

**MOUNT HOLLY SELECT BOARD MEETING
JULY 13, 2021 MINUTES**

PRESENT: Select Board: **Mark Turco (Chair), Jennifer Matthews, Jeff Chase**

Town Officials: David Johnson, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, James Seward, James Heald, Denise Young, Jon McCann, Diana Garrow, and Renee Sarmento

Members of the Public: Zena Gates, Christine Pratt, Amy Turco, Andrew Seward, Diana Garrow

Zoom: Francis DeVine, Donna Seward, Annette Lynch, Gray

Call to Order: By Mark Turco at 6:30 p.m.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Board members discussed adding to the meeting's Agenda. David Johnson said he gave me an addition for this meeting regarding the certificate of no appeals pending. The sheet was found and added to the agenda. It's added to the Lister's Update. Also, the Fixed Assets and Independent Audit update also added under David's. Mark asked for anything else.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Mark discussed approval of the Meeting Minutes of June 8th, and the Special Select Board Meeting Minutes of June 17th and the 29th. Jeff adds the July 1st and Mark agrees, the July 1st as well. Jeff makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes for June 17th, June 29th and July 1st, seconded by Mark. Mark also seconded for the June 8th, 17th, 29th and July 1st meeting. All agreed by saying "Aye".

Reports: (A). Highways & Transfer Station Update: Clinton states he took care of the road markings bill, so they're sticking with what they quoted us. Discussion was held between Clinton and the Board on this and possibly renting a tractor since they're getting behind on mowing due to the rain. Mark advised Clinton to find out how much a rental would be and to give a firm number. Clinton said he would let him know but wanted to have their thoughts on it.

Winter Sand Bids: Jeff opened the bids and said the first was Wallingford Crushed Stone, \$825 a ton, we'd pick up from their quarry. Second one is Hunter Excavating and they're \$750 a ton, and their delivered price is \$1150 a ton. Last one is Pike Industries, \$750 a ton, they're not offering delivery. Discussion held on this between the Board members and Clinton. Clinton would prefer to stay with Pike and keep doing it the way they're doing it. Mark said, the same price per ton. Mark asks for a motion. Jeff makes a motion to approve Pike Industries as the supplier for sand for the 2021/2022 winter season. Jennifer seconds. All agree by saying, "Aye".

Transfer Station: Clinton said they finally were certified from July 1, 2021, to June 30, of 2031. Mark said "Very good." Clinton also said Casella is picking up the food scraps now and it's going smoothly. Mark said it's good because it saves the Town because we don't have to transport. Clinton said they have it in their new certification they can compost up to 42 yards. It's something we can do later on down the road if we choose to. Mark said this is very good. Mark asks if there are any questions. None.

Highway Structures Grant: Mark asks for a motion. Jeff makes a motion to approve the Town Highway Structures grant for Summit Road for it's culvert installation. Seconded by Mark. All in favor and indicated "Aye". Mark said they have to sign that. Jennifer said it goes back to Brian Sanderson, who has already signed it. Jeff said it would be a project for next year, a Spring project at the earliest. Jeff discusses the details of this with Clinton and the Board. Jeff said to

put it on the agenda just to discuss the RFP for design. Mark asks if there's anything else for Clinton. None.

Treasurer - David Johnson: Mark introduced David Johnson to give the monthly income and expense report. David said we have just completed our fiscal year. David explains the first page is the balance sheet and two State Farm Bank accounts have been closed and consolidated into other existing accounts. There was a new account opened for the second Fire Department Vehicle fund. There's a CD that we had which was for that but he wasn't able to add the new money to it, so he had to open a new account. The Asset Equipment Fund is \$64,616.00 is all in one place now.

Taxes Receivable: We still have three and a half properties that are outstanding although it's under \$10,000. David said he doesn't have a current report from the delinquent tax collected, but there might be one tax sale and one paid but the check bounced. Further down the line, account 129-Miscellaneous accounts receivable, that's up. At this time of year, we have billed the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and school for their diesel purchases. So that's why that's up.

Accounts Payable, on top of page two: These are bills for things that happened in June. The Line painting of \$3200 will be added to that, and he anticipates a bill for the mowing of Star Lake and the cemetery. David thinks all the others have come in.

Accrued Payroll Expenses, which we only see once in a while, will be all gone next month. Those are wages and taxes associated with it for the three days in the last week of June that didn't get paid until the first payroll in July.

Profit and Loss: the first page, the first item in Fee Incomes, the Forestry Receipts, typically received the last week of June, and it was again this year, from US Forest Service and it was up from the prior year. It's looking good there. A few items down, there's a prior year adjustment of a minus, and it's something David worked with the auditors to get. It has to do with the HRA account. When the first refund came, it was credited against expense and it really isn't that. It was so, that's why it's a minus in the revenue.

Forestry Receipt is the biggest revenue in the month. In the middle of page two, the Solid Waste labels, we had pretty good sales at the end of June. David thinks a lot of people were here for the Fourth of July weekend, so we are at \$4,168 in receipts over our budget.

Expenses: Overall, there really isn't a single category that was overspent that they're not fully aware of. Salaries and wages were under. Essentially all the General Fund items are under. The tax mapping expense looks like it's over, but that's really a timing issue of when the bills got paid because the money was raised over three years and because of Covid, things didn't happen as fast as they should have.

Worker's Comp #544: David discusses this subject. said he called to ask how the audit was because we started that process back on the 1st of April, he hadn't heard anything. They will be issuing a check to us, he's expecting a refund of about \$1600.

County Tax: David said that was paid at the end of June and was quite a bit less than what they budgeted for. The County Government adjusted their tax rate pretty well for whatever reasons.

Solid Waste did go over, but it is more than covered by the extra label revenue. David points out that the Zero Sort Disposal, June was the first month the charge was under \$100, it has been as high as \$500 a month, so that should make a difference in the coming year.

Repairs and Maintenance did stay below the budget, it's one of those places that you can't really predict. All the Highway things are under budget except the road treatment because we did the extra work from prior years.

Better Back Roads FY 2021 and 2022, that \$6800 in expenses will be recovered this Fall when the grant work is complete. Mark asks if there's any questions for David. Jennifer asks David about consolidating the two record funds accounts, the State Farm into Berkshire; because the State Farm had \$15,000 and the Berkshire had about \$78, but we're only at \$19 and Berkshire. David said that's because it took the \$4,000 for all the expenses out. The Board and David discuss this. Jennifer asks about page 4, under the agency contributions, what's the extra \$500? David pointed to Patrick and Okemo Valley TV. Jennifer said the money is well spent.

Independent Audit Update and the Fixed Asset: Jennifer asks if they should do the Independent Audit Update to start with. David said he would take care of the Fixed Asset Schedule, so they have done it for two years now. David said the thing about that is he thought they had the wrong year on it. These were all figures for FY'19, but it says June of 2020. It was explained that it automatically rolls, if you've gone by June 30 '19, it automatically uses the next year, but they know that's a flaw in the program. There is discussion between the Board and David regarding this.

Fiscal Year '22 Tax Rate: David said they received a notice from the Vermont Department of Taxes for the Education Rate, one for Homestead property and one for non-Homestead property. The Homestead Rate is a little bit more than the non-homestead rate. David provided information as to how the Tax Rate is decided. it would make a total tax rate of \$38.05 cents, which is up just about the same amount as the local agreement tax. Mark asks for a motion to accept. Jennifer asks should we spell this all out and David said approve the municipal tax rate of \$37.89, which makes the Homestead rate 1.91.67 cents and the non-Homestead rate \$1.89.35 for the fiscal year of '22. Jennifer motions to set the Homestead Tax rate of 1.91.67 and the non-Homestead Rate at 1.89.35 for fiscal year 2022. Jeff seconds. All in favor by indicating "Aye".

Mark said they have the certification for the attachment of the lister's update. Jennifer asks to do the Internal Financial Controls checklist first. Mark agrees. Jennifer said we'll have Mark sign it so it has been received and reviewed by the Select Board. It's the same as we did it last year. It should be indicated in the minutes.

Lister's Update: David said there's no appeals pending for the Listers and David said you can file that certificate signed by the Listers and the Select Board. It goes to the Town Clerk and is put with the Grand List on a permanent record. Mark asks for a motion; Jennifer makes the motion, Mark seconds. All in favor indicated "Aye".

Mount Holly Planning Commission Update: Jon says that much like last month, they did a site visit on a location last week. They have been given three weeks, at the landowner's request, to do another site visit. Jon explains the big news is of a hybrid meeting this month. Mark asks if there's questions for Jon. No questions for now.

Zoom: Francis: Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update: Francis reviews Shade Tree Grants. They have a tree warden. Signed a letter of agreement with the State to develop a plan. Francis wants to add two more members and is looking for volunteers on this to protect the shade trees. Will work with the Town Highway crew on this project.

Francis comments on Jim Corbin's biodiversity project. Check the Conservation's website and the minutes for the link to the biodiversity project.

Francis mentions Phil Leonard leading an effort to develop a plan to save or restore Star Lake. At the parade on the 4th of July, he solicited information re: Lake.

Annette Lynch is continuing to work on the Town's inventory. This is for the work that has to be done by the conservation. She is putting together a case study which will be used as a template for natural resources throughout the town.

Francis explained the results from the survey: In our Town, there are 523 households, 1202 population as of Census records of 2019, 49% female, 51% male. Francis said the survey produced interest in programs for energy conservation: a large margin agreed regardless of age group. Energy conservation and Renewable energy. Focus for Town: wind turbines, solar panels, etc., should be developed. Policies should be developed. Big interest in cell towers.

1. Not a strong, strong response, but looking at responders vs. # of people in town, it was comparative to a town meeting turnout. (127 responses)
2. Looking to possibly have this survey done every year. Francis sent the report to the Select Board. Francis asked for questions, none were asked.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Updates: No updates from Jon.

Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad: representative Denise Young provided information regarding Rescue Squad: Finished up last year with 88% of their 120 calls being answered; and so far this year, they're at 100%. They are trying to cover every call, but this doesn't always happen. Mark says "Very good". Mark asks if there are any questions. Compliments the 88%. Mark said they will put info out to hopefully help promote. Denise said classes will be given in the Fall. Jennifer thanks them for everything they do. Mark compliments the 88% response, especially for Volunteers, and comments: "Kudos".

On Going and Old Business: Safety Traffic Concerns committee: Mark asks what are the next steps. Discussion is had regarding this. If an ordinance for some of these roads can't be found, a traffic study would be done, then do a specific ordinance. This can't be done unless the Board has all the information on the ordinances. There was a limited ordinance. This is discussed further with Board members. Discuss a map and moving signs. It's a multi-stage approach.

Mark said the other piece of the Traffic Safety concern was Old Turnpike with the flashing light. Mark said it's in the Town right-of-way. The Board discussed with Clinton how this has been constructed. Mark asks if there are any questions regarding the traffic concerns. Zena Gates discusses the signs that have been posted and agrees with them. State Police were around. Discusses how visible signs are now. This is discussed. Jeff has a map he made and will provide it to Clinton. Discuss Worksafe where the signs are ordered from. There's also another place they order from. Will look into it.

Junk Ordinance Enforcement: Next steps: The Board members have a discussion about certain locations. Fine will be enforced if progress hasn't been made by the next meeting.

Planning Commission Appointment: The Board discussed that Andy Shultz had sent a letter of interest for appointment to the Mount Holly Planning Commission. No one else. Jennifer makes a motion appointing Andy to the Planning Commission, Jeff seconds it. All agree. Jennifer said, "Congratulations Andy" and thanked him.

Rutland Planning Commission Alternate: There was one letter submitted by Ryan Harder. Mark asks for a motion, made by Jennifer, seconded by Mark. All in favor and said "Aye".

Other Business: They had done the ARPA fund and discussed this. Jennifer said David will see money arrive in the next 30 days.

New Business: Old Turnpike lights were discussed already. Jennifer asks Jim Seward if fireworks are legal in Vermont. Discussion is had regarding this. Zena comments that from 8 am to 10 pm, there is a noise ordinance which covers the whole State and whoever is empowered will visit them and after the third visit, they will be shut down. This is discussed. Jim will get info together on this. Mark also discusses target shooting and Tannerite.

Citizens Concerns Or Comments: Diana said they ran out of hot water since the system they have now runs on fuses. Clinton said there should be on-demand hot water. This is discussed. Mark said there should be wiring and/or a replacement. Jeff asks who will get the quotes. Mark said he will.

Announcements and Other Business: Hazardous waste this Saturday 07/17/21 until 11 a.m. only.

Other Announcements: David said tax assessment bills will be going out the last week in July. The discount date would be Tuesday, August 31.

Review and Sign the Orders: Mark asks if we need an executive session. Not necessary. Jim asks re: PC replacement person, does it have to be someone from Town and does he have to be a voter. Jennifer states the majority of members should be residents of the municipality. Board comments: it's a great question.

Mark adjourns the meeting at 2025 hours.

Respectfully submitted:

Brigid Faenza

Select Board Administrative Assistant

APPROVED: _____ 8.10.2021 _____