



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

Minutes of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION
Monday July 13th 2026
6:30pm
Town Office (86 Mountain Road)

View Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/f_54hsqTxa34p0uVa-lOASqBRWd6T1UdvFT3oIGuT8jQ-GdHu3aufX131LwjECKh.ICke8V7vLvSmwZxP

Passcode: *qjH%ZX4

[View in Zoom](#)

In attendance: Charlie Hancock, Chris Dixon-Boles, Mark Brouillette, Dennis Himes; Daniel Khan & Mark Brouillette (via Zoom). Visitors: Tosca Smith, Karie Quintin, Pat Farmer, Carol Farmer, Tereasa Almy, Chris Johnson; via Zoom: Alissa Hardy, Mary Beth Doyle, Barry Kade

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
2. Review/approve minutes of the July 6th Meeting – motion to approve as written by Dennis; seconded by Chris; approved 5-0
3. Setting 2026 Tax Rate (*board action*)
 - a. Charlie presented the FY27 tax rate calculation (*attached*). Municipal tax rate is coming is slightly lower than initially projected in March. Motion to approve the tax rate(s) as presented by Chris; seconded by Dennis; approved 5-0
4. Ratification of Special Town Meeting to confirm both the Warning Articles and the date/time for the meeting (*board action*)
 - a. Charlie re-capped July 6th meeting and shared feedback from the Municipal Attorney, as there were concerns related to uncertainty around process raised at the July 6th meeting:
 - i. Vermont election law provides that reconsideration of a vote taken at an annual (or special) meeting may only be brought by petition if it is filed with the clerk within 30 days following the date of that meeting (note that no petition for reconsideration was received related to Australian ballot voting following Town Meeting in March, the item having been added to that warning by voter petition.
 - ii. A question voted on may not be presented to the voters more than one additional time in a one-year period, without the approval of the selectboard. Although petitioners can bring other public questions forward by petition to be acted on at

a special meeting, if the question has already been acted on at an annual meeting or special meeting, reconsideration petitions must be submitted within the 30-day deadline, or else they must wait until the next annual meeting. (17 VSA § 2661). So, if the Board had received a new petition calling for a special meeting now to address the issue, it would not be legally valid.

- iii. While the selectboard, on its own motion, does not appear to be limited in its authority to resubmit to the voters a question previously acted upon, it would be wise to exercise caution and restraint. The spirit of the statute authorizing reconsideration or rescission of votes suggests that the legislature was seeking to avoid situations in which voters are subjected to repeated votes on the same question. The provision offers protection of the first vote - as the will of the people - and allows it to be reconsidered only in limited circumstances. The law tends to favor finality.
 - iv. Should the question come up about whether the question presented as one question vs. three questions (Australian Ballot for budget matters, elected officers, and public questions), the attorney advised that for the purposes of this analysis, a court is likely to consider them the same question, even if in three parts.
 - b. Discussion ensued, including visitor comment – see recording linked above for full discussion. Karie Quintin asked that her written comments be included in the record (*attached*). Board again raised concerns over process and the potential precedent which would be set in including the Australian ballot articles at the Special Meeting given fuller explanation of Statute.
 - c. Motion to rescind the action taken at the July 6th meeting to warn a Special Town meeting for August 10th with associated articles made by Dennis, seconded by Daniel; approved 5-0
 - d. Motion to adopt the warning for a Special Meeting for August 17th to include the article by petition related to STR Ordinance made by Mark; seconded Dennis; friendly amendment from Chris to add that the meeting time is 6pm; accepted by Mark and Dennis; motion approved 5-0.
- 5. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters - none
 - 6. Review Action Items for Board Members - none
 - 7. Adjourn
 - 8. Motion to adjourn by Mark; seconded by Dennis; 5-0 at 7:49pm.

FY27					
Municipal Tax Rate Calculation		Local Share Tax Rate Calculator		Total Overall Tax Rate	\$0.6477
				Education Residential Tax Rate	\$1.5626
				Education Non Homestead Tax Rate	\$2.0834
Municipal Grand List - from 411	\$ 1,679,887.00	Number of Resident Veterans	7		
		Number of Non-Homestead Veterans	3	Total Residential tax per \$1000 of value	\$2.2103
Amount to be raised by taxes	\$ 1,072,946.42	Total Number of Veterans	10	Total Non Homestead tax rate per \$1000 of value	\$2.7311
Municipal Tax Rate	0.6387	State Veterans Allowance	\$10,000.00		
		Town Veterans Allowance	\$40,000.00		
		Difference in Veterans Allowance	\$30,000.00		
Conservation Fund	0.005	Local Share Tax Amount Resident Veterans	\$2,100.00		
		Local Share Tax Amount Non Homestead Veterans	\$900.00		
Total Municipal Tax Rate	0.6437	Local Share Tax Assessed Amount	\$3,000.00		
		Education Residential Tax Rate	1.5626		
		Education Non Homestead Tax Rate	2.0834		
		Veteran Education Residential Tax	\$3,281.46		
		Veteran Education Non Homestead Tax	\$1,875.06		
		Non-approved (voted) contracts/exemptions (Comcast)	\$1,532.38		
		Total Local Share	\$6,688.90		
		Municipal Grandlist	\$1,679,887.00		
		Local Share Tax Rate Required	\$0.0040		

WARNING
TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the town of Montgomery in the County of Franklin are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the 17th day of August 2026 AD, at 6:00pm to act on the following business to wit:

1. Shall the town of Montgomery disapprove the Short-Term Rental Ordinance adopted by the Selectboard on June 15th, 2026, thereby rendering said ordinance null, void, and of no legal effect? (*via petition*) 24 V.S.A. § 1973

Dated at Montgomery, Vermont this 13th day of July 2026 AD

Selectboard:

Charlie Hancock, Chairman

Daniel Khan, Vice Chair

Mark Brouillette

Dennis Himes

Chris Dixson-Boles

Attest: _____ Date: _____
Elizabeth Reighley, Municipal Clerk, Town of Montgomery

To the Montgomery Selectboard,

Thank you for placing the Australian ballot question before the voters alongside the petition to reconsider the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

As Montgomery's elected representatives, the Selectboard is entrusted with making decisions for the benefit of the entire community. On an issue with town-wide impacts, the voting process should give the broadest practical opportunity for the electorate to express its will.

1. This decision is about more than the ordinance itself. The voters, not just those able to attend a meeting, are the people affected by this ordinance. **"It is about ensuring that every qualified voter has a meaningful opportunity to participate in a decision that affects the entire community."**
2. The petition process under 24 V.S.A. § 1973 exists to allow the electorate to require reconsideration of an adopted ordinance, and the number of petition signatures already submitted demonstrates significant public interest.
3. An Australian ballot gives more residents the opportunity to vote, including those with work schedules, family responsibilities, disabilities, transportation challenges, or other conflicts. It helps ensure the outcome reflects the will of the community rather than only those who are able to attend a single meeting.
4. This is not about abandoning Montgomery's traditions. It is about making participation as accessible as possible on an issue that affects the entire town.

I encourage each Selectboard member to publicly share how they intend to vote on the Australian ballot question so residents can better understand where their elected representatives stand on expanding voter participation.

If Montgomery moves toward Australian ballot voting, we should also consider how to preserve the community discussion and engagement that have always been an important part of town meeting.

One option would be to hold the informational meeting and voting on the same day at a larger location, such as Montgomery Elementary School. This would allow residents to attend the discussion, ask questions, and participate in the community conversation while also having the opportunity to cast their ballot during the same visit.

The goal is not to eliminate the town meeting tradition, but to make participation more accessible by combining civic discussion with a voting process that allows more residents to take part without requiring multiple trips or schedule conflicts