

**Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
February 13, 2024
6:30 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase (Zoom), Clinton Woolley (Zoom), Elizabeth Karle, David Johnson, Caitlin Boyle, David Martin, Ethan Pepin, Dennis Devereux, Jay Kullman, Andy Schulz (Zoom), Ron Unterman (Zoom), Faith Tempest (Zoom), Francis Devine, Peg Glezen (Zoom), Jon McCann (Zoom), Diane Deegan (Zoom), Carol A Garrow-Woolley, Rhonda Rivers (Zoom), Dan Quaranto, Paul Barton, Billy Austin, Donna Seward, James Seward, June Capron, Gail Beardmore, Robert Beardmore Jr., Tiffany Norton, Jay Kullman, David Martin, Barbara Hazelton, Stephen Michel, Abe Leber, Kathleen Leber, Ethan Pepin, Carol A Garrow-Woolley.

1. **Call to Order at 6:30 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda**
 - a. **Approval of January 9, 2024 Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Highway and Transfer Station Update** - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley noted that paving and structure grants are due to VTrans in April. Mr. Woolley suggested doing a portion of Hortonville, and noted that a culvert at Perry Road is in need of replacement. He also noted that the e-waste needs to be picked up at the Transfer Station.
 - i. Discuss Uniform Reimbursement. Clinton noted that the highway employees are interested in provisioning their own uniforms and doing their own uniform laundry, in lieu of a uniform service, as the current services are not meeting needs. Mr. Turco noted that the Board can make a decision at the next meeting.
 - b. **Town Treasurer Update** - Elizabeth Karle
 - i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Ms. Karle noted that January was a strong month for delinquent tax collection; the Town is down to 1.4% total billings still outstanding. The Town is in good cash flow standing. Transfer Station costs are a little higher than budgeted to date, but are still in the range of annual expenses. Winter road expenses are also slightly high, though still within range of the budget. FEMA reimbursement work is taking up a significant portion of Treasurer time; all requests and documentation will be submitted shortly. The Town is still awaiting the state's response to the Municipal Equipment Fund request.
 - c. **Listers' Report** - David Johnson: The Listers will complete property inspections in the first part of April, and no extension will be needed.
 - i. Grand List Certificate of No Appeal. There are no appeals pending, and the Listers will file a certificate of no appeal.
 - d. **Conservation Commission Update** - David Martin. Mr. Martin noted that the Town has been approved for a MERP Mini grant in the amount of \$4,000; there is no required Town match; the funds must go to energy resiliency education project for residents. The MHCC is also planning ahead for mitigation of aquatic nuisance species this coming season at Star Lake.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Re: Regional Plan - Ethan Pepin. Mr. Pepin noted that the Rutland Regional Plan is in the process of being updated; the RRPC expects the plan to be complete in 2026. Like a Town Plan, the purpose of the Rutland Regional Plan is to provide framework within which individuals, businesses and local governments can make decisions regarding growth and development. Mr. Pepin encouraged residents to attend an open house in Wallingford regarding the revisions being considered; more information can be found at <https://www.rutlandrpc.org>. Public feedback and input is strongly encouraged.

- b. Discuss Document Retention Plan - Elizabeth Karle. Ms. Karle noted that the Town Office currently stores many documents and should articulate a plan for document retention to guide archiving and disposal of materials. The state has a policy in place to guide municipalities; Ms. Karle recommends the Town follow the state's guidelines and use the state's archivist as a resource in instances where there is a question of what to retain or discard. The board agreed.
- c. Discuss Four-Way Stop at Belmont Store - Dennis Devereux. Mr. Devereux noted that additional enforcement and signage may be needed at the intersection of Belmont Road and Tarbleville Road; if not a fourth stop sign, then perhaps additional signage. Mr. Paul Barton noted that he also observed speeding issues at the Tarbleville Road intersection. Mr. Francis DeVine observed that seasonal speedbumps might be a solution in warmer months. Mr. Barton agreed that additional road stencils or signage may be needed. Mr. Chase noted in order for a fourth stop sign to be enforceable, the Town may need to alter its traffic ordinance; this is not likely to be a burdensome task. He recommended starting with road stencils; Mr. Turco noted his agreement. Ms. Garrow noted that the Town can also research implementation of seasonal speed bumps.
- d. Discuss Request for Conservation Easement on Farm & Wilderness/Ninevah Foundation Property and Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant Partnership -Jay Kullman. First, Mr. Kullman requested that the Town of Mount Holly serve again as the municipal partner for the Ninevah Foundation greeter program and diver survey, which is funded by the state's Aquatic Nuisance Control Environmental Stewardship Program. Second, he asked that the Select Board be aware of the Ninevah Foundation's request to the state for a conservation easement on Farm & Wilderness/Ninevah Foundation Property. If granted, the easement on the "Proposed Ninevah Forest Legacy Addition Project Area" would not change current uses of the land, including deer hunting, dispersed recreation, etc. No additional roads or development would take place. Ms. Garrow made a motion to serve as the municipal partner for the Ninevah Foundation's application to the Aquatic Nuisance Control Environmental Stewardship Program; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved. The board stated no objection to the easement.

6. Old Business

- a. Adopt/Revise Town Plan. The Clerk noted that the revisions approved at the most recent Town Plan workshop have been integrated into the draft document, and that she has received a minor list of additional typographical errors from Andy Schulz. Mr. Barton asked whether the Town had a map of all stone walls. Francis DeVine noted that 75-80% of those who sent comments to the Select Board were in favor of the Plan. Jeff Chase made several final minor recommendations for revision, which were discussed and integrated. Mr. Chase made a motion to adopt the Town Plan with the revisions as discussed; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- b. Sign Revised Personnel Policy. Signed.
- c. Sign MERP Mini Grants Agreement. Signed.
- d. Former MHVRS
 - i. Updates on Transfer of Assets and Supplies. The Clerk noted that the Town's attorney has been in touch with the former rescue squad's attorney regarding the final transfer of assets and supplies. A timeline for receiving all financial updates and final assets has been agreed upon by the former squad, and the Town attorney will follow up to close out final receipt of materials.
 - ii. Request for Use of Building by Fire Department. Fire Chief Billy Austin reiterated his request to enter into a lease with the Town for the use of the former rescue building. Mr. Turco noted that the Town attorney can draw up a lease agreement for review.

7. Citizen Comments

- a. Diana Garrow noted that the Town Office's oil tank is leaking and the Town will replace it as soon as the oil level has decreased.

8. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closed February 19 and March 5

b. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1.

9. Review & Sign Orders

10. Executive Session: 1 V.S.A. § 313 The Board entered executive session re: a private property matter.

11. Adjourned at 7:55 pm