

**MOUNT HOLLY SELECT BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 MINUTES**

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

**Town Officials:** Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, James Seward, Clinton Woolley, Steven Michel

**Members of the Public:** Zena Gates, Judy Hyjek, Christine Pratt, Amy Turco, Paul Barton, Judith Daly, Kathe Wade and Brigid Faenza, recorder.

**In Person in Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487. Present:** Francis DeVine, Jim Corvin, Jon McCann, Renee Sarmento, Annette Lynch

**Meeting** was Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Mark Turco.

This was followed by standing and reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the Agenda:** Jennifer said she was wondering what happened to the reports, since there was nothing from the **Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission** on the Agenda, which have been standing reports from the last year to two years. I (the undersigned) said it was probably my fault. Jennifer said she didn't know if we have them here (the representatives for the Commission, but she would like to see those reports. Mark said that was fine. Jennifer said, under **On-going and Old Business**, she had 5 additions:

- (A) Traffic Safety Plan Update
- (B) The Conservation Commission appointments
- (C) The Mapping Contract
- (D) The Junk Ordinance Enforcement
- (E) The ARPA Funds update and meeting.
- (F) Then under **New Business**:
- (G) Set the Transfer Station hours for the Fall.
- (H) Appoint a passive voting delegate for the VLCT PACIF Annual Meeting. Jeff's RFP on Summit Road too. Jeff agrees and replies **Highway** and it's agreed to do it with Highway. Mark asks anything else. Nothing at this time.

Mark asks for the **Approval of August 10th, 2021, Meeting, and Special Select Board Meeting of August 31st, '21:** Any changes? None. Mark makes the motion to approve the August 10th and the August 31st, 2021 meetings. Jeff seconds. All agree by saying "Aye". Moving to **Reports: Highway Transfer Station up-date** by Clinton. Clinton said Grants and Aids: The Grant for 2021 is almost completed. Clinton would like to purchase a Mulcher, if possible. The Town of Pittsford has one for sale for \$4,000. It's practically brand new since (Pittsford) received a grant for a hydro-seeder and the grant would pay for the mulcher over the years. Clinton said all the winter sand is in, they ended up with 3510. Highway still has a cushion to get more later on in the year if they need to. The cost of a new mulcher is discussed. Mark would like to know the cost of a new one in relation to the \$4,000. Clinton believes it was \$6800 at one time. This is further discussed with the Board.

The **Transfer Station** is all cleaned up, the metal and the tires are gone. New signs are up that we had to have. Jennifer asks if Hubbard picked up the piles and were we charged? Mark said no, just for the tires.

**Hours** (for the Transfer Station). Clinton said October 6th would be the last Wednesday and October 10th would be the first Sunday. Mark confirms the dates of October 6th, the last Wednesday, and October 10th, would be the first Sunday.

Mark said Jeff is next on the list and Jeff states they have the grant signed since the last meeting and he sent the RFP that he had drafted up to the VTrans, Brian Sanderson, from the District. Jeff would like to move forward. Jeff asks if there are comments on the dates; this gives a guideline to have comparative pricing and he can post it on that bidding website, plus send it to those 3 to 4 engineers to see if they're interested. One of which is Otter Creek, and we can find a couple more. Jeff said if there's no objections he'd like to use these dates and post it so he can get the results by the next meeting from the engineering firms. Jennifer asks if she should put this up on the website. Jeff agrees as long as there's no other changes. Jeff will send the information to Jennifer with some attachments.

Clinton said he needs an Apple IPAD, WiFi Cellular Tablet for the Grants and Aids. After this year, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is no longer doing it, so everything you do has to be on the tablet and sent to AOT. Jeff and other Board members discuss this with Clinton.

Mark asks what the cost would be. Clinton said Amazon had one for \$509. Jeff asks what the timeline is on this and Clinton said he wouldn't need it until Spring.

Mark asks David for the **Treasurer's Report**: David states the report as of August 31st: the ARPA funds that came in August was \$65,000. As of August 31st, there was \$1.7 million in taxes still to be collected and approximately one million of that was collected in the next four days. David said on the first page of the Profit & Loss, are amounts that were actually billed: Municipal, the local agreement, homestead and non-residential, and there will be quite a few switches in that homestead and non-residential because there are still a lot of people who did not file a declaration. If you don't file a declaration, you're taxed as a non-resident and you don't get any State property tax adjustment. David states the discount, is that the year isn't quite complete, but we will exceed our budget because of the number of taxes that were paid and took advantage of the discount.

David discusses the Municipal property tax adjustment: He may not have mentioned it last month, but this money, the State payments that are made, makes up the municipal portion of it, that's down about \$6,000 from the year before. It's not a revenue we budget for.

David continues on to the first section of Intergovernmental receipts, the ARPA proceeds, the amount that was received, earned \$10 interest that equals the bank balance. On September 7th, David received another check for \$120,816, and this is supposed to be towards the county portion. David said he could combine them or he could keep them separate. Jennifer said we can combine them. Mark agrees. This is discussed.

David goes on to the Solid Waste labels, that is through August 30th, and it's about \$700 more than the same period last year.

David goes on to: solid waste expenses: Last month we hadn't received Casella's bill, but we did this month, so that's the two months and the total with Casella's is about \$1600 less than a year ago. You'll notice the Zero Sort Disposal Expense is a minus, we actually received a credit for the recyclables. David discusses this with the Board. David discusses the Transfer Site Maintenance, that is for the signs which Bovie (Clinton) spoke about.

David goes on to the Education Fund, it's been shown that is the amount of credit the state gave towards the tax bills. Budget figures for the Ed Fund are still unknown. David said they usually

give an advance payment to Cheryl; Cheryl said they've done well this year and they've taken out a line of credit, but haven't had to use it. So the payment from us and Ludlow would do the same. They won't have to incur any interest expense. David said \$400,000 because we've really covered July, August and September.

David said we've talked about the Winter sand.

David goes on to Hauling: there should be one more bill for a hauler that did some, but that'll be under our budget.

David said it wasn't listed on the Agenda, but we've had it nearly every month. There is a draft of the audit, he found a couple of things he'd like to see different, but what we're looking for is the opinion and the financial statements referred to. All material respects the respected financial position. The key piece. David discusses this. Jennifer asks if this is 2019, David said 2019. Jennifer said we're supposed to have the draft this month, right? The final next? Jennifer asks what about 2020? David said he thinks that could be within a month, because they've done a lot of field work. This is discussed. Jennifer said we did ask for 2019 and 2020, with the draft this month and then the final, with the management letter next month. Jennifer is looking for the management letter, if it is sent electronically, to be sent to the Board. David believes they can.

Mark asks if there are questions for David: Jennifer said she has two: A tiny amount, the solid waste? David explains that's the phone bills. The winter road material hauling: how many different people are we using on that? David said they only use two and mostly that's Gary Norton. Jennifer said she was looking at the \$11,000 amount and looking at our purchasing policy of \$10,000. We're okay. This is discussed with Jeff, Bovie, Jennifer and David. Jennifer said she is looking at the dollar amount in terms of putting it out for the bid process.

Jennifer then throws out an idea, food for thought: We have a three person road crew and a working road foreman. We have a Select Board member who is doing the RFPs, working a lot of grants, working hand-in-hand on issues and doing capital planning. Jennifer is wondering if we should have a road commissioner. Jennifer wonders if the Board would want to consider the position of a road commissioner to work hand in hand with the road foreman. We can appoint that person, there can be some sort of remuneration and we would have the funds available to do that and think it might be a win-win for the Town. Jennifer said this is food for thought. Mark said we'll look into that. Jennifer said other towns around us have it. This is discussed.

Mark said we're moving to **On-going and Old Business**: Jennifer asks if we have any reports. Jeff said on the Zoom is Donna, Fra, Jim and Jon. We have the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission. Fra is on Zoom re: **Conservation Commission**, has been in existence for a year. It was established 08/2020 by the Select Board. Nine members have been reduced to seven. They've developed a Mission statement and charter. Members have learned their responsibilities and Members learn resources available to continue their work. Projects started: inventory of natural, cultural and recreational resources. Star Lake is discussed by Fra. Municipal planning grant: updates funding opportunities. Fra discusses Castleton's assistance. Discusses other highlights: the Shade Tree program; Phil Crane is now Town's Tree Warden. Fra thanks all members of the Select Board as well as the Conservation Commission for their work on this. Fra asks for questions. None. Jennifer thanks him and them for all their work.

**Planning Commission**: Jon McCann on Zoom, has a subdivision decision pending, should be final this week. There's another subdivision application they've received, which they'll discuss

at their meeting tomorrow. They probably will have a hearing for that in the coming month. The new Commissioner, Andy Schultz, is welcomed and thanked by Jon.

**Traffic Safety:** Jennifer said there were a number of roads they were going to re-confirm this month, and then turn them over to Devon Neary to set up the traffic studies. Jennifer states the roads are: Belmont, Healdville, Tarbellville, Maple Hill, Old Turnpike, Shunpike, Hortonville, and then they wondered about Gates. Seven roads, with Gates, they have 8. Jeff is the point person with Mr. Neary. Jeff sent Mr. Neary the list this morning. This is discussed among Board members. Jennifer had a question regarding signs: Clinton said Ninevah ones are up, the signs for Branch Brook were the wrong direction, on the right instead of the left, so they're redoing them. Clinton has Stop signs to put up on Healdville, hopefully next week.

**Conservation Commission Appointments:** Mark asks Jennifer if we have the letters. Jennifer said we have two current members, with two who would like to be reappointed: Peter Smith & Fred Garrow. Another person has applied. Jennifer makes a motion to re-appoint Peter Smith and Fred Garrow to one year terms, terms running until September 2022, to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Mark. All agree by saying "Aye". A third person: Jennifer makes a motion to appoint David Martin to a one year term, running to September, 2022, to the Mount Holly Conservation Commission. Seconded by Mark. All in agreement by saying "Aye". Jennifer thanks them (if they are on Zoom), Peter, Fred and David for wanting to put some of your time and effort into Mount Holly.

**Mapping Contract:** Jennifer asks David if he has anything to add to this, and David said he did look back and had quotes from the original Dean Russell that did it, they weren't quite that high. David knows that there's been a very large number of property transfers and there'll be a lot of name changes for the maps. A lot of money has been invested in these maps and we should keep the maps up. This is discussed. Mark asks for any other questions for the mapping contract. None. Jennifer makes a motion to accept a tax map maintenance proposal from Cartographic Associates Incorporated for the term of one year. One year maintenance proposal is agreed. Jeff seconds. All say "Aye". The Board signs it.

**Mark: Junk Ordinance Enforcement:** Jennifer explains last meeting we agreed to send out letters with 30 day warnings to the property owners. Mark said he went by the Blue Spruce on 155 and he would say now is the time to invoke the penalties. Period. This is discussed. Jennifer said process-wise, we issue the ticket with the fine and assess a daily penalty if they don't clean it up. Jennifer said, so we have the Constable issuing the ticket but wants to know who is going to watch that piece of property. They were going to issue another ticket every 30 days with a daily penalty. Do we need to look at this property every single day? This is discussed as to whose responsibility this would be. The fine is \$2 a day. Judith Daly describes the living conditions near Blue Spruce. Judith believes the fine should be higher. Mark discusses trash from Blue Spruce that may be going in the river. Mark believes this goes to ANR. Judy Hyjek discusses gas cans near water and what her results were. Judy asks about a fine. \$60? Kathe Wade describes other conditions near this site. Jennifer explains this further. Can keep accumulating until they're paid. Can put a lien on property. Judith Daly said there are more campers, more automobiles. Discuss Fish and Wildlife going there. Were given 9 days to clean the trash.

Kathe Wade said she lived there as caretaker of the Blue Spruce and the conditions should be up to code. Mark said he can notify the Health Officer to survey the scene over there. Jim asks

about a report from State Troopers about going there. Judith Daly said Daniel Prescott is living there. Kathe Wade goes into detail on this. Jon on Zoom, the Blue Spruce property is in a flood hazard area. Mark will send the health officer and will go himself to assess. Mark said they need to have a special meeting by the end of month. David said Blue Spruce House Inc. owns it. Judith thinks they're baiting the bear in. Mark asks anything else. Jennifer asks for clarification on the penalty. It's \$2 a day for owners. Judith said the Town shut it down but it was reopened. Discussion had on this. Mark asks anything else on junk ordinance. Jennifer said she will notify the Constable about this.

**ARPA** funding update has been done. Jennifer said David gave \$241,632 total for the County, so we're going to end up with \$371,863. Jennifer said we talked about doing a Special ARPA meeting at the end of September. Jennifer noticed that there's an ARPA day on October 4th and it's virtual, so she's planning on doing that. Jennifer was wondering if we should push it out, since she expects it will be a good presentation. Mark agrees. This is discussed. Judith asks about the lawyer (for the Blue Spruce), if he was cited. Blue Spruce has been Cited. Mark said it's unknown if Kyle visited and doesn't know what incident he was there for.

**New Business:**

(A) naming of new road near Crowley Cheese factory. Carol explains she has provided a copy of the map and it's for 911 purposes. Lot # 3, which is highlighted, requested to have the road named. This person has asked it to be named "Okemo View Lane" (private road). Carol has checked with the State and they said it's fine as long as it's all right with the Select Board. Discussion had on this.

(B) For Old Turnpike Road, between Carol's trailer and another trailer, there's three houses. They would like to do "Breezeway Lane", Carol said the State was okay with that. Mark is okay with the names on both of them. This is discussed. Paul Barton asks since the Town is paying for the signage, if we can re-use old signs as opposed to printing new signs. Clinton said no. Jennifer makes a motion to name two private roads, per State requirements, for 911 purposes, one being Okemo View Lane, the other Breezeway Lane. Mark seconds. All agree by saying "Aye". This is discussed.

**Calendar for List of Organizations Meeting at the Town Hall/Office-**Carol made up a calendar because she wasn't sure who's been coming in and out at night, so she wants organizations/commissions to sign up so they don't have double people in the office. It's also posted in the Office. Jennifer said it's on the website, there's a calendar page on there and they're on there. This is discussed.

**Water Heater Bids:** Jennifer asks me if there are any. I gave them the envelopes. Jeff said to note on the record they didn't open the Champlain bid because it's fuel. Mark reads the description of what's involved. Mark reads an estimate for \$1089.75 from Taylor Plumbin, the only bid received. This is discussed. Jeff makes a motion to approve the water heater bid for replacing the Town Office water heater from Taylor Plumbing for \$1,089.75. Second by Jennifer. All in favor signify by saying "Aye".

**PACIF Voting Delegate for the VLCT Passive Annual Meeting:** Takes place on Wednesday, September 29th at one o'clock. It can be done in person or virtually and we basically need to appoint a delegate. This needs to be done before they register for the Town Fair. Jeff makes a motion to appoint Jennifer Matthews, Mark seconds. All were in favor by saying "Aye".

**Citizen's Comments:** Judy Hyjek-organizing a neighborhood watch group, talked about a year ago. There is a neighborhood watch manual on how to do it. Mark discusses this. This was addressed but never went anywhere with this. Judy said it requires local law enforcement and needs the Constable to be on board with this. Judy would like to know from Paul how many complaints have been made directly to him that people have wanted the Vermont State Police to respond to. Judy would like a ball-park figure on this. In asking the Vermont State Police to come down, they replied: "It's a long way to Mount Holly." This is discussed. Paul Barton said this is true and an extension of the government of Vermont. This is discussed. Jeff agrees with forming a group of people.

Judy continues asking about hiring a sheriff here? Jeff said they will be tied in with traffic control. This is discussed. Drug related needles, whipped cream cans were found on Shunpike Road and the road crew was asked to help. Discuss this. Mark agrees, a neighborhood watch is a good way to go. Judy said to contact her about spearheading this and not to call her if they're not serious. This is much needed in our community. Mark said the Drug epidemic is everywhere: Raise awareness and report it to someone that will do something about it. This is discussed. Jennifer said Judy should contact the Rutland County Sheriff on this. Steve reminds of someone from Gates Road having problems with property near hers and she might be interested. Paul brings up the Select Board being an official body and reaching out to the State Police and the Attorney General. Mark said he will go to them. This is discussed. Paul doesn't believe we're receiving adequate services from the State. Mark asks anything else from Judy: Judy said we should unite as a community, be observant, vigilant and contact one another. Zena discusses **Speeding** on Gates Road. Mark discusses traffic study. Mark hopes to have information by November. Zena said Gates Road is known as "Walmart" since there is so much traffic all day and night.

Judy asks Paul Faenza's (the Constable) job description if he could do some monitoring of Gates Road. Judy said he needs to return a phone call. The Constable is an elected and paid position. Jennifer said he doesn't have the ability to do criminal procedures. Jennifer provides the description of his (the Constable's) duties. There's no criminal piece to that. Paul asks if Paul Faenza can deputize people. The Board said no.

Paul asks about last Spring, the monument to the Civil War Veteran. Paul describes this. Mark said he's meeting with Brian Sanderson on this. Paul Barton has donated flags to be mounted in classrooms for the school. Mark said this is up to the school board. They will notify the School Board Chair on this. This is discussed. Steve has been speaking to Dennis about putting a barrier and reinforcing the stone pillars. There should be respect and dignity to that monument.

**Announcements and Other Business:** Jennifer has two items: Another "food for thought" asks to be on the October agenda: need to discuss retail cannabis. The clock is ticking. Need to do a Town Vote at Town Meeting, otherwise the default position is we allow it. This is discussed. Swap shed, thanks to Kevin, David and Mary Nortunen are good at keeping it clean.

**Review and sign the orders:** Jim asks about bids on fuel oil this month. Mark and Jeff said they pushed it out a week to the 22nd. Will be part of the Special meeting.

**Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A.S313(a)(3)**, if needed. Jennifer motions to have the executive session using Title 1 V.S.A. S313(a)(3) at 8:15 p.m. Mark seconds. All agree by saying “Aye”. Jennifer made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. No actions taken.  
**Meeting Adjourned:** Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigid Faenza  
Administrative Assistant

Approved on 10.12.2021 with the following corrections: on page one, “ended up with 3510 tons”; on page three, “advance payment to LMHUUSD.”