

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting  
Minutes May 14, 2019

In Attendance: Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews  
Town Officials: Sue Covalla, David Johnson, Clinton Woolley  
Public: Paul Barton, Peter Berger, Judy Hyjek, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann,  
Mary Jane Osborne, Don Richardson, Gordon White

*Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Mark Turco pointed out the two new flag standards of the United States of America and the State of Vermont that were donated to the Town of Mount Holly in honor of Mount Holly citizen, Charlie Tarbell, who died in 1862 while serving his country for liberty.*

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mark Turco.
2. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Agenda changes:
  - a. Gordon White, lessee and operator of the Belmont Store, presented a proposal for a Belmont General Store sponsored "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Belmont Brewfest!!" on August 10, 2019 from 12 noon to 9 pm. The program would have: breweries and vendors from Vermont; music by local bands from 12 noon to 5 pm; the Odd Fellows dinner from 5 to 7 pm; a Karaoke contest from 7 to 9 pm; and kids' activities on the green from 12 noon to 5 pm. Mr. White said that the Mount Holly Community Association thought this was a great idea. Members of the Select Board agreed and stated the Board would be open to helping with the requests made by Mr. White (road closures, parking control, constable on site) if all state requirements for a brewfest were met. Mr. White said he would return with that information.
  - b. The 2019 Lake Ninevah Aquatic Nuisance Control (Milfoil) Grant from the State needed approval and signature by the Mount Holly Select Board. Ron Tarbell made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Matthews and passed unanimously, to approve and sign the grant.
4. April 9, 2019 Minutes: Ron Tarbell made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Reports
  - a. Highways – Clinton Woolley
    - i. Update
      1. Storm damage expenses are still coming in. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission said it would be at least two months before FEMA responds regarding the disaster declaration.
      2. The repair work on Lushas Acres Lane has been completed. Work continues on Freeman Brook Road.
    - ii. Plow bills to Plymouth for \$3200 and Wallingford for \$2500 were approved.
    - iii. Salt purchase of 350 tons was approved (352 tons used this past winter) with a motion by Ron Tarbell, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, and passed unanimously.
    - iv. Road Crew hire: Discussion was deferred to Executive Session.
    - v. Judy Hyjek thanked Mr. Woolley for changing and adding signs on Shunpike Road.

- vi. A question arose about who was responsible for removing dog waste from the trash bin at Star Lake. Mr. Woolley responded that in the 14 years he has been with the Town, the road crew has never been responsible for doing so. The Select Board decided to place a “dog waste” notice on trash receptacles.
  - b. Treasurer - David Johnson
    - i. Monthly Income and Expense Report: \$51,879 in taxes is still outstanding on a total of 13 properties with legal proceedings to begin soon. As to the Profit and Loss: not much activity this time of year; all state aid for roads has been received; just over \$5700 to go to Rutland Regional Planning Commission for various services; solid waste revenues continue to be good, while expenses are down with 209 tons of garbage this year compared with 252 tons a year ago; the Workers Comp audit has been done; Education figures are still coming in, with about \$439,000 to go to the Education Fund by the end of month; storm damage expenses are still coming in with three bids now needed for the work on Beaver Meadow Road.
    - ii. Reappraisal Revenue Fund: \$204 more was received than budgeted. Jennifer Matthews made a motion to add the extra \$204 to the Reappraisal Reserve Fund. Motion was seconded by Ron Tarbell and passed unanimously.
  - c. Delinquent Tax Update: Peter Perrino was unable to be present. David Johnson reported that it has been hard to find a tax sale attorney, as all want more than 15% of sale. Select Board decided to wait to hear from Mr. Perrino.
  - d. Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Jon McCann, Town RRPC Rep, reported on his first meeting, which was primarily devoted to data studies of the county:
    - i. US Census will have 1800 census positions available in the State (approx. 180 in Rutland County). These positions pay well and last for months. The Select Board agreed to get this information out to the community.
    - ii. Local census response is important as it provides about \$2500 in Federal funds per resident counted.
    - iii. Data requests and resource assistance is available for planning and other needs.
    - iv. A Wetlands Bill making its way through the Legislature could soon shift the burden from the State to localities. Mr. McCann with RRPC will monitor bill.Mark Turco, with concurrence from Ron Tarbell and Jennifer Matthews, declared Jon McCann’s report a “great update” and looks forward to such updates continuing.
6. Old Business
- a. Reorganization
    - i. Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative: A new representative is needed, as Carrie Dougherty who was appointed in March no longer works for the town. Clinton Woolley, the alternate rep, volunteered. A motion was made by Jennifer Matthews and seconded by Ron Tarbell to appoint Mr. Woolley Mount Holly’s Representative. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Woolley noted that the meetings were usually about economics related to markets and recyclables. Don Richardson volunteered to serve as the Alternate Rep. Ron Tarbell made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, to appoint Mr. Richardson the Alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Conflict of Interest Policy: The Policy, based on a model developed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, needs to be signed by July first. The Select Board will sign it at the June meeting, and hereafter, will sign it in March as part of the Annual Reorganization Meeting.
  - iii. Copies of the Policy will be available for public viewing both in a binder kept in the Town Office and on the town website.
- b. Local Emergency Management Plan and National Incident Management System: Following on the discussion at last month's Select Board meeting, there is a new template requiring much more detail. Jennifer Matthews has worked on fleshing out those details. Mark Turco will serve as Emergency Management Director with Russ Garrow as Emergency Management Coordinator. The town should readopt the NIMS standards which were last adopted in 2008. Don Richardson noted that changes in LEPC II through RRPC would probably need to be integrated with the above new changes.

Further information:

- The Town's Emergency Operations Center will be located at the Town Office.
- The Primary Shelter is located at the Elementary School. Second and Third sites are the Belmont Fire Station and the Oddfellows Hall.
- Neither the Town Office nor the School has a back-up generator and no grants are currently available for this. Many small towns are in the same position.
- It was asked if the Town Garage could be the Emergency Operations Center as it has a generator.
- Further discussion centered on the method for emergency communication. There are about 30 hand-held radios in town used by Town, Road, Fire and Rescue members.
- There was additional discussion about the availability of defibrillators. Rescue and the School each have one; the Town Office does not have one.
- The question of a designated helipad arose. DHART uses VT Route 103.
- Ms. Matthews pointed out that once an emergency has been declared, FEMA will cover 75% of costs. With the LEMP in place, the State will cover 12.5% of remaining costs, so that the Town and taxpayers are only responsible for the last 12.5% of costs.

A motion was made by Ron Tarbell and seconded by Jennifer Matthews to approve NIMS and the LEMP, pending input from Russ Garrow on the use of the town garage or the Belmont Fire Station as the back-up Emergency Operations Center, before signing the Plan. The motion passed unanimously. The Select Board also agreed that the emergency plan information would be available to the public on the town website, bulletin boards, and on the inside back cover of the Annual Town Report.

- c. Other: Jennifer Matthews reported that work on the donation, construction, or acquisition of a Swap Shed at the Transfer Station continues. Anyone interested in helping make the Swap Shed a reality is asked to call the town office.

7. New Business

- a. Parcel Mapping Proposal: There was a lengthy discussion about the contract to have new paper maps made of the Town's parcels. The mapper would reference deeds, surveys and subdivisions to reflect parcel boundaries as accurately as possible. This work builds on the State's mapping project, which the Town has been involved in for the past year. Two thirds of the money for the paper maps has already been budgeted with one third to come in next year's budget. The color-coded maps will be available digitally and in books. Updates can be requested every one or two years. Ron Tarbell made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, to proceed with the mapping project to be done by Russell Graphics. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Dental Insurance Renewal: July first is the renewal date with any changes to be made now. Current plan is fine. Rates will increase by 3.39%. Ron Tarbell made a motion to renew the current plan, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, and passed unanimously.
  - c. Liquor License – Harry's: Approved and signed.
  - d. Town Office Exterior Maintenance Bids: Two bids for painting the exterior of the Town Office were received and discussed in detail. A motion was made by Ron Tarbell, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, to award the contract to MRS Unlimited LLC for \$5486. Motion passed unanimously.
  - e. Town Office Maintenance: There was discussion about the roof. Several tiles have come off, so the roof should be inspected for any leaks or damage. The floors need cleaning. Sue Covalla will follow up. The front door lock will be replaced with a coded key pad.
  - f. Town Website: Jennifer Matthews has been updating the information on the website. She has added an Announcements page and a Road Construction Updates page to the site. She had a discussion with the VT League of Cities and Towns as to what makes a town website "official". That occurs once the Select Board has voted to make the site official and has decided what all it would like to include on the site. The only requirements are for town boards' and commissions' agendas and (draft) minutes to be posted in a timely manner. More updates will be coming to the site. It was agreed with some discussion that the town website is a great tool for information-sharing.
8. Announcements: Mary Jane Osborne reported on a bill before the Public Service Board regarding the lack of emergency phone service (after a few hours of battery life) in power outages. Comments on the bill are due by May 24th. The Select Board agreed to write a letter to the PSB regarding this situation in which town residents are left with no ability to reach emergency services during power outages.
9. Review and Sign Orders: Reviewed and signed.
10. Executive Session: Entered at 7:45 to discuss new Road Crew hire. Exited at 8:12 with no decisions made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 6/11/2019