

**Mount Holly Select Board Meeting  
November 12, 2019  
Minutes**

**Present: Select Board:** Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

**Town Officials:** Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Jon McCann, Lori Norton

**Members of the Public:** Paul Barton, Dennis Devereux, Annette Lynch, Gary Norton

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Mark Turco at 6:00 pm.
2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
3. There were no **changes and/or additions to the agenda**.
4. **Approval of October 8, 2019 Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes on October 15th & 29th** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve all sets of minutes, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

**5. Reports**

- a. **Highways** – No update given as Clinton Woolley was unable to be present at the meeting.
- b. **Treasurer: Monthly Income & Expense Report** - David Johnson noted the following items: the PILOT Payment from the State has been received and the amount continues to decrease; the State Aid for Highways and Current Use payments have been received and both were more than budgeted; Solid Waste Income from label sales is only \$12 less than last year but on track to exceed budgeted amount; Solid Waste disposal is at 108 tons so far this year compared with 94 tons last year.
- c. **Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report** – Jon McCann had no report from the RRPC meeting due to a Special Select Board meeting on that same date.
- d. **Rutland Region Transportation Council Report** – Clinton Woolley was not present to report.

**6. Old Business**

a. **Public Utilities Commission Update re: Phone Back-Up Battery Power Issues** - Jennifer Matthews reported that the fourth and final PUC Workshop was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. She and representatives from the group of small towns made their case again for 24-hour batteries installed and replaced at telecom providers' expense, free technical assistance, and more information more readily available on back-up batteries for the customer. The Hearing Officer prepares a Report for the VT Legislature by December 15<sup>th</sup>, pulling from workshop comments and filed documents and comments on the PUC case site. Some final comments urged the PUC to expand its investigation to the telecommunications grid as a whole, looking at power, cell, internet and landline service and outages. Ms. Matthews noted that a power outage in the Connecticut River Valley coincided with the date of the final filings. One public comment submitted stated that with three to five days without power and people cut off from the ability to reach any emergency services, 'someone could die.' The chair, Mark Turco, called the work on this issue "beneficial."

- b. **Other**- There were no additional items.

## 7. New Business

a. **Tree Cutting & Removal at Cemeteries** – Dennis Devereux reported on the status of trees in the cemeteries maintained by the Town. He said there are about ten trees in need of quick attention. Two cemeteries, Old Mechanicsville and Carlton, are in need of immediate tree cutting and removal. Some tree work will be needed later in the Mount Holly and Green Cemeteries. The Hortonville Cemetery has a growth of young trees that could be removed to provide space for new graves. Mr. Devereux said that once this round of tree cutting and removal was completed, there should be no further work needed for the next five to ten years. He noted that volunteer work would be needed in a number of places to right gravestones that have fallen over. He said that he would approach Raymond Tarbell to assist in inventorying the tree work to be done so a cost estimate can be submitted to the Town for inclusion in the budget for next year. The Select Board agreed with the plan.

b. **Grand List Certifications** – David Johnson said that all 2018 appeals of property values have been resolved and none are pending from 2019. The Grand List Certifications could now be signed and the members of the Select Board did so.

c. **BCBS & HRA Insurance Renewals** – No changes are necessary so all will be renewed as is.

### d. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Appointments**

i) **One Full Term to November 2022** - One letter of interest was received, opened and read by the Select Board. Ron Tarbell made the motion to appoint Peter Berger to a three-year term, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

ii) **One Vacancy to November 2020** - No letters of interest were received, so the vacancy will be re-posted around town and in the *Chit Chat*.

e. **Other** – There were no additional items.

8. **Announcements/Other Business** – Jennifer Matthews announced that Gwynn Zakov, a Municipal Policy Advocate from the VT League of Cities & Towns, will attend the December 10<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting to discuss the current bills in the VT House and Senate regarding the retail sale of marijuana. She will discuss the potential impacts on towns from the sale, manufacture and processing of marijuana, and what options are available to towns to address those impacts.

9. **Review & Sign Orders** – Reviewed and signed.

10. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3)** was not needed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm with a motion made by Ron Tarbell, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 12.10.2019