

## Select Board Meeting

Town Office

August 14, 2024

**\*\*6:00 pm\*\***

**Attendees:** Mark Turco (Chair), Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Kevin Plew, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, David Johnson, Paul Barton, June Capron, Christine Pratt, Stephen Michel, Dennis Devereux, Zena Gates, Robert Herbst, Lynne Herbst, Philippe Crane, James Seward, James Corven (Zoom), Andrew Schulz (Zoom).

1. **Call to Order** at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** Mark Turco noted that the board would discuss a new private road sign policy as item 6.f, and would add updates on Shunpike Road and Healdville Road repairs to the report in 5.i.
4. **Approval of July 16th and July 30th minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report - Clinton Woolley.** Road Foreman Clinton Woolley noted that Casella doesn't have room to deliver winter sand using its larger trucks; he will ask them to make deliveries using smaller trucks. Regarding the Transfer Station, Mr. Woolley also noted that he will schedule Casella to deliver a scrap metal container; the current Hubbard Bros. container will be removed. The Select Board discussed the fact that the Town cannot accept white goods and appliances containing freon, though residents continue to drop these items off. Mr. Turco asked the Clerk to repost Transfer Station guidelines to the Chit Chat and Newsflash, and to order new signage for the Transfer Station to enhance compliance. Poor compliance by residents could result in the Transfer Station being closed.
    - i. **Beaver Meadow Culvert and Other Highway Repairs.** Mr. Woolley provided updates on outstanding road repairs from July 2023 flooding and last week's heavy rains. The Shunpike Road culvert is scheduled to be repaired the week of August 19; Healdville Road repairs will take place once Dig Safe has authorized digging; the Beaver Meadow Culvert repairs will go out to bid next week; and the Town will request a hydraulic study for the culvert that recently overflowed on Sawyer Hill Road. The Lake Street culvert has not yet been replaced and will require further engineering due to its proximity to a private property. Washouts and trenches created by the recent rains will be repaired in the coming week. Mark Turco asked the Clerk to alert Fuller Sand & Gravel that Shunpike paving may need to be delayed pending GMP's possible future work to bury power lines on the road.
    - ii. **Dust Control.** The Select Board discussed the need for dust control on dirt roads during the summer. Mr. Turco noted that he would donate a 725-gallon

tank to the Town for this purpose; the Town can purchase a pump for this purpose as well.

- b. Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth Karle.** Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle reports that the Town continues to collect FEMA disaster relief funds. Tax bills have gone out and payments are being collected. On the profit-and-loss statement, Ms. Karle pointed out that three-quarters of the Town's expected state aid has been released to the Town already, with the last quarter expected in August. Solid waste label sales are steady. The first note payment (~\$32,000) for the loader has been paid, as has the first of two \$50,000 loan payments to the Vermont Bond Bank. Ms. Karle also noted that a topic for further discussion is the state's changing tax sale laws, which will affect current and future tax sales in Town.
- c. Fire Department Update - Bill Austin** Tabled.
- d. Listers' Update - David Johnson.** Lister David Johnson reported that the Listers had heard two tax grievances from local property owners; he does not expect these to be elevated to the Board of Civil Authority. He also noted that the Town's CAMA software updates are finished. The townwide reappraisal will begin July 2026.
- e. Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane.** The Clerk passed on two letters of interest for a recreation committee, and Mr. Turco confirmed that the Commission can form the committee at its own discretion. Mr. Crane shared that the Commission would spend the remainder of its MERP grant on the purchase of infrared cameras for use by residents to measure home heat loss, as well as on energy audits for municipal buildings. He noted that emerald ash borer mitigation efforts were done for the season and would continue in the spring.

## 6. New Business

- a. Mount Holly Cider Liquor License.** The Select Board discussed Mount Holly Cider's application to the state liquor board for a festival permit that would allow the sale of beer to attendees of Cider Days in October. The Board asked the Clerk to remind the applicant to abide by all state laws regarding festival permits, including regulations regarding fencing, enforcement and serving limits. Mr. Turco noted that the applicant was compliant last year. The Town Clerk will approve the license at the next meeting, provided the Clerk can make contact as described above.
- b. Select VLCT Town Fair 2024 Representative.** Mark Turco made a motion to send David Johnson as its representative, with Elizabeth Karle as an additional representative; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- c. Discuss Additional Transfer Station Tasks.** The Select Board unanimously agreed that Transfer Station Attendant Ken Saccardo should perform additional maintenance tasks at the Transfer Station outside of regular hours, such additional hours not to exceed six. The board thanked Mr. Saccardo for his initiative in bringing these additional tasks to their attention.
- d. Personnel Policy Updates.** The Clerk advised the Board regarding two sections of the personnel policy that are out of sync with the Town's current and historical

practices. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept changes to the Paid Vacation Accrual policy such that it would reflect current accrual practices; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Jeff Chase also made a motion to make a change to the Overtime policy such that it would be awarded for any hours worked above eight in a workday, Mark Turco seconded; Diana Garrow dissented. Ms. Garrow also raised a discussion regarding compensatory time; the board did not make a motion to change the current policy.

- e. **Adopt 250th Anniversary Resolution - Dennis Devereux.** Mr. Devereux brought to the board's attention a resolution concerning the Town's commemoration of the state's upcoming 250th anniversary. The Clerk read the resolution aloud. Jeff Chase made a motion to adopt the resolution as read; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Mr. Devereux volunteered the Mount Holly Historical Museum to serve as a representative to the state from Mount Holly.
- f. **Private Road Policy.** The board discussed creating a formal policy regarding private road signs. Mark Turco asked the Clerk to draft a policy that provided for the Town's payment and installation of the first private road sign requested by a property owner. Replacement signs, in the event of damage or theft of the first sign, would be installed at the expense of the property owner. The board will consider the draft policy at the next meeting.

## 7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Municipal Planning Grant.** Ms. Karle noted that no one had come forward to conduct the housing study for which the Town received a Municipal Planning Grant. The board discussed the possibility of declining the grant, as no funds have yet been received. The board urged residents interested in leading the housing study to come forward before the next meeting, noting that it will otherwise forgo the grant.
- b. **Homeland Security Grant: Generator Bids, Purchase & Installation.** Mr. Chase noted that he had received quotes for the generator purchase and was seeking quotes for installation. He will be in touch with Ms. Karle once quotes have been collected.

## 8. Citizen Comments

- a. Dennis Devereux asked whether the Select Board should contact the state about the old dam removal near the Blacksmith Shop Museum on Tarbellville Road. Mr. Turco noted that this would be a question for the Agency of Natural Resources, and that the Museum can contact the ANR directly to inquire about the removal of remaining concrete structures from the brook.
- b. Mr. Turco noted that the Clerk should send a copy of the Junk Ordinance and the state prohibition of fireworks to the Chit Chat and Newsflash, to remind residents of the municipal and state regulations.

## 9. Announcements

- a. Green Up Coordinator Needed

- b.** Transfer Station Attendant Needed
- c.** Town Office Closed Labor Day.

**10. Review & Sign Orders**

**11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel.** Mark Turco made a motion to enter executive session at 7:50 pm; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

**12. Adjourned** at 8:00 pm.