

Based on Board feedback and consensus, Charlie will reach out to keep the TAP application in.

### 3. Adjourn

Leanne made a motion to adjourn, Suzanne seconded. Vote: 5-0, Aye. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Genevieve Lodal-Guild, Clerk