



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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SELECTBOARD & WATER COMMISSION

Monday August 3rd 2026

6:30pm

Town Office (86 Mountain Road)

View Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrBf_FpjKbwcSJm_gBqfFSmPGaVWJXBB7

In attendance: Charlie Hancock, Daniel Khan, Chris Dixon-Boles, Mark Brouillette, Dennis Himes; (visitors) Carol Farmer, Pat Farmer, Lauri Ellis, Chris Johnson, Cliff Loos, Tosca Smith, Rafael Antillon, Karie Quintin, Josh Howard, Amy Rifenburgh, Bradford Elliot, Sarita Khan, Anita Woodward, Larrey Letourneau, Peter Locher, Lynn Locher, Benjamin Mulkerin, Christina Bilodeau, Donald Bilodeau, Chris Pattullo, Teresa Almy, Mary Beth Doyle; (viz zoom) Brent Godin, Roberta Baker, Garbielle Lumbr, Micheal Miller, Doug Kopacz.

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

1. Review and make any changes to the agenda
 - a. Item D under "New Business" will be carried forward as a lease agreement with NEK Broadband has not yet been received.
 - b. Quote for Montgomery Town Hall/Grange Flooring Project will be added as item D under "New Business"
2. Review/approve minutes of the July 20th meeting
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from Dennis; seconded by Mark
 - b. Discussion – Daniel reflected that he received a request from Josh Howard to recuse himself from matters related to the Municipal Wastewater Project at the 7/20 meeting. Daniel offered friendly amendment to add Josh's request to the minutes. Dennis and Mark accepted the friendly amendment; motion to adopt the minutes as amended approved 5-0.
3. Public Works
 - a. Roads
 - i. General Updates
 1. Mark provided an update that grant funded Amidon Road project has been completed; crew is now working on Fisher Road. Additional no parking signage for Rt. 58 by swimming hole are in and will be installed shortly. Signs at garage have been temporarily amended to reflect adjusted language per prior discussion(s). Permanent replacements are pending.

- ii. Town Garage Snow Guards quotes (*discussion, potential board action*)
 - 1. Town received quote from R&A Enterprises on 5/20/26. The Board approved the quote pending a detailed itemization of costs. This was not received. Town received a quote from Mark II Metal LLC on 7/29/26. Discussion regarding the quote ensued. Adoption of quote for work pending outreach to additional bid(s).

**At this point video and audio recording malfunctioned, cutting off until around time mark 18:50 when it was restored.*

- b. Water System
 - i. General Updates – SOS replaced ouch pads on a number of meters which were broken. When replaced the meters reported usage amounts which were not reflected properly on bills (accounting for base usage vs. additional). Town is working to issue revised bills to effected property owners. We need to replace two actuators in the system. Mark moved to approve purchase and replacement of two actuators on filter A; seconded by Dennis; approved 5-0. Water operator will attend an upcoming meeting in August or September to provide more information on capital needs.
- 4. Visitors – roll call of visitors was made for public comment. Majority of visitors deferred until Item 6(c) was addressed. Josh Howard submitted written comment (*attached*). See video recording for full comment(s) offered.
- 5. Old Business
 - a. Municipal Wastewater System Project (*updates*)
 - i. Bid opening was delayed until 8/12 due to issuance of additional addendum by A&E to address bidder questions received.
 - b. Streetscape Project (*updates*)
 - i. Still working through right-of-way; Easement material pending submittal to landowners later in August/September
 - c. PSB Renovation (*updates*)
 - i. Detailed cost estimates have been received from Mill Brook. Cost tables will be reviewed at subsequent meeting.
- 6. New Business
 - a. FY26 Budget Close-out Status Report (*discussion*)
 - i. Charlie introduced the budget status report. Discussion ensued. Item will be carried forward pending additional clarifications from Treasurer. Board also discussed timeline for Treasurer job posting as Erin transitions out of the position (posting targeted for release by early September). Erin's formal end date will depend on degree of training/onboarding needed.
 - b. Delinquent Tax Collection Status (*discussion*)
 - i. Total DTAX as of 12/31/25 = \$260,705; Total DTAX as of 6/30/26 = \$70,578; big thanks to Collector of Delinquent Taxes Katherine Barnard for her work

- c. Municipal Conflict of Interest Policy Review and proposed Amendments (*discussion, potential board action*)
 - i. Charlie introduced draft policy for discussion and rationale. Draft policy clarifies process, enumerating each step, reflects the passage of Act 171 and the legislature's adoption of Municipal Code of Ethics, adds new requirements/provisions around board disclosures, and adds new/additional requirements for recording procedures. Draft policy is being introduced for discussion in response to discussion of conflict(s) of interest and procedure at recent meeting, including specific additions recommended by the public.
 - ii. The Board discussed the draft policy amendments. Suggested changes were noted and will be reflected in future draft. No action was taken on the draft policy.
 - iii. Roll call of visitors was made for public comment on the draft policy and broader topic of conflicts of interest/ethics.
 - iv. Daniel spoke to a question asked about the State Ethics Commission, responding in the context of the recusal challenge offered by Josh Howard (see above). Daniel explained that he contacted the State Ethics Commission for Guidance on the issue; however, the Commission is not currently responding to requests from municipal official due to lack of capacity, which should be remedied within six months. In the absence of formal guidance from the Ethics Commission, Daniel stated that he does not believe he has a conflict of interest re: either the wastewater project or STR Ordinance, however he will temporarily recuse himself from both topics until such a time when he can receive guidance from an attorney.
 - v. Written comments were offered by Cliff Loos, Karie Quintin, and Amy Godfrey (*attached*), including a written response by Charlie to a request for public disclosure (from Charlie) from Karie Quintin.
- ci. (Added) Montgomery Grange Basement Flooring Project.
 - i. The quotes were introduced by Tosca. Discussion ensued. Motion to table to action by Daniel; seconded by Chris; approved 5-0.
- cii. NWFX and NEK Broadband (*removed*)
- ~~ciii. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses (*board action*) - none~~
- civ. Fleet Permits (*board action*) - none

7. Open Mail / Sign Orders / Administrative Matters

8. Review Action Items for Board Members

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn from Dennis; seconded by Mark; approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm

Clifford T. Loos

Resident and Taxpayer

Town of Montgomery, Vermont

August 3, 2026

Town of Montgomery Selectboard

P.O. Box 356

Montgomery Center, VT 05471

Re: Citizen Notice of Objection - Use of Public Funds for
Personal Recusal or Conflict-of-Interest Defense

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312, I respectfully request that this formal objection be entered into the official minutes of the Selectboard and retained as part of the permanent record of municipal proceedings.

As a resident and taxpayer of the Town of Montgomery, I hereby enter a formal, standing objection to any use of municipal legal resources, town staff time, or taxpayer funds to advise, represent, or defend any individual Selectboard member with respect to that member's personal conflict-of-interest determinations or recusal obligations.

Legal Basis

Under Rule 1.13 of the Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct, a lawyer employed or retained by an organization represents the organization itself, acting through its duly authorized constituents. The Town Attorney's client is the municipality and its collective interests, not the private legal interests or personal ethics defense of any individual board member.

Under 24 V.S.A. § 1993(e) of the Municipal Code of Ethics, a municipal officer shall not make use of the town's materials, funds, property, personnel, facilities, or equipment for any purpose other than official business, unless the use is

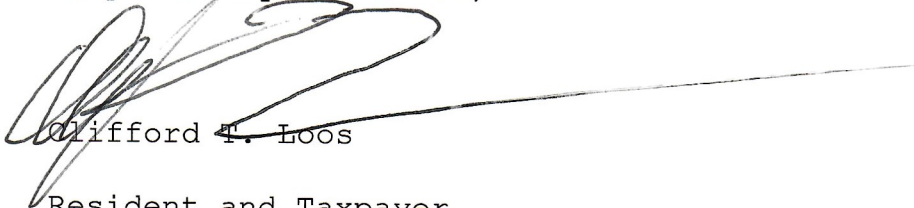
expressly permitted or required by State law, ordinance, or written policy. Advising or defending an individual member on a purely personal recusal or conflict-of-interest matter does not constitute official business of the Town.

Position

If any member of this Board requires legal counsel concerning that member's own conflicts of interest or recusal determinations, the member must obtain and pay for private counsel at personal expense. Taxpayer funds, town staff time, and municipal legal resources should not be used to provide personal legal advice or defense to individual public officials on such matters.

I request that this objection be noted in the minutes and that the Selectboard confirm, on the record, that no public funds or municipal resources will be expended for the personal conflict-of-interest or recusal defense of any individual board member.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Clifford T. Loos", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop.

Resident and Taxpayer

Town of Montgomery, Vermont

FORMAL NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND MANDATORY RECUSAL CHALLENGE

TO: The Town of Montgomery Selectboard

FROM: Josh Howard, Resident and Taxpayer

DATE: August 3, 2026

RE: Wastewater Project and Proposed Ordinance Amendments (Item 6.c)

Dear Members of the Montgomery Selectboard,

This formal notification is submitted pursuant to Section IV.C.3 of the Town of Montgomery Conflict of Interest Ordinance. This document and the attached public records serve as an official notice of material conflicts of interest and procedural defects. Request is hereby made to enter this filing and all accompanying exhibits directly into the permanent municipal record.

The following points detail specific statutory conflicts based on verified public data:

1. RECUSAL CHALLENGE FOR SELECTBOARD CHAIR CHARLIE HANCOCK

Pursuant to Section IV.C.3 of the town ordinance, a formal challenge is entered regarding the participation of Chair Charlie Hancock on the wastewater project.

- **Statutory Basis:** 24 V.S.A. § 1993 (Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics) and Section IV.B.2 of the municipal ordinance.
- **The Fact:** Town server logs from March 31, 2025, at 9:24 AM, document that Chair Hancock utilized a municipal email account to distribute an explicit campaign blast to 77 recipients. The communication targeted a Montgomery taxpayer charter petition, commanding voters to "PLEASE VOTE NO on 2," and stated that if the petition passed, "it could doom the wastewater project." On that same day, March 31, 2025, at 1:16 PM, resident Larry Letourneau formally notified Chair Hancock by email that this mass communication explicitly violated the Selectboard Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy, specifically citing policy numbers 5, 8, and 11. Furthermore, at 4:49 PM that same afternoon, resident Patrick Calecas issued a separate, formal written warning to Chair Hancock, explicitly challenging his lack of public neutrality and noting that the biased handling of the project indicated a clear conflict where individuals would benefit financially. This active advocacy demonstrates a total lack of required objective impartiality, establishing that his position is not neutral, he is biased toward the wastewater project, and he is not operating in the interest of the general public. These documented factors legally disqualify him from voting on this septic project.

2. RECUSAL CHALLENGE FOR SELECTBOARD VICE-CHAIR DANIEL KHAN

Pursuant to Section IV.C.3 of the town ordinance, a formal challenge is entered regarding the participation of Vice-Chair Daniel Khan on the wastewater project.

- **Statutory Basis:** 24 V.S.A. § 1993 (Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics) and Section III.A of the municipal ordinance.
- **The Fact:** Public records document that Vice-Chair Khan holds immediate family financial interests in Main Street commercial properties held by his mother Sarita Khan, specifically the Coach House and the Salt Cave. Additionally, Vice-Chair Khan possesses a direct personal financial interest in a separate, unoccupied residential real estate asset situated precisely at the terminal point of the proposed wastewater sewer line. Under state law, public officers must recuse themselves from votes or funding authorizations that directly impact immediate family assets or personal real estate investments.

PAGE 2: THE PROCEDURAL VIOLATIONS SHEET

3. PROCEDURAL NOTICE OF DEFECTIVE AGENDA WARNING

This body lacks lawful jurisdiction to adopt the proposed ordinance changes under Item 6.c tonight. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 (Vermont Ordinance Adoption Act), any amendment to a comprehensive regulatory policy requires a mandatory 30-day public notice and text publication window. Because the town failed to meet this statutory timeline, an amendment vote executed tonight constitutes **an Ultra Vires action and is void ab initio.**

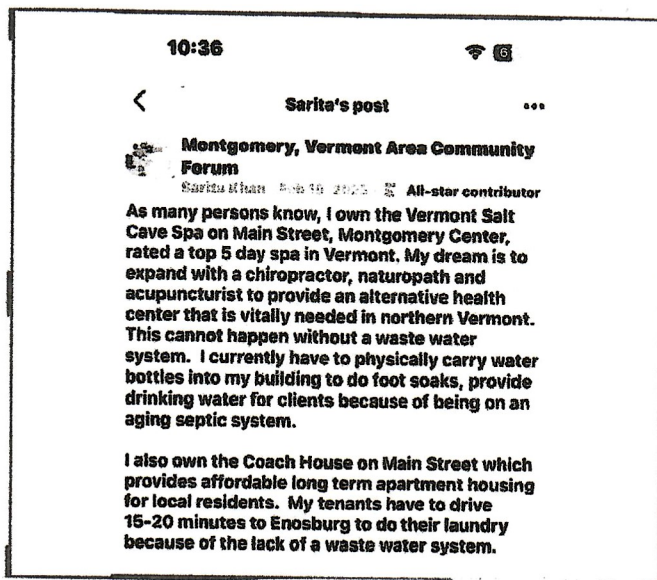
4. PROCEDURAL COVER-UP AND DEFENSIVE ORDINANCE ALTERATION

- **The Violation:** Violation of Section IV.B.2 (Integrity and Transparency) of the Town of Montgomery Conflict of Interest Ordinance and 1 V.S.A. § 312.
- **The Fact:** Following a formal public warning regarding Vice-Chair Khan’s Main Street commercial properties and family conflicts recorded during the July 20, 2026 meeting, Chair Hancock failed to document the conflict challenge or the request for recusal in the official draft minutes. Instead, Chair Hancock completely omitted this public business from the recorded minutes and took it upon himself to rewrite and alter the rules for the August 3, 2026 meeting. This defectively warned text attempts to remove public disclosure protocols and narrow conflict definitions specifically to shield members from active citizen challenges, bypassing the mandatory 30-day state publication timeline under 24 V.S.A. § 1972.

NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL RECOURSE

Should this body fail to process these written challenges under the mandatory terms of Section IV.C.3, or proceed with a vote under Item 6.c, this complete packet and all attached digital records will be forwarded directly to the Vermont State Ethics Commission and the State Auditor's Office for administrative review and external enforcement.

Respectfully submitted,
Filer Signature: Josh Howard
Date Signed: 8/3/26
Josh Howard



Sarita Khan · 1y · Author

Where do you get the figure of 70 units? I was on the Wastewater initial committee and the figures calculated in was covering things like a 3 bedroom 1 bathroom house adding in an extra bathroom or putting in a garage with an in-law's quarter on top, or converting a barn into a living space. It also factored in lot sizes which zoning itself would allow for additional development with or without a public wastewater system. There wasn't that much room for growth and zoning can take care of unwanted development. A case in point is Alpine Haven. When originally developed it had 1/4 acre lot sizes and many more houses could have been built. Now I think the zoning on land there is for 10 acres lots and so no one can now add to their existing properties. Throwing out the baby with the bathwater at this stage doesn't make sense.

Sarita's post

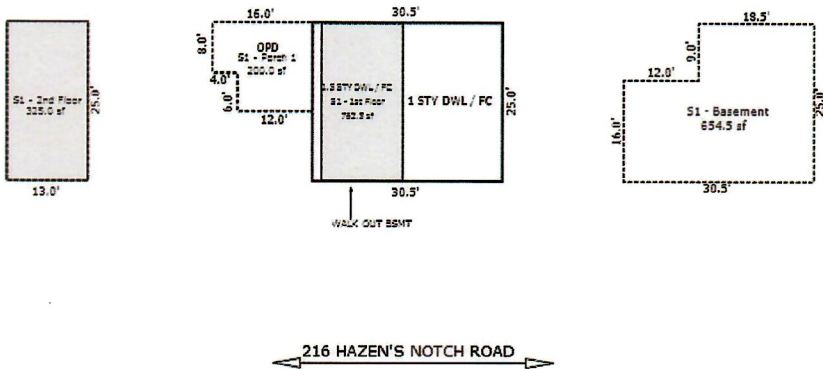
Sarita Khan · 1y · Author

John Boucher John, you were forced to put in a new septic system because it failed and the timing was lousy as it was just when the sewer system was being approved. I do believe at the time, the decision was being made to refund you the money that you had to pay once the sewer was in. You lost a few parking spaces because of your mound system. I cannot afford to lose parking spaces with a mound system that would be required to meet new requirements and there are many properties on main street without the physical space to put in a mound system. So unless the town wants to see properties with mound systems in front of buildings if even possible, then feel free to not have a public sewer system. I am well aware that drinking water doesn't usually have anything to do with a septic BUT I was DENIED a water hook up when we opened the salt cave because you still need a waste water system to handle it and my aging system could not. So YES, my lack of drinking water is directly related to my waste water system. If I didn't have the Coach House in front to provide me with water, there would be no Vermont Salt Cave and I have to say, you and other local businesses, would have a lot less clients coming to you for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Owner Information				Parcel Value Information			
Parcel	00058.017X			Land Value	14,400	Homestead	73,100
Owner	KHAN DANIEL M			Dwelling Value	44,700	Housesite	73,100
	2956 MOUNTAIN ROAD			Site Imprvmt	14,000		
	MONTGOMERY CTR, VT 05471			Outbuildings			
Location	216 HAZEN'S NOTCH RD			Total	73,100		
Sec/TWP/Range							
Descr	1.5S DWL						
Parcel Information							
NBHD	9	SPAN	402-125-10665				
Acres	0.78	Status	A - Active				
Sales Information							
Book	106	Sale Date	2022-10-07				
Page	194	Sale Price					

BUILDING	Total Rooms	6	Year Built	1880	Building SF	1088.00	Energy Adj	Average	Roughins	1
	Bedrooms	3	Effect Age		Quality	2.50	Bsmt Wall	Stone	Plumb Fixt	5
	Full Baths	1	Condition	Fair/Avg	Style	1.5 Fin	Bsmt SF	655	Fireplaces	
	Half Baths		Phys Depr	33	Design	1.5 Sty	Bsmt Fin		Porch	200
	Kitchens	1	Funct Depr	8	Bldg Type	Single	Bsmt Fin SF		Gar/Shed	
			Econ Depr	10						
	Notes	1.5 STY DWL IS SITED ON A VILLAGE LOT SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE ROAD GRADE ON LAND THAT IS PARTLY OPEN WITH SLIGHTLY MODERATE TO MODERATE GRADES. BSMT - PARTIAL FULL CELLAR WITH A STONE / CONCRETE FOUNDATION AND CONCRETE FLOOR. BSMT IS AT WALK OUT GRADE. 1997 - NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM 2009 - REPLACEMENT WINDOWS, S.R. WALLS ON FIRST FLOOR , LAMINATE FLOOR COVER. 2010 - INSTALLED CHANNEL METAL ROOF. 2012 - REPLACE FHA FURNACE. PHYSICAL DEPRECIATION - 5% MTT / DWL HAS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE MAINLY EXTERIOR. FUNCTIONAL DEPRECIATION - 2% FOR LACK OF CLOSETS, 1% FOR WALK THROUGH BEDROOM TO ACCESS OTHER BEDROOM. PLUS 5% FOR NO BATHROOM ON 2ND FLOOR WITH TWO BEDROOMS. TOTAL FUNCTIONAL = 8% ECONOMIC DEPRECIATION - 5% FOR NBHD. PLUS 5% FOR PROXIMITY TO ROAD AND BLIND CURVE. TOTAL ECONOMIC = 10%								
LAND	Land	1	Area	0.78	Grade	0.80	Frontage		Depth	

Sketch



Subject: Request for Recusal and Disclosure Regarding August 17 STR Petition Vote

Charlie,

You asked what I found most disturbing about your recent email regarding the wastewater project. *My concern is not your position, but the manner in which you advocated for it.*

That email, sent via your official Selectboard account, characterized a citizen petition as an effort "to kill the project," named and criticized the petitioner, and urged recipients to persuade others to vote against it. *This was advocacy, not neutral communication.*

This brings me to the upcoming August 17 special meeting and the vote on the STR petition.

Under Montgomery's Conflict of Interest Policy (adopted under 24 V.S.A. § 872) , your wastewater email and related conduct raise multiple concerns:

1. Section IV.A.8 - Retain Independent Judgment

"Retain independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups."

Your use of official resources to advocate against a citizen petition raises a question about whether your judgment remains independent or has been aligned with special interests supporting the wastewater project.

2. Section IV.A.9 - Represent the Entire Community

"Represent the entire community."

Your email advocated for one side of a contentious issue, named and criticized a private citizen, and urged recipients to campaign against that petition. This does not reflect representation of the whole community.

3. Section IV.A.12 - Recognize Conflicts of Interest

"Recognize conflicts of interest and avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest in hiring, letting bids, approving contracts and other financial affairs of the Town."

Your advocacy for the wastewater project - combined with the 2024 VCRD Community Leadership Award citation that explicitly recognizes your work on the village streetscape and

municipal wastewater system -demonstrates a personal and professional stake in these projects' success.

Given this, you should recuse yourself from any future votes or official actions related to:

- Wastewater project bids, contracts, or financial approvals
- Streetscape project bids, contracts, or financial approvals

4. Section IV.A.13 - Refrain from Using Board Membership for Advancement

"Refrain from using board membership for political, personal or business profit or advancement."

Your leadership roles beyond Montgomery - including President of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vice-Chair of the Vermont Land Trust, Vice-Chair of the Working Lands Enterprise Board, and your VCRD Community Leadership Award - demonstrate that you already operate at a regional and state level. Using your Selectboard position to advocate on contentious issues advances your broader political standing, which is what this section prohibits.

5. Section IV.B.2 - Appearance of Conflict of Interest

"A public officer shall not take any action on any matter in which he or she has an appearance of a conflict of interest unless... able to do so fairly, objectively and in the public interest in spite of the appearance."

Your prior use of official resources to advocate against a citizen petition, combined with public recognition for the projects at issue, creates an appearance of a conflict regarding the STR petition, wastewater, and streetscape decisions. The public could reasonably question whether you will administer these matters neutrally.

6. Section IV.C.1 - Disclosure Requirement

"A public officer who has reason to believe they have an appearance of a conflict of interest... shall, prior to taking any official action... disclose to other board members during an official public meeting... the nature of the potential appearance... and the reason why the official believes he or she is able to take such action fairly, objectively and in the public interest."

To date, you have not made any such disclosure regarding the STR petition vote, wastewater approvals, or streetscape decisions.

Public Comment submitted by Karie Quintin, August 3rd 2026 (continued)

This letter is not about revisiting the wastewater project at this moment. However, transparency and public accountability require that we openly revisit that process and the actions leading to it, so we can learn from it and ensure future decisions are made with full public trust.

My immediate request for the August 17 meeting:

1. Publicly disclose whether you intend to advocate against the STR petition using your Selectboard position or resources.
2. If so, recuse yourself from any official action on that petition (Section IV.B.2).
3. If you believe you can act fairly despite the appearance of conflict, state that rationale publicly (Section IV.C.1).
4. Separately, recuse yourself from any future votes or actions related to wastewater and streetscape project bids, contracts, or financial approvals.

This is about ensuring that all citizen petitions are administered neutrally and that public confidence in the process is preserved.

I trust you will take this request seriously.

Sincerely,

Violation Policy Language & How Charlie's Waste-Water email applies

- 1. Section IV.A.8 - Retain Independent Judgment** "Retain independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups." Official resources used to advocate against a citizen petition raise questions about whether judgment has been aligned with special interests supporting the wastewater project.
- 2. Section IV.A.9 - Represent the Entire Community** "Represent the entire community." Email advocated for one side, named and criticized a private citizen, and urged campaigning against a petition - not representation of the whole community.
- 3. Section IV.A.12 - Recognize Conflicts of Interest** "Recognize conflicts of interest and avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest in hiring, letting bids, approving contracts and other financial affairs of the Town." 2024 VCRD Community Leadership Award explicitly cites his work on wastewater and streetscape projects, creating a personal and professional stake in their success. Should recuse from bids, contracts, and approvals on both.
- 4. Section IV.A.13 - Refrain from Using Board Membership for Advancement** "Refrain from using board membership for political, personal or business profit or advancement." Charlie Hancock's statewide and regional leadership roles, including the Vermont League of Cities & Towns President, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Land Trust Vice-Chair, Working Lands Enterprise Board Vice-Chair, and VCRD recognition, warrant transparency where local decisions may intersect with broader state and regional policy goals. The concern is whether Selectboard authority was used in a manner that could advance interests beyond the "will of a majority of Montgomery voters."
- 5. Section IV.B.2 - Appearance of Conflict of Interest** "A public officer shall not take any action on any matter in which he or she has an appearance of a conflict of interest unless... able to do so fairly, objectively and in the public interest in spite of the appearance." You have already used your official Selectboard email to advocate against one citizen petition (wastewater). The upcoming STR petition is another citizen petition that will come before the Selectboard. Having demonstrated a willingness to use official resources to campaign against a petition, the public can reasonably question whether you will treat the STR petition neutrally — or whether you will once again use your official position to advocate against it. This is not about predicting your behavior. It is about the appearance created by your prior actions, which is precisely what this section addresses.
- 6. Section IV.C.1 - Disclosure Requirement** "A public officer who has reason to believe they have an appearance of a conflict of interest... shall, prior to taking any official action... disclose to other board members during an official public meeting... the nature of the potential appearance... and the reason why the official believes he or she is able to take such action fairly, objectively and in the public interest." No such disclosure has been made regarding STR petition vote, wastewater approvals, or streetscape decisions.

Written response from Charlie Hancock, Board Chair, to questions posed by Karie Quinton (as requested) 8/3/26. Recorded here and read aloud at the meeting

Q1 - Publicly disclose whether you intend to advocate against the STR petition using your Selectboard position or resources.

A1 – I have no plans to advocate for a position re: on the STR ordinance one way or the other

Q2 - If so, recuse yourself from any official action on that petition as required by Section IV.B.2.

A2 – Again, I have no plans to advocate for a position on the STR ordinance one way or the other. I also do not believe that advocating for a position re: the adoption of the Ordinance would be conflict of interest or require any form of recusal, were I to do so.

Q3 - If you believe you can act fairly despite the appearance of conflict, state that rationale publicly as required by Section IV.C.1.

A3 – I do not understand what the “appearance of a conflict” you reference is and therefore can’t provide a rationale for why it does not exist. Broadly, I do not believe that a conflict, or an appearance of a conflict exists.

Q4 - Separately recuse yourself from any future votes or actions related to wastewater and streetscape project bids, contracts, or financial approvals.

A4 – I have no intention of doing this. Your rationale for a conflict re: the WW Project seems to center on an award I received from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and past advocacy for the WW project itself. Publicly expressing a positive opinion for, and/or advocating for, a public infrastructure project is not a conflict. Respectfully, I also find the assertion that my actions are motivated by awards and prizes, and that they represent a “personal stake” in the project, to demonstrate a mis-understanding of what a conflict of interest is as defined in Act 171.

Furthermore, you reference my work on the Board of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (of which I currently serve as Vice President, not President), on the Board of the Vermont Land Trust (of which I have not been a member since 2024), Working Lands Enterprise Board (of which have not been a member since 2024) as being conflicts with my role on the Selectboard. I fail to understand how these current and prior roles present a conflict (*please see stated missions of these organizations below*). You also assert, again, that the award I received from VCRD presents a conflict of interest, which I fail to understand (unless the assertion being made is that everything I do is driven by ego and a desire to win prizes, which I find mildly offensive).

- 1. Vermont League of Cities and Towns** - The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1967 with the mission of serving and strengthening Vermont local government. The Town of Montgomery is a member of VLCT.

- a. ***VLCT Provides:***
 - i. Educational workshops and consulting advice for municipal officials so that they can deliver excellent service to their residents
 - ii. Support for legislation that strengthens local government
 - iii. Comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities
 - iv. Knowledgeable assistance, resources, and information on a wide range of municipal issues
 - b. ***VLCT Believes in:***
 - i. The critical role that local government plays in the lives of Vermonters
 - ii. Municipal authority over municipal issues
 - iii. Representative and participatory local government
 - iv. The value of public service and excellence in municipal leadership
 - v. A commitment to honesty, integrity, and the highest ethical standards among public officials
 - vi. The value of collaboration as a means of strengthening cities and towns
 - vii. The individuality of each local government
2. **Vermont Land Trust** – Working towards the common good of land and people isn't always easy. Collaboration is essential to success, as is being deeply rooted in the communities [VLT] serve. With expertise in conservation, ecology, community engagement, and finance, [VLT]:
- Conserve land with important economic, community, and environmental benefits by limiting development and ensuring sound land stewardship practices
 - Support farmers in buying land and growing sustainable businesses
 - Improve the health of land, water, and soil, and share that knowledge with all others
 - Ensure that permanent legal protections on 2,200 parcels are upheld, in partnership with landowners
 - Connect all people to the outdoors through education and events
3. **Working Lands Enterprise Initiative** – Formed by Act 142 of the Vermont Legislature in 2012, the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) makes strategic investments and develops policy recommendations that support a resilient and sustainable farm, food, and forest economy in Vermont. The chair of the board is the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture (or designee). The Vice-chair has historically been someone from the private sector. I filled that role as a private consulting forester. Since its founding in 2012, WLEI has invested over \$19.5 million in 593 farm, food, and forest projects across Vermont.

In addition, you assert that I am using my selectboard position to advance my broader political standing given that I “operate at a regional and state level”. I fail to understand this assertion and would love to know what position or higher office you think I am trying attain through my work on the board.

If these responses fail to satisfy your inquiry, you are welcome to file a formal complaint with the Town regarding whatever perceived conflicts of interest you believe exist, and/or how I may be acting in violation of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy.



Charlie Hancock <montgomeryselectboard.charlie@gmail.com>

April 1st (Tuesday Voting) Reminder - PLEASE VOTE NO on 2!

Charlie Hancock <montgomeryselectboard.charlie@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 9:24 AM

To: Charlie Hancock <montgomeryselectboard.charlie@gmail.com>

Bcc: Mark and Wendy <mbrouillette@fairpoint.net>, Scott and Sharon Perry <vtmooses@gmail.com>, Leanne Barnard <montgomeryselectboard.leanne@gmail.com>, Bethany Remmers <bethany@nrpcvt.com>, Patrick Calecas <pcalecas@fairpoint.net>, Doug Kopacz <mfdvermont@gmail.com>, Peg Doheny <mickpeg@gmail.com>, Suzanne Dollois <montgomeryselectboard.suzanne@gmail.com>, Morgan Daybell <morgan.daybell@fnesu.org>, Erin Walsh Kopacz <montgomerytreasurer@gmail.com>, Emily Kimball <emily.kimball@fnesu.org>, Ethan Dull <info@thejaycloud.com>, Gabrielle Lumbra <fearlessteachers@gmail.com>, Carol Farmer <cfarmer1@fairpoint.net>, Brent Godin <brentg63@gmail.com>, "Greg Lucas (greglucas17@gmail.com)" <greglucas17@gmail.com>, Melissa Haberman <melissa.haberman1@gmail.com>, Ray H <320skier6@gmail.com>, Hilary Roberts <hilaryroberts@gmail.com>, Phineas Swann <info@phineasswann.com>, Ian Scott <ian.p.scott@gmail.com>, Izzy Herzog <izzy_fugg@hotmail.com>, Parma Jewett <parma@comcast.net>, Tosca Johnson <townhallmontgomery@gmail.com>, Doug Kopacz <doug@summerelectric.com>, Walter Knight <skiknight@gmail.com>, Larry Letourneau <lletourneau47@yahoo.com>, Mark Brouillette <publicworksmontgomery@gmail.com>, Scott Ovitt <montgomeryroads.scott@gmail.com>, Marsha Phillips <maplenut@gmail.com>, Titus Presler <tituspresler4@gmail.com>, Jane Butterfield Presler <janebutterfieldpresler@gmail.com>, Titus Henry Hatch Presler <tituspresler@gmail.com>, Titus Presler <tituspresler@post.harvard.edu>, Brad Quintin <backcountryelectric802@gmail.com>, Tosca Smith <tocsmith06@gmail.com>, "nick theinn.us" <nick@theinn.us>, Suzanne Dollois <sdoll.vt@gmail.com>, "Jesse Robbins (jesse.robbins.vt@gmail.com)" <jesse.robbins.vt@gmail.com>, Christina Suarez-Pratt <joepratt@gmail.com>, Laurie 'Sam' Murphy <murphy@vtlink.net>, Mary Niles <mcwniles@gmail.com>, Misty McCartney <mistymccartney@gmail.com>, Patty Hathaway <phathaway@enosburgk12.net>, Jacob Deva Racusin <jacob@newframeworks.com>, Jacob Racusin <buildnatural@googlemail.com>, Everett McGinley <everett.mcginley@northhillvt.com>, Susan <susan@susanregan.com>, Daniel Khan <daniel@toucanhospitality.com>, Scotthardy <scotthardy@fairpoint.net>, Leanne Barnard <Leanne.Barnard@ncsuvt.org>, John A. Chamberlin <jchamberlin@gmail.com>, Abram Barnard <abeserves@gmail.com>, Austin Moore <austin3553@gmail.com>, Daniel Jackson <daniel.seth.jackson@gmail.com>, Stein Alexandra <stein.alexandra@gmail.com>, Deanna Robitaille <deannar1980@gmail.com>, Lutzs Automotive <lutzsautomotive@gmail.com>, Elsie Saborowski <elsiesaborowski@gmail.com>, Donald Crocker 7 <dona1dcrocker7@gmail.com>, Sandra Crocker 341 <sandracrocker341@gmail.com>, Sarita Khan <relax@vtsaltcaves.com>, Sarita Khan <sarita@jaypeakskiing.com>, Snow Shoe Lodge <thesnowshoevt@gmail.com>, Mary Niles <mary.niles@fnesu.org>, Nick Lyons <nicklyons1981@gmail.com>, Nick Lyons <nicklyons10@yahoo.com>, Matt Paggi <mpaggivt@gmail.com>, Katherine Barnard <kbarnard115@gmail.com>, Bpaggivt@gmail.com, Scott Perry <pratthall@gmail.com>, Lily Powers <lilyannepowers@gmail.com>

Morning all,

Apologies for the mass email, but wanted to write with one last reminder regarding the vote **tomorrow, April 1st**, on the two Charter Amendment Articles which were brought by voter petition as a means to kill the project. Don't forget---this petition was written by a second home owner who lives in MA and is not a registered voter in the Community.

In order for the Wastewater Project to move forward and the financing framework to remain viable, we need to ensure that article 2 is defeated --- so a **NO on 2 vote will keep the project moving**, aiming to break ground this fall. If the article passes, it could doom the project. **We need everyone bought into the system to keep user rates affordable and as low as possible.**

The first article on the ballot would remove the Local Option Tax (LOT) from the Charter. Since the LOT was re-established outside of the Charter at Town Meeting Day this Charter change has to happen at some point anyway, so if it fails tomorrow we have 3 years to clean it up all the same. **The key is NO on 2.**

Please take a moment to cast a ballot tomorrow (or today at the Clerk's office) **and please check in with friends and family today to also encourage them to vote.**

If anyone has any question please don't hesitate to reach out

thanks!
Charlie

08/03/2026

Since two of the selectboard members have violated this individuals privacy rights. I am going to tell you the truth about what happened.

On May 22, 2025 the town posted a job listing for the town garage.

On May 22, 2025 this individual gave Mark his resume. Mark talked with this individual about the job and the requirements of the job.

This individual had obtained their physical and was ready to work.

This individual would stop down at the town garage every one to two weeks to check on the status of the job. Mark's response was they were waiting for the budget to kick in for the new year. This excuse went on for about a month. For the next two and a half months Mark kept saying the town was saving money by not hiring anyone to fill the job until the fall. At the same time Mark was whining that the town was down an employee at the selectboard meetings.

Yet for two and a half months Charlie was running around town discussing this individual with his cohorts. Low and behold the third week of August they had another applicant apply. This was all for show and tell. Charlie has never sat in on a town garage hire until this individual applied for the job. Charlie and Mark made sure they were going to shove it up this individuals ass.

This individual was highly qualified for this position as he has 20 years experience operating a road grader. Charlie and Mark knew from the beginning they were not going to hire this individual.

But as slimy as this process was it only gets slimier from here.

This individual went to Jay Peak and dropped off their resume. Again this individual stopped up every few weeks to check the job status. They kept blowing this individual off like Charlie and Mark had. Jay Peak would not hire this individual either. Thanks to Charlie.

What does this say about the selectboard members character? It says a lot.

CRH
Godfrey
Jay Peak

To prevent this individual from obtaining employment to take care of their family.

This individual is my son.

The corruption and collusion involved in this town must stop these are criminal offences.

The only way to end this is for these individuals to resign immediately.

Pack your shit and get. All of your cohorts can pack their shit and get too!

Again I will face the wrath of being targeted, harassed, slandered and retaliated against for using my first amendment rights of freedom of speech as I have for many years of speaking the truth.

Amy Rifenburgh





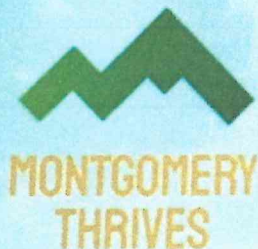


Charlie Hancock

Jun 11, 2020 · 🌐

[re-post] Montgomery! The Thrives website with a wealth of information on the proposed Wastewater and Streetscape projects, as well as details on the upcoming July 7th bond vote, is LIVE! Check ... See more

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Project Plans,
FAQs, & Photos

BOND VOTE JULY 7TH

thrives.montgomeryvt.us

Montgomery Thrives:

Infrastructure & Economic Rec...





Amy Rifenburgh

Don't send my tax bill!
My family has sacrificed enough for this town for 30 years. We helped build up the towns tax base with the improvements on this road for 30 years and we get a few hundred dollars a year from 2 residents. That covers 2 plow jobs. All of our money that we would like to put into our home goes into the road and everyone else gets a free ride.

2y Like



Charlie Hancock Amy, ch...

**Charlie Hancock**

Amy, check out the website for information of the cost of the project, who pays for what, the tax implications are, etc. I totally agree that the town owes you guys for the work you've done over the years, but this project (depending on how its done) has the potential to not create an across the board increase in property taxes

2y Like

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**Charlie Hancock**



Charlie Hancock

Furthermore, regarding taxes, we need to weigh what the impact to the tax base would be if businesses close, or homes don't sell in these areas (or conversely, if we do the project and it spurs an increase in property values/new biz, growing the tax base). I'm not discounting your point, cause it's a really solid one, but we need to look at all the angles before we