

Select Board Meeting

Town Office

May 14, 2024, 6 pm

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Carol A Garrow-Woolley, Caitlin Boyle, Clinton Woolley, David H. Johnson, Dennis Devereux, Stephen Michel, Christine Pratt, Donna Seward, James Seward, June Capron, Zena M. Gates, Barbara Hazelton, Stephen Hazelton, Billy Austin, Andy Tanger, Chad Farrar, Elizabeth Karle, Robert Garrow, Phil Crane (via Zoom), Katy Crane (via Zoom), Andy Shulz (via Zoom).

1. **Call to Order** at 6:00 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** Jeff Chase noted that the Select Board would add an item entitled "Municipal Planning Grant Update" as 7e.
4. **Approval of April 9th, 25th, 30th Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update** - Road Foreman Clinton Woolley noted that notification of state paving grants had not yet been received. He added that he had clarified that the cost of a new truck would include the truck and body and they would accept the trade-in of the old truck, which has historically had a value of \$10,000-15,000. He noted that the Transfer Station has a new employee who seems to be doing well. Road ditching has begun.
 - i. **Seek Quotes for Alternate Solid Waste Collection:** Mr. Woolley asked Able Waste Management for a quote; Able responded to ask for some Town figures re: solid waste collection and disposal needs; Mr. Woolley will follow up to pursue the quote.
 - ii. Mr. Chase asked for an ETA for completion on the highways to be repaired under the FY24 MRGP program (Rim Rock, Summit and Stewart Road S) and for the FY25 MRGP program, in addition to repairs on Shunpike Road (FEMA funded) and Beaver Meadow (FEMA funded). He noted that the Town will need to put its annual RFP out for winter sand as well. Mr. Woolley noted that he would like to purchase manufactured sand going forward. Mr. Chase will work with the Clerk to prepare an RFP for winter sand, for future paving grants, and for Beaver Meadow (FEMA) repairs. Mr. Chase recommended that a schedule be created to prioritize and plan for repairs to ensure timely completion and proper staffing, and to consider whether any of the work needs to be contracted out. Mr. Turco agreed that a priority list and schedule would be helpful.
 - b. **Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report** - Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that delinquent tax payments continue to be collected. She drew the Select Board's attention to a new column in the profit and loss statement, which indicates the percentage change between actual and budgeted costs, as well as year-over year costs. Interest collection is more than budgeted. Winter Labor costs are final for this fiscal year. In terms of highway costs, equipment and labor have been substantial costs, but costs are coming in at budgeted amounts overall. The FEMA reimbursement process is continuing and reimbursements are beginning to

come in for damage caused during the 2023 July flooding emergency. Additional reimbursements pertaining to the December 2023 flooding event are also in progress.

- i. Review Financial Management Questionnaire. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept the questionnaire as prepared by the Treasurer; Mark seconded; unanimously approved.
 - ii. Review and Approve List of Items Treasurer Can add to Orders: Mark Turco made a motion to approve the Treasurer to add regular wages, payroll taxes and withholdings, postage, property tax refunds and tax sale items and school advances after annual Select Board review.
- c. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Update.** Town Plan was approved by RRPC and Belmont Historical Village Designation was reapproved. A subdivision hearing was heard and there is a pending subdivision hearing as well.
- d. **Fire Department Update.** Fire Chief Bill Austin reported that the MHVFD was licensed to provide First Response and will begin to provide First Response (non-transporting) to the Town beginning June 1. He also asked the Select Board to consider granting permission to the MHVFD to sell the former rescue service's ambulance and to use the proceeds to purchase a pickup truck for the department's use. Mr. Turco noted that the first step would be to receive an appraisal; Mr. Austin will proceed with that process. He added that the department will be painting the building in the coming weeks. He asked whether the Select Board would approve the creation of a walkway between the former rescue and fire department building, so as to connect the two buildings and to combine the current two 911 addresses into one address. Ms. Garrow asked Mr. Austin to provide a letter indicating the intentions for the building changes, and Mr. Turco added that a rough sketch of the intended plans should be included with the written material. Stephen Michel suggested that the department inquire as to whether the Ludlow Ambulance Service.

6. New Business

- a. Approve Harry's Restaurant Liquor License Renewal: Mark Turco made a motion to approve the liquor license as applied for; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- b. Review and Readopt Conflict of Interest Policy: Jeff Chase made a motion to re-approve the policy as written;
- c. Review Delta Dental Plan Renewal: The Clerk noted that the premium rates for the dental insurance plan offered to town employees will go up 5.25% in the new fiscal year. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve re-enrollment in the Delta Dental plan at the new annual rates; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- d. Review Road Name Change Request: Birch Run. Town Clerk Carol Garrow-Woolley noted that the road in question is currently named TH 71 and that a property owner has requested it be named. Ms. Garrow made a motion to change the road name to Birch Run; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- e. Letter of Support for Green Mountain Neighbors - Andy Tanger: Mr. Tanger sought the Select Board's letter of endorsement for a grant to which he is applying on behalf of Green Mountain Neighbors, which supports aging-in-place resources for older Vermonters.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Review Veterans Monument Quotes.** The Town received two bids. CS Stone Works quoted \$879.85 in materials and up to \$1,040 in labor (to be reduced if time spent is less than 8 hours). Farrand Masonry quoted \$500 in materials and \$1,200 in labor (to be reduced if time spent is less than projected at 2 days). The Select Board discussed the possibility of first raising donated funds to go toward the cost, and funding any remaining gap, once donations are solicited, via Town funds. Dennis Devereux will create a funding plea for the *Chit Chat*.
- b. **Re-engage the Sheriff's Office for Speed Enforcement.** Mr. Chase noted that the Sheriff should be contacted to perform speed enforcement; the Clerk will reach out to seek a bid from Sheriff Fox.
 - i. **Temporary Traffic Control Grants:** The Select Board discussed researching the new state grants for possible application, should the sign and lighting packages be suitable for Mount Holly's needs. The Clerk will complete the research and communicate with the Board re: further action.
- c. **Appoint Animal Control Officer:** Mr. Turco made a motion to appoint Adam Karle as the Animal Control Officer; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. The Clerk will update the Judicial Bureau to indicate that Mr. Karle will be an issuing officer for the town, as part of his role as ACO.
- d. **Discuss New Public Posting Locations:** The Selectboard discussed possible sites for the placement of warnings for public meetings and elections, given that the two post offices are not reliable posting sites due to posting regulations and hours. Jeff Chase made a motion to select the Town Office, the Star Lake bulletin board, and a bulletin board at the exterior of the Mount Holly Post Office for routine postings; when required for presidential elections, two additional locations will be the Belmont Store and the Mount Holly Library.
- e. **Municipal Planning Grant:** Jeff Chase noted that the Town needs to begin work on the housing study that was funded by the FY25 Municipal Planning Grant. He will coordinate with the Treasurer to move forward. Members of the community are invited to express interest in joining the committee to conduct the study.

8. Citizen Comments

- a. Dennis Devereux noted that he confirmed landscaping and maintenance staff for Town cemeteries, and will seek some volunteers from among the 5th and 6th graders at Mount Holly School for additional stone cleaning, etc. He inquired about whether the Select Board would approve a \$900 expense to pay for a necessary tree removal. Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the expense; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- b. Bob Garrow of 929 Packer Road, brought to the attention of the Board a concern regarding his application for a subdivision. He noted that he has experienced an encroachment issue on his property; in the subdivision application process, this issue has arisen as a conflict, and Mr. Garrow had the property surveyed. He is concerned that the Planning Commission has put the subdivision application process on hold due to the dispute between Mr. Garrow and his neighbor, even though Mr. Garrow is not concerned about the encroachment issue. Andy Schulz noted that the Planning Commission recommended that the subdivision approval process would be smoother if the applicant and neighbors agreed on property lines. Mr. Garrow is concerned that the subdivision is being held up, despite the fact that there is an encroachment issue. Mr. Turco noted that a Select Board meeting is not the forum for

discussing this complaint; Mr. Garrow noted that he had a follow-up meeting with the Planning Commission on May 15. Mr. Turco indicated that his concerns have been heard and should be brought back to the Planning Commission; he will endeavor to attend the meeting on May 15.

9. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closed on Memorial Day
- b. Energy Fair - June 15
- c. Mr. Turco reminded all town commissions to post and file all meeting minutes within five days of the meeting, per the state's open meeting laws.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)

12. Adjourn Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.