

**Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
February 11, 2025
6:00 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Elizabeth Karle, Clinton Woolley, Stephen Michel, Zena Gates, James Seward, Carol A Garrow Woolley, Linda Lampert, Lester Lampert, Dennis Devereux, David Martin, June Capron, Barbara and Steve Hazelton (via Zoom).

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** at 6:01 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** Mark Turco noted that one addition regarding Select Board Clerk Hiring would be added to New Business.
4. **Approval of January 6th, 14th and 27th Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve all minutes as drafted; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley.** Mr. Woolley noted that the Town can work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to bring its Municipal Roads General Permit up to date. Mr. Woolley also noted that two Town trucks had a hydraulic line failure in the past week; the hoses were repaired. Mr. Woolley purchased dies, hoses and fittings to make the repairs in-house in the case of a future problem. Mr. Woolley also noted that he was concerned that residents may have trouble getting to the Transfer Station on Sunday due to the expected snow storm. Ms. Garrow suggested that the Town pre-emptively close the Transfer Station on Sunday. The Clerk agreed to post the closure information on the News Flash. Mr. Woolley will ask the Attendants whether they are able to work an extra hour on Saturday to offer more hours prior to the storm.
 - b. **Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle.**
 - i. **Monthly Income and Expenses Report.** Ms. Karle noted that the Town has received the additional 15% federal cost share due to the Town for FEMA's reimbursements of 2023 flooding repairs. This payment covered current and past reimbursements and was just shy of \$100,000. Funds were also received for last year's State highway grants-in-aid grant program. Ms. Karle noted that the Town had also accepted FEMA's cost estimate for the Beaver Meadow road repair project; this amount has now been obligated and 90% of that federal payment will be received within the month. Ms. Karle noted that these funds will be put in a subaccount to be segregated for the purpose of the Beaver Meadow Road repairs. Ms. Karle also noted that she is still searching for a new hire for the Assistant Treasurer position, and that David Johnson had been performing those duties in the meantime.
 - c. **Listers' Report - David Johnson**
 - i. **Grand List Certificate of No Appeal.** Mr. Johnson noted that there were no appeals to the Grand List this year, and the Town will file a Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending. In addition, he submitted a new Tax Map Maintenance Contract for the Select Board to sign. The Board signed both documents as presented.
 - d. **Conservation Commission Update.** David Martin noted that the State had encouraged the MHCC to apply for a permit to expand the area where a bottom barrier could be

installed in Star Lake, and to apply for a permit for some mechanical harvesting in Star Lake to allow for kayak or canoe travel across the lake in the summer. The MHCC will pursue those permits and report back to the Select Board if the permit is issued. Mr. Martin also asked for the Select Board's permission to apply for an AARP grant to provide some playground equipment in the Star Lake beach area. It is a \$25,000 grant and no matching requirement for the Town. The Board noted it had no objection to the MHCC applying for the grant.

6. New Business

- a. **Town Highway Grant Program/Documents FY26/CY25.** Mr. Chase noted that this is the typical annual paperwork that must be filed if the Town wishes to apply for State highway grants. Mr. Chase recommended applying for a paving grant for Hortonville Road, in the amount of ~\$300,000. The area in need of paving would be on Hortonville Road between Shunpike Road and the Town line.
- b. **2025 SAM Renewal Update.** The Select Board Clerk noted that the SAM Renewal has been completed. Further entity name verification was sought by the CAGE program; Clerk will complete the verification.
- c. **[Required Annual Open Meeting Law Training](#).** Mr. Turco noted that he would take the new state training required of Select Board Chairs regarding the changes to the State's Open Meeting Law. Resident Dennis Devereux noted that the training could be posted in other public places, including the News Flash, the Chit Chat and the website, so that other citizens could also take the training if desired.
- d. **Select Board Clerk Hire.** The Board met on February 7 to interview two candidates for Select Board Clerk. Mr. Turco noted that both candidates were strong. Mr. Turco made a motion to offer the position to William Notte due to his superior qualifications for the position; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. The Clerk will send the offer letter with an anticipated start date of Tuesday, February 18.

7. Old Business

- a. **Sign Revised Purchasing Policy.** The Board discussed the revised Purchasing Policy and indicated that it wished to increase the amount of spending requiring Select Board approval from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Mr. Turco made a motion to adopt the Purchasing Policy as drafted, including that change; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. The Select Board Clerk noted that she would make the final edit and circulate for signing.
8. **Citizen Comments.** Resident Linda Lampert of 440 Howland Farm Road in Mount Holly re-expressed her concern from the November 2024 Select Board Meeting regarding two large ash tree limbs that she observes extending over her road. She asked that the Town limb the tree so as to prevent possible danger. She provided mapping documentation in hard copy and via digital maps that she believes indicate that the road ends in a different place than is documented elsewhere. She believes that the tree is in the Town's right-of-way. She noted that there are maps that show conflicting road information. Mr. Turco noted that the Town can cut the two limbs in question and will ask the two contractors who typically do tree work for the Town to provide quotes to complete the job.

9. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closed for President's Day, Monday, February 17.
- b. Dog License Registration Deadline April 1.
- c. Dog Rabies Clinic will be Saturday, March 22, 9 am to 12 pm. The cost is \$25 per vaccine.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel (if needed)

12. Adjourned at 6:46 pm.