

MOUNT HOLLY SELECT BOARD
MEETING APRIL 9, 2019
MINUTES

In Attendance: Mark Turco, Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews, David Johnson, Susan Covalla, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Don Richardson, Lester Lampert, Paul Barton, Mary Surething, Jon McCann, Joe Fitzgerald, Jaime M. Fitzgerald, Annette Lynch, Candace Neary, Ron Unterman, Jo Bania, Russ Garrow, Peter Perrino, Craig Hutt Vater, Sara C. McMillan

1. The Meeting was called to order by Mark Turco (chair) at 6:00 p.m.
2. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Agenda – changes, additions, removals:

Joe Fitzgerald asked about Town support for the formation of a Neighborhood Watch Program in response to three “hot spots” of criminal and/or drug activity identified by the State Police here in town. During a discussion, it was clear the proposal had general support with many suggestions about a community meeting, other public information dissemination, recruiting volunteers, and working with the town constable, Ludlow & State Police. Joe Fitzgerald volunteered to lead the effort and others present, including Jo Bania and Don Richardson, volunteered to help. A notice will go in the Chit Chat to form a committee which will look into options to best address increasing drug & criminal activity in town. The Select Board thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for his efforts.
4. Minutes of Select Board meeting March 12, 2019
 - a. David Johnson made the correction that the Treasurer is authorized to put on the orders and pay only certain items: payroll taxes and withholding payments, regular wages, postage, property tax refunds and school advances per schedule reviewed annually; not, as implied, any orders to be paid on his – the Treasurer’s - whim.
 - b. Jennifer Matthews added two names to the attendees at the meeting: Candace Neary and Manuela Weiter.
 - c. Jennifer Matthews corrected some misinformation concerning the Town Attorney. The law firm is Caroll, Boe & Pell with offices in Middlebury only, no office in Rutland. Also, the Town does not have a contract with the firm only an agreement that can be terminated in writing at any time.
 - d. Jennifer Matthews noted that the motion she introduced, and which was passed unanimously, that the Select Board use gender neutral language in all aspects of local governing and use of the term Select Board member rather than Selectman, had not been included in the minutes.

Ron Tarbell made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, that the minutes be approved with the noted changes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports
 - a. Highways

Clinton Woolley reported: i) the sweeper is to be dropped off; ii) the shoulder work on Tarbellville Road will be done in one to two weeks, but still working on the price; iii) the Transportation Advisory Council meeting worked on the road and bridge standards draft and discussed available grants; iv) repairs are needed for a leak in the one-ton truck’s booster pump at a cost of about \$1400.00.
 - b. Treasurer -David Johnson
 - i. HRA FY19 Funding – no funding needed for FY19
 - ii. Community Bank – looking for new municipal customers, but no information yet

- iii. Financials update: past due property tax payments continue to come in; stronger language for unpaid property taxes included in April notices; \$2000 Current Use withdrawal penalty received, not in budget; interest received now double what included in budget; solid waste sticker sales continue to be strong; waste disposal costs continue to be within budget; vehicle equipment repair costs are under budget but close; winter road materials came in at lower costs than last year.

- c. Migratory Birds Permit

Ron Unterman spoke about the permit that allows up to four Canada Geese to be shot out-of-season in order to control their population and droppings on the beach at Star Lake, and he wanted to answer questions raised at the March Select Board meeting. Mr. Unterman noted that this is a Town program on which he and his wife, Dottie Finnerty, do most of the volunteer work. Many methods have been tried – dogs, air horn, signs, natural sprays – over the past eight years, to no avail. There was discussion about killing the geese vs. other methods of control. By Federal law, the birds, once killed, must be burned or buried. Paul Barton was encouraged to bring his fox head signs to the beach to assist in control efforts.

6 Old Business

- a. Appointments

- 1. Select Board Clerk

Jennifer Matthews stated that she had attended the Select Board training given by Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). She noted that “select board clerk” is a position that is filled by a member of the Select Board (a Select Board may also have a separate “administrative assistant” position staffed by a member of the public). How this Board deals with that position could be defined by the Board’s “Rules of Procedure” which Ms. Matthews offered to draw up using VLCT’s model. She also noted the Board needed to adopt a “Conflict of Interest Policy” by July first. Mark Turco said that the latter policy exists, as the former chair of the Select Board, Ted Crawford, had put a lot of effort in to creating said policy. Ms. Matthews said she would look for the document.

- 2. Lister

Mary Surething read her letter of interest for the vacant position on the Board of Listers.

Jennifer Matthews made a motion, seconded by Ron Tarbell, to appoint Ms. Surething to the Board of Listers. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3, 4 Jon McCann and Don Richardson each read letters of interest for the position of Town Representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and in Mr. Richardson’s case, to the Transportation Advisory Council as well. The Select Board decided to consider the appointments in Executive Session.

- b. Tax Sale Attorney

Peter Perrino spoke to the amount charged by the Middlebury attorneys to make the trip to Mount Holly for a tax sale and the cost of the hourly rate vs. 15%. Mr. Perrino said he would look for a local attorney to do the sales, start-to-finish, for 15%. The Select Board concurred.

- c. Other – dealt with above: Rules of Procedure/Conflict of Interest

7. New Business

- a. Town Office Exterior Maintenance

Sue Covalla, Town Clerk, spoke to the need for painting and some trim board repair.

Funds are in the budget. It was decided to put a notice in the Chit Chat for quotes.

- b. Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)

Russ Garrow, the town's Emergency Management Coordinator, said the annual plan update was complete. It was asked if residents could have access to the plan, especially the list of contacts and emergency centers. There were many suggestions as to how to disseminate the information: Newsflash, town website (if operational), bulletin boards, Annual Town Report. A motion to accept LEOP was made by Ron Tarbell, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

c. Swap Shed @ Transfer Station

Jennifer Matthews spoke of many residents' desire to see the return of the Swap Shed. She spoke with Kevin Stillwell at the transfer station who expressed support for the shed's return. The Treasurer indicated that there may be some surplus funds in the budget that could be applied to the purchase of a shed. There was discussion about proper management, insistence on usable goods only and not as a way to dispose of junk, which would cost the town (and tax-payers) money. Don Richardson offered to draw up floor and construction plans and to try to obtain building materials. It was suggested to advertise in the Chit Chat and on the Newsflash.

8. Announcements:

- Transfer Station hours are now Saturdays 8 to 12 and Wednesdays 4 to 7.
- Dog registration is on-going. You are required, by law, to register your dog.
- Route 103 surfacing meeting was held in Ludlow. The 20 miles from Chester to Clarendon are to be paved, starting in mid-April and finishing by July first. Joe Fitzgerald noted that a flagger was needed at the flashing light on Rte. 103 to reduce delay for students and school staff in the morning.

9. Orders Signed

10. Executive Session

- Motion made by Jennifer Matthews, seconded by Ron Tarbell, to enter Executive Session to discuss appointments and road crew personnel, with Clinton Woolley invited. Entered at 7:10 pm. Exited at 7:40. A motion was made by Ron Tarbell and seconded by Jennifer Matthews to appoint Jon McCann as the Representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, with Jennifer Matthews as Alternate, and to appoint Don Richardson as the Alternate to the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC). Clinton Woolley will continue to serve as our TAC Representative as part of his employment as Interim Road Foreman. Motions passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved 5/14/2019