

**Select Board Meeting
Town Office
December 10, 2024, 6:00 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Carol A. Garrow-Woolley, Dennis Devereux, June Capron, Christine Pratt, Stephen Michel, David Johnson, Elizabeth Karle, Zena Gates, Clinton Woolley, Chad Farrar, Sam Farrar, Wendell Perkins (Zoom), Alexandra Yuster (Zoom), Barbara Hazelton (Zoom), Steve Hazelton (Zoom), Karen Kotecki.

- 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 added an item to New Business re: Generator Installation for Homeland Security Grant
- 4. Approval of November 12 Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- 5. Reports**
 - a. Highways & Transfer Station Report - Clinton Woolley.** Mr. Woolley noted that the Town's new highway employee has been a welcome addition to the crew as they continue winter road maintenance. He reported that the new steel roll-off at the Transfer Station has been working well and does not pose any complications for plowing.
 - b. Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth Karle.** Ms. Karle noted that it is now delinquent tax collection season; approximately 2-3% of properties are delinquent, which represents approximately \$200,000 in delinquent taxes owed, of which approximately \$50,000 has already been collected. Interest income on the Town's CDs is steady and over budget; funds have also been received from the PILOT program.
 - c. Fire Department Update - Bill Austin.** Tabled.
 - d. Conservation Commission Update - Alexandra Yuster** reported that a Recreation Subcommittee has been formed within the MHCC. She asked the Select Board's approval to join the state association of conservation commissions; the board approved.
- 6. New Business**
 - a. FEMA Extension Requests for DR4720-VT.** Ms. Karle noted that two projects stemming from the July 2023 flood emergency have not been completed and asked for Select Board approval to request from FEMA an extension of the deadline for completion. The projects in question are the Beaver Meadow Road Culvert and the Chadburn Lane Bridge Wingwalls. Mr. Turco made a motion to request the extension; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
 - b. Discuss Okemo Valley A/V Budget Request - Wendell Perkins.** Okemo Valley TV Board Chair Wendell Perkins requested that the Select Board consider a \$1,000 budget allocation for audio-visual support, in addition to its annual \$750 social services allocation. The Select Board noted that it would take the request under consideration at its January budget workshop.
 - c. Discuss Utility Easement on Rte. 103S - Green Mountain Power.** Karen Kotecki, contractor for right-of-ways and easements for Green Mountain Power, requested that the Select Board consider an easement to place a utility pole near Green Cemetery, on Route 103S near Greenstand Road. The Board asked that the proposed location of the pole and anchor guy be moved so as not to block the view of the cemetery and memorial. Ms. Kotecki agreed to review the proposed placement and to resubmit the easement request for the January meeting.
 - d. Set Budget Workshop Meeting Date and Time.** The Select Board agreed to set the annual Budget Workshop for January 6 at 4pm at the Town Office; members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom.
 - e. Set Town Meeting Date and Time.** The Select Board discussed the time of the annual Town Meeting on March 3, 2025. Mr. Turco made the motion to set the time for 6 pm at Mount Holly School; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

- f. **Discuss PACIF Recommendation Re: Medical Certification.** The Select Board Clerk noted that PACIF, the Town's insurer for general liability and worker's compensation, has recommended that the Town require that employees subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations receive a DOT physical every two years and provide the relevant medical certification for employee records. The clerk noted that the cost of the physical would be paid for by the Town, as indicated in the Town's existing Personnel Policy. Ms. Garrow made a motion to require the DOT physical of the Town's CMV drivers; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Review Warming Shed Quotes.** Two quotes were sought for the purchase of an 8x10-foot warming shed for the Transfer Station attendants: one for \$1,995 and the other for \$3,695. Mr. Turco made a motion to purchase the less costly shed; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
 - b. **Emergency Generator Installation.** Mr. Chase noted that the Town's request for additional grant funding to install an emergency generator was rejected by Vermont Emergency Management; these additional costs will need to be paid for by the Town. Quoted costs for purchase and installation of building-side components and electrician services are approximately \$3,300. Mark Turco made a motion to approve spending not to exceed \$3,300; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
8. **Citizen Comments.** June Capron thanked Bob Knight of the town road crew for his assistance in getting her car unstuck during the last snow storm, and noted that the road crew had assisted her last year as well. Jeff Chase and Mark Turco added that residents should take special care when driving in winter road conditions.

9. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closures: December 24th-December 26th; New Year's Day
- b. Dog Licensing Renewal Begins January 1

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel.** At 6:49 pm, Mr. Turco made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel compensation issues; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Items discussed in executive session included possible hiring and compensation of an Assistant Treasurer for additional hours, and scheduled pay raises for road crew employees in 2026.

12. **Adjourned** at 7:35 pm.