

**Mount Holly Select Board Meeting
Minutes June 11, 2019**

Present: Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews
Town Officials: Sue Covalla, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Clinton Woolley
Public: Paul Barton, Russ Garrow, Megan Harlow Jenkins, Judy Hyjek, Annette Lynch,
Jon McCann

1. **Call to Order** by Chair, Mark Turco, at 6:00 p.m.
2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the **Agenda** - None were needed.
4. **Minutes** of May 14, 2019 (draft in the June issue of the Chit Chat, on the Town Website, <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SB-Minutes-5.14.19.pdf> and in the Town Office) - Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

5. Reports

a. Highways

i) **Update** – Clinton Woolley reported: the Freeman Brook Road project is now complete; the cost for a new ditch bank mower is \$12,400; he has an offer of \$1,500 for the old mower; there are no offers on the second mower only a willingness to take it on consignment with the understanding that it has little dollar value.

ii) **Winter Sand Quotes** – Two bids in the same amount of \$7.45 per ton have been received from Markowski and Pike. Mr. Woolley recommended Pike due to its coarser sand. Ron Tarbell made a motion to accept the bid from Pike, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

iii) **Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program** – The town received an invitation to participate in the State program which provides 80% of the documented expenses for Best Management Practices on hydrologically connected roads so as to be in compliance with the Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Roads General Permit. Clinton Woolley will work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on the project with a June 30, 2020 completion date. Ron Tarbell made a motion to participate in the program, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

iv) **Summer Paving** will be scheduled for Healdville Road from below the corner with Hedgehog Hill Road to the new bridge, 1.5" overlay when complete, with a cost of approximately \$82,000. Treasurer David Johnson noted there was about \$100,000 in the paving budget.

v) **Appoint Road Foreman** - Clinton Woolley, who has been Interim Road Foreman, said he was willing to step into the position. Ron Tarbell made a motion to appoint Clinton Woolley Road Foreman, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously. The Select Board congratulated Mr. Woolley on his appointment.

Question from the Public: Paul Barton asked if it was possible to put up a warning sign on Healdville Road to alert drivers to the presence of small children at play. Mr. Woolley said that he would order one.

vi) **Personnel Wage Review** – to be addressed in executive session.

vii) **New Hire – Road Crew – Interviews** - The Select Board has received five applications. Dates and times for interviews of 30-45 minutes will be set up. A CDL, Commercial Driver's License, is a requirement for the position and a prerequisite for an interview.

Question from the Public: Judy Hyjek asked about sweeping Shunpike Road. Mr. Woolley noted that ditching and mulching work had been completed, so sweeping was next.

b. **Treasurer** – David Johnson

i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** - David Johnson noted some highlights: the Town has paid the Vermont Education Fund; the \$5,400 item is for the start of the parcel mapping project; the snow plowing bills to Plymouth and Wallingford (total of \$5,700) have now been paid; the Solid Waste Income is at \$3,000 and counting over what was expected; the Highway Fund Benefit Expense shows a surplus due to two employees instead of three; Solid Waste Expenses are coming in under budget.

ii) **Late Filed Declaration Penalty Waiver** - Late filers of the Vermont Tax Form HS-122 may be subject to a town penalty if the town so chooses. Mount Holly has waived the penalty in the past. Ron Tarbell made a motion to continue the policy to waive the Late Filed Declaration Penalty, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

iii) **Annual Financial Management Checklist** – The VT State Auditor's office puts out an annual questionnaire to check on municipalities' financial management. There have been no changes in the town's financial management policies. The Select Board reviewed the checklist and signed.

c. **Delinquent Tax & Tax Sale Attorney Update** - Peter Perrino was not present.

d. **Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report** - Jon McCann reported that Efficiency Vermont announced a new campaign for free walk-through energy efficiency evaluations of residences and small businesses in Rutland County. These no-charge walk-throughs, usually costing \$400-500, take about one-to-two hours and can result in significant energy savings. If the retail sale of marijuana bill passes out of the Legislature next session, towns will need to opt in to allowing marijuana stores. The Select Board will monitor this. The Shrewsbury Town Plan was approved by the RRPC.

6. Old Business

a. **Conflict of Interest Policy** – The policy was signed by the Select Board for the period of June 2019 to March 2020. Jennifer Matthews stated that the policy will be placed in a Policy binder in the Town Office and it will be on the town website under a new Policies tab.

b. **Swap Shed** – Ms. Matthews reported she had received a call from a resident with a wood base available for the construction of a shed. The base was a bit small, but she thanked the resident for the offer. She asked if some of the surplus solid waste income might be used for the purchase of a new shed. Mark Turco repeated his wish to spare the town any costs for this item, but the Select Board agreed to look at quotes for a new shed.

Question from the Public: Paul Barton asked about liability insurance with a swap shed. It was pointed out that Mount Holly had operated a swap shed in the past without any insurance issues and that many towns currently operate swap sheds.

c. **Other - Question** from the public: Judy Hyjek asked if there was an update on the Neighborhood Watch proposed a couple of months ago by Joe Fitzgerald. Jennifer Matthews responded that she had reached out to Mr. Fitzgerald a couple of times. He indicated he was quite busy at present. No one knew if contact had been made with the State Police or with Jo Bania, but the Mount Holly Constable indicated in an email to the Select Board that he was available to help set up the service. The Select Board will put that information out on the Newsflash.

7. New Business

a. **Cemetery Issues** – Tabled until Dennis Devereux could be present to discuss. Clinton Woolley reported that volunteers spent four hours at the Packer Cemetery setting up headstones, mowing and cleaning.

b. **Appoint Forest Fire Warden** - A Town Forest Fire Warden is appointed every five years. Jim Seward is the current fire warden, and he is willing to serve again. Ron Tarbell made a motion to appoint Jim Seward Town Forest Fire Warden, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

c. **Propane & Oil Pricing** – Cota & Cota submitted a quote to supply 600 gallons of propane for the Town Office and Garage at a cost of \$2.39 per gallon. The Select Board decided to put out an RFP (Request for Proposals) for propane, heating oil, and diesel in order to get additional quotes.

d. **Microcell Survey & DPS Letter** - The town received a survey from the Vermont Public Service Department to gauge interest in a proposal to help expand cell service in Mount Holly. Jennifer Matthews explained that the State currently has 220 uninstalled, 2G microcell devices, which are to be used to fill coverage gaps in cell service. The microcells can be installed on utility poles to bounce a signal about a ¼ mile. Ms. Matthews noted that a broadband

deployment bill, H. 513, which has passed both the House and Senate, includes an amendment on microcells authorizing the Commissioner of Public Service to spend up to \$100,000 to assist municipalities acquire and install microcells; operational costs would still be the responsibility of the municipality. The Select Board agreed to complete the survey, expressing interest in the microcells but at no cost to the Town.

Ms. Matthews noted that the Select Board had submitted a letter to the Public Utility Commission expressing Mount Holly's concerns about the lack of phone service during prolonged power outages, especially so with the unavailability of cell service.

Ms. Matthews also reported that AT&T is to construct 36 cell towers around the State over the next three years with a goal of 99.9% coverage. Mount Holly is on the list for a tower location. Clinton Woolley said that the Planning Commission had received information about this.

e. **Town Office Roof** - Sue Covalla reported that a number shingles had come off the roof; she has picked them up off the ground. The Town Office has three sections with three roofs of 23, 13, and four years old. The Select Board decided to have all looked at and to fix what needs to be fixed, and to ask for quotes to do so.

8. Announcements/Other Business

a. **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** – Will be held at the Transfer Station this Saturday, June 15th, from 8:00 am to noon.

b. **Other - Question** from Carol Garrow-Woolley: Based on her observations in the town office, she asked if Jennifer Matthews could be provided with a desk-top computer, instead of a laptop, for all the work she is doing for the Select Board. Sue Covalla asked whether her hours of work should be recompensed. Mark Turco said that the matter would be reviewed.

Question from the public: Judy Hyjek asked if there was a requirement to have a permit for a campground in Mount Holly. Mr. Turco stated that would fall under state regulations.

Question from public: Paul Barton asked about the fox face signs at Star Lake beach to prevent goose droppings. Clinton Woolley stated the signs were put up but had disappeared by the next morning. Mr. Barton said he will try to find some more.

9. Review & Sign Orders – The Select Board reviewed and signed.

10. Executive Session – Ron Tarbell made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel evaluations in accordance with Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3), seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously. The Select Board went into Executive Session at 6:55 pm. Exited at 7:32 pm after personnel evaluations were made.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 7/9/2019