



MONTGOMERY
FOUNDED 1780

**Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
Montgomery Center, VT 05471
802-326-4719
www.montgomeryvt.us**

Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday, December 5th 2022
6:30pm

Town Office Conference Room (86 Mountain Road)

View Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EFqGDo1ljsI0HFpGtT6_yojsq-uaVHLiRY2TUrt57QE_j2R-wS4MjZzD3ujlp-as.BdsnD0RFsxctASoA

Passcode: j3&zfsX!

An attendance: Charlie Hancock, Leanne Barnard, Mark Brouillette, Emily Kimball, Carissa Stein, Ron and Lina Lowell, NWATV; Merle VanGieson (via zoom)

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
2. Review/approve minutes of the 11/21 board meeting (*board action*)
 - a. Linda Lowell read a letter on Ron's behalf regarding the minutes and application(s). Minutes need to be amended to reflect that application was received (letter attached).
 - b. Mark moved to approve the minutes as amended to reflect receipt of additional application from Ron Lowell re: part time public works (plowing) position. Seconded by Leanne. Approved 4-0
3. Public Works
 - a. Roads and Bridges (*updates*)
 - i. Updates – Truck #1 is leaking antifreeze. Need to bring to Allegiant to get checked out. Everything else going okay. Minimal plowing needed to date.
 - ii. Idea floated that MES kids should name the trucks (so we don't call them "Truck 1 and 2")
 - iii. Dept has had interest in the old Gizzely (not used at all by dept), Mark will work out sale.
 - b. Buildings and Grounds
 - i. 98 Main Street, USPS operations (*discussion*) – Postal Reality Trust working on our behalf. Appraisal pending. Mark will shut off curb stop for building.
 - c. Water Commission (*update*)
 - i. Regan Road Power Project (*update*) – pending landowner signatures ASAP

4. Visitors

- a. Merle – questioned website; asked about Streetscape public meeting
- b. Carissa Stein, chair Conservation Commission:
 - i. Discussion of next steps with Town Forest – grant supported trail work design project w/ Jeff Parsons and Sinuosity. Report finished. Next step would be a vote to adopt the plan and combine with the Forest Management Plan. If adopted we could apply for grant to implement work. Carissa suggest engaging a hydrologist. Carissa will send report to board.
 - ii. Regarding Village property – no word back yet on flood modeling grant that was applied for. Flood modeling will inform design, so waiting on any implementation which could be impacted. More upland areas can be pursued now – recommendation in planting for fruit and nut trees. Carissa will send planting proposal. This would inform grant request. 350VT opportunity no longer available.
 - iii. MRBA has been conducting knotweed trials. Mechanical control mowing. Conservation Commission applied for MRBA grant. Awarded \$2,250 for initial work and 4 mo. of additional mowing along heavy edge. CC planning knotweed event to include hand pulling in areas where natives are established/establishing.
 - iv. Community members have reached out re: invasives asking about a ‘town plan’. CC would like to come up with a town-level plan which focuses on outreach and education.
 - v. Additional discussion around roadside Ash inventory in light of Emerald Ash Borer and pre-emptive removal work.

5. Old Business

- a. Website Policy, Clean Copy (*board action/signature*)
 - i. Motion to adopt Municipal Website policy as amended made by Emily; seconded by Mark; approved 4-0 (attached)

6. New Business

- a. Budget Season – Planning (*discussion*) – dept budget request letter will out soon. Budget committee will schedule meetings.
- b. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses (*board action*)
- c. Fleet Permits (*board action*)

7. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

8. Review Action Items for Board Members

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Emily at 7:03pm; seconded by Leanne; 4-0 approved



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TOWN OF MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL WEBSITE POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE December 5th, 2022

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SECTION I AUTHORITY

Under the authority granted in 24 V.S.A., Chapter 33, Section 872, the Town of Montgomery Selectboard hereby adopts the following policy regarding the Municipal Website.

SECTION II PURPOSE / INTENT

This Policy is adopted to maintain oversight of the Municipal Web Site and ensure, as far as possible, accuracy of content and equal access to all citizens.

SECTION III DEFINITIONS/APPLICABILITY

The Municipal Website is the official site of the Town of Montgomery. While every effort will be made to ensure the accuracy of governmental information posted to the site, official documents, such as copies of recorded documents, must be obtained from the Town Clerk per Vermont state law. The Selectboard, or their designee, has sole authority to allow or disallow any content, links, or other information hosted on the Town of Montgomery's Municipal Website. If there is a complaint or dispute regarding any material disapproved for the site by the designee, it will be brought to the attention of the full Selectboard by way of the Town Complaint Policy.

SECTION IV SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

1. **Phone numbers and Privacy:** No home or personal numbers will be listed on the site except by permission or request by such individuals who hold official capacity either by elected or appointed nature. Names and other such public information will be limited to that which is part of the public domain, such as the Town Report. Requests to remove personal contact information can be made at any time to the Selectboard, designee, or Town Clerk.
2. **Links & Events to the Town Site:** Anyone may link to the Town site. There are no fees for doing this. Requests to have an organization or event listed/linked from the Town site will be approved at the discretion of the Selectboard or designee. Priority will be given to community-based entities directly in service of or relation to Montgomery residents (example: Elementary School web page link or Commission sponsored public presentation). The purpose of providing links for residents shall not be construed as a means of a private businesses advertising and no event will be listed with associated sales exclusively for the profit of a commercial, for profit, entity.
3. **Official Information:** Official information will be posted as specified by Vermont law. It is the responsibility of the respective officer, or governing body, to ensure those which documents, if applicable, are posted on the website and posted by the statutory deadlines

SECTION V AMENDMENTS

This policy may be amended by a majority vote of the legislative body at any duly warned meeting, providing the subject appears on the agenda for that meeting.

SECTION VI NOTICE

1. This Policy shall be entered into the minutes of the Town records and shall be posted in at least three conspicuous places in Town.
2. A reference to a place within the municipality where the full text may be examined, shall be posted also.

Town of Montgomery Selectboard

Charlie Hancock, Chair

Leanne Barnard, Vice Chair

Emily Kimball

Mark Brouillette

Suzanne Dollois

Montgomery Town Clerk's Office received for record this 7th
day of December, A.D., 2022 at 1:05 P.M.

Attest: Elizabeth Reighley
Elizabeth Reighley, Town Clerk

Town Of Montgomery
86 Mountain Road
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

November 29, 2022

To the Montgomery Vermont Selectboard,

Having read the minutes of the 11/21/22 Selectboard meeting, I am writing to ask you to amend the minutes; specifically point 3/a/iii Part Time Hire (update). The current record reflects that you only received one application for the part-time position associated with winter plowing. I also submitted an application with resume for this position and verified with the assistant municipal clerk that she received it and forwarded it on to the road commissioner Mark Brouillette for consideration. The written minutes stating that an application was received from Kenny Miller is misleading in that it implies that no other applications were received. The recording of the meeting further indicates that there was only one application received (at 31m44s on the recording). We know that to be false. Please correct the record by correcting this inaccuracy in the written minutes.

When I went into the municipal office to verify receipt of my hand-delivered application, I was told that it was passed along to road commissioner Brouillette and that I should call him about it. After 3 calls to Mark without reply, I told the Assistant Clerk that he was not responsive. She must have called him herself as he called me back shortly after I spoke to the clerk.

While it is strange that only one resume and application would be *acknowledged* and even stranger that the more experienced applicant's interest would be ignored, I understand that in the end it is the board's choice to make. I do feel that the choice is a fiscal disservice to the taxpayer to hire a less experience operator. I also feel that Mark's decision to reject my application was a conflict of interest in that he told me that his decision was heavily influenced by Ken Forbes; a local farmer with a fiscal relationship to Mark.

These are my concerns. I was only looking to work part-time and have better qualifications for the position offered than the applicant you chose. If Kenny doesn't work out for any reason, I would like to be considered to replace him.

Please make this letter a part of the written record on this subject. If you have any questions about my concerns above, please call me to arrange to meet and discuss.

Respectfully,

Ron Lowell