

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting
June 9, 2020
Minutes

Zoom Meeting: 700 733 635

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark Turco

Town Officials: David Johnson, Gabrielle Macklin-Bickford, Nicole Lewis, Jon McCann, Don Richardson, Jim Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Ted Crawford, Steve & Barbara Hazelton, Craig Hutt Vater, Craig Jewett (Otter Creek Engineering), Annette Lynch, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman, Dave Venter

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 6:30 pm.

2. All recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Fence issue between town garage and school will be added to Mount Holly School Well Update, item #7a.

4. **Approval of May 12, 2020 Minutes & Special SB Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2020** –Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

5. **Reorganization (continuation)**

a. **Select Board Chair** – Jeff Chase nominated Mark Turco; no second. Board moved on.

b. **Select Board Admin. Assistant** - Jeff Chase nominated Jennifer Matthews, seconded by Mark Turco. Ted Crawford asked for discussion. Motion tabled. Item to be discussed with item #7b.

6. **Reports**

a. **Highways & Transfer Station – Clinton Woolley**

i) **Update** – Mr. Woolley reported that the deteriorating portion of Healdville Road had been paved, sweeping was done, 13 culverts replaced, oodles of ditching done. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day set for Saturday, June 27th from 8:00-10:00 am with special requirements for handling due to the pandemic.

ii) **Sand Bids** – Three received. Discussion ensued about hauling costs, sand quality, the \$75,000 budget for sand, salt and hauling, stockpile needs, trucking vendors, sand pricing and quantity used last year and needed this year. Mr. Chase made a motion to purchase no more than 4,500 tons of dry screen sand from Pike Industries, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

b. **Treasurer – David Johnson**

i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** – Mr. Johnson noted the Forestry Receipts (\$8,500) was the largest outstanding revenue item, due in by end of June; no changes to the Checking Account Interest as the bank statements had not yet been received; Railroad Taxes received and more than budgeted; the Snow Plowing Income of \$5,700 has now been received as both Plymouth and Wallingford have paid their bills; the Solid Waste Labels Sold continue to be over budget; Computer Expense is under budget as no replacement computer was purchased; County Tax Expense will be paid the end of June; Solid Waste Disposal costs will probably be over budget as zero-sort disposal is now an expense, no longer a revenue-producing item; Vehicle/Equipment Repair & Maintenance remains \$7,000 under budget, as does Fuel, Gas & Oil (\$10,000 remains)with the lower costs for fuel; Garage Expenses are running over budget.

At present, about \$70,000 will remain from expenses running under budget: Officers' Salaries (SB & PC Clerk plus Listers), \$4-5,000 remains; Meetings, Notices & Reports, \$3,400 remains; Insurance Expense, \$4,900 remains; General & Highway Benefits Expense, \$16,000 remains; Summer & Winter Road Expenses, \$35,000 remains; in addition to the items noted above. Select Board will revisit the budget savings in July once expenses for final month of the year are in with the possibility to lower the tax rate.

ii) **Delinquent Tax Report/Tax Sales** – Mr. Johnson reported that Peter Perrino had collected quite a few more payments with 16 properties now paid and only eight remaining

delinquent with an outstanding amount due of \$32,829. More payments are expected before July first when those remaining unpaid, probably only two or three, will be turned over to our tax sale attorney. Mr. Turco asked that the Select Board be notified before properties are turned over to the attorney for tax sale.

iii) **Listers' Update** - Mr. Johnson reported that 13 property owners grieved this year compared to 21 last year. The grievances were all held via phone due to the pandemic, and most decisions were in favor of the taxpayer. Mr. Johnson noted it has been ten years since the last reappraisal. He also reminded taxpayers to be sure to file their HSA-122 as many residents have not yet done so.

iv) **FY'21 Tax Rate Considerations & Due Date** - Mr. Johnson reported that the new law allows municipalities to not only reduce approved budgets but to also change property tax due dates if they think it necessary. The discount date will remain 30 days after tax bills are mailed. He noted it might be a good year to push out the final due date to November 30th as November 2nd is the day before the General Election this year. No decision needed at present.

Ms. Matthews asked about Schedule of Officers' Compensation which was always included in the Annual Town Report up until 2016. Mr. Johnson responded the information was included in aggregate in the budget. Ms. Matthews noted it was easier to access the information when broken out in the compensation schedule. Mr. Johnson said he could produce the report without a problem.

c. **Rutland Region Transportation Council Update** - Clinton Woolley reported on the meeting, in particular the scheduled rubber sealing of cracks on VT Route 103 in Mount Holly.

d. **Planning Commission Update & Letter** - Discussion continued from the May meeting, focusing on the need for specifics in the town plan in order to protect our community from unwanted development particularly in Act 250 hearings and any court cases. RRPC Rep Jon McCann and RRPC's Ed Bove will present an information session on planning for the Planning Commission; Select Board members may also attend.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. **Mount Holly School Well Update** - Craig Hutt Vater introduced Craig Jewett from Otter Creek Engineering to discuss the possibility of consolidating the school's water system with that of the town garage. Discussion ensued on the wide range of PFAS test results, possible sources of the contamination, extent of the contamination, possible entry points into the school well, possible solutions with costs, the pros and cons of each, possible funding sources. Consolidation with the town garage well would require a buried 1000-2000 gallon concrete water storage tank with a booster pump and a line running from it to the school. It would have a stand-by chlorination system, if needed, with sampling done on a quarterly basis. Cost would be around \$150,000 which would be covered by the school through State funds, grants, or a low-interest loan. The town garage well has the capacity to support the school's needs. Water samples will first need to be taken to be sure there are no contaminants in the garage well that are not permitted in a shared water system. If the samples are clean and the Select Board supports the plan, a design plan will be developed for the consolidated system. In support of the school, the Select Board agreed to allow the sampling of the town garage well water as a first step.

Mr. Hutt Vater expressed some concerns about the fence along the nature trail, noting that about 50' of fencing is still needed. He and Mr. Turco will inspect it. He also expressed concerns about dogs off leash and dog-doo on the nature trail. The Select Board agreed to put signs up on the nature trail and to remind residents of the need to leash and pick-up after their dogs.

b. **Ted Crawford's Concern re: Select Board acting as whole** - Discussion continued from the May meeting on Mr. Crawford's concerns. The Select Board will review an administrative assistant position job description and will continue to strive to speak as one.

c. **EID Grant Program Update - Community Composting** - Mr. Chase reported he had submitted the application for the composting project. Response will come later this summer.

i) **July 1 - Mandatory Composting in Effect** - Ms. Matthews noted that this July first date would not be pushed out due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so residents need to prepare for the restrictions on food scraps in the trash as of July first. Composting container information is listed on the town website and composting how-to information is available through the Rutland County Solid Waste District website.

d. **Junk Ordinance – Lift Waiver?** – Mr. Chase made a motion to lift the junk ordinance waiver, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

e. **Other** - There was no other ongoing and/or old business.

8. New Business

a. Appointments

i) **FY'21 Road Foreman** – Mr. Turco made a motion to re-appoint Clinton Woolley, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

ii) **Planning Commission Member Peter Berger's Resignation** - Mr. Chase made a motion to accept Mr. Berger's resignation with regrets, seconded by Ms. Matthews. Mr. Chase and Ms. Matthews voted in favor of the motion; Mr. Turco voted against.

It was decided to discuss the following appointments in Executive Session under Title 1 V.S.A. S313(a)(3), as there were several applicants for a number of the positions.

iii) **Planning Commission Vacancy – Term Runs to November 2022** – Ms. Matthews made a motion to appoint Jon McCann, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

iv) **FY'21 Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) Representative & Alternate** – Ms. Matthews made a motion to re-appoint Jon McCann as our RRPC Representative, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved. Ms. Matthews made a motion to appoint Gabrielle Macklin-Bickford as our RRPC Alternate, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

v) **FY'21 Rutland Region Transportation Council (RRTC) Representative & Alternate** – Mr. Chase made a motion to re-appoint Clinton Woolley as our RRTC Representative, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. Ms. Matthews made a motion to re-appoint Don Richardson as our RRTC Alternate, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

b. **Town Office Reopening?** – No, will revisit the issue in July.

c. **Swap Shed Reopening?** – No, will revisit the issue in July.

d. **Cota & Cota Price Protection Plan** – Not necessary for small amount of propane purchased.

e. **Vermont Local Government Resolution** – From the VT League of Cities & Towns, a resolution which asks municipalities to “support fair and direct federal emergency aid to reopen and rebuild local American economies.” Ms. Matthews made a motion to sign the resolution, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

f. **Other** - There was no additional new business.

9. **Announcements/Other Business** – Ms. Matthews noted the afore-mentioned rescheduled Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day to be held at the Mount Holly Transfer Station on Saturday, June 27th from 8:00 – 10:00 am.

Mr. Turco noted the mandatory composting as of July first.

10. **Review & Sign Orders** – to be signed one Select Board member at a time at the town office.

11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel** – Ms. Matthews made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9:19 pm with Clinton Woolley invited to participate at the start of the session, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved. Ms. Matthews made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:32 pm, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved. No actions were taken.

12. **Adjourn** at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 7.14.2020