

Town of Mount Holly
Special Select Board Meeting
October 26, 2021
Minutes

In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

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

Town Officials: Carol Garrow-Woolley, Diana Garrow, Ryan Harter, David Johnson, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, James Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Tracie Burns, Eric Hall (Rutland Regional Planning Commission), Ryan Horvath, Amy Turco

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 6:30 p.m. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Mr. Turco asked to add an invoice received from Ludlow Ambulance Service. It was agreed to do so as Agenda item #4a.
3. **Road Salt Quotes - Approve** – Road Foreman Clinton Woolley stated he had three quotes for winter road salt: \$78.00/ton from American Rock Salt; \$91.00/ton from Appalachee; and, \$72.31/ton from Cargill through the State of Vermont. Jeff Chase made a motion to purchase bulk deicing salt from Cargill for \$72.31/ton, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.
4. **Summit Road Bridge 49 Box Culvert Replacement – Sign Authorization to Proceed with Otter Creek Engineering** – Mr. Chase explained he had reached out to Otter Creek Engineering (OCE) to inform them that their bid for this project was approved. In order to finalize this, OCE needs an authorization to proceed, which Mr. Chase signed.
 - 4a. **Ludlow Ambulance Service Invoice** – Mr. Turco explained that the Select Board had received an invoice for \$2,500 for runs made by the Ludlow Ambulance Service (LAS) to calls in Mount Holly. Jennifer Matthews forwarded the invoice on to Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad (MHVRS), who returned it to the Town stating it was not their responsibility. *(Recorder’s Note: Per the January 7, 2020 Select Board meeting minutes, the Select Board declined to accept the LAS proposal for EMS service to Mount Holly. Per the January 14, 2020 minutes, Kristin Veysey reported Rutland Regional Ambulance Service would cover all calls to which MHVRS was unable to respond.)* The Select Board denies any responsibility for the LAS invoice and its charges. Mr. Turco will contact Ms. Veysey, MHVRS President, and urge her to reach out to LAS to resolve this issue.
5. **ARPA Funds Discussion with Eric Hall of Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)** – Eric Hall, RRPC’s ARPA lead planner, explained that the 11 Regional Planning Commissions around the State are tasked with helping municipalities utilize and manage their ARPA funds. At present, municipalities are gathering project ideas from the public and determining those projects’ funding eligibility. Mr. Hall stated that ARPA funds are to address pandemic-related issues and its economic fallout, and to help build a stronger, more equitable economy. The six categories for ARPA funds use are: support public health response; replace public sector revenue loss; water and sewer infrastructure; address negative economic impacts; premium pay for essential workers; and, broadband infrastructure. Within these broad categories fall items such as: the purchase of PPE; wastewater, water, and storm water projects; financial assistance to workers and families; supporting small businesses; rebuilding public sector capacity; investments in housing and neighborhoods; and, greater access to affordable childcare. Use of the lost revenue calculation may also allow for some projects. Funds must be used on projects serving more than one recipient and with a broad impact. ARPA funds must be obligated by

December 31, 2024 and fully spent by December 31, 2026. Mr. Hall recommended that municipalities take the time to gather public input, to prioritize projects, and to focus on projects with a lasting impact. Ms. Matthews noted that VLCT has emphasized using ARPA funds for forward-looking projects, and for transformative projects with a lasting impact on the community. This is a once-in-a-lifetime investment in Mount Holly.

Mr. Turco then opened the floor to meeting participants for their thoughts and ideas. Discussion ensued with a number of thoughts and ideas proposed. A few of those ideas were immediately deemed ineligible: road crew equipment and standalone solar arrays.

Possible eligible ideas include: water for the Perkins House Museum; access to affordable childcare; water availability, accessibility and recreational use of Star Lake; high-speed internet access; hybrid meeting technological equipment; digitization of land records; VOIP phone system: equipment for the hearing-impaired at public meetings; after school programs; childcare during public meetings; loans or grants to small businesses adversely-impacted by COVID.

In response to a question from Ms. Matthews, Mr. Hall stated that once projects are approved by the Select Board, they can be undertaken at any point.

Mr. Hall emphasized the need to reach out to the public in a variety of different ways for their input and for additional ideas for possible projects.

Mr. Turco thanked Mr. Hall for all the information, and he thanked everyone in attendance for their thoughts and ideas.

6. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)** – Not needed this evening.

7. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 11.9.2021