

**Select Board Meeting  
@ Town Office  
August 10, 2022  
6:30 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:**

**Select Board:** Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Mark Turco (Chair)

**Town Officials:** Caitlin Boyle, Philippe Crane (via Zoom), Dennis Devereux, Chad Farrar, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Jon McCann (via Zoom), Christine Pratt, James Seward, Chad Farrar, Clinton Woolley

**Members of the Public:** In Person: Paul Barton, Robert Combé, Sam Farrar, Zena Gates, James Heald, John Perry. Via Zoom: Barbara Hazelton, Steve Hazelton.

1. Call to Order at 6:30 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda. Mark Turco noted a request to add an item regarding the resignation of the Town Constable.
4. Approval of July 12 minutes. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jeff Chase, unanimously approved.
5. Reports
  - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley**
    - i. Mr. Woolley has reached out to contractors for crack sealing on some roads.
    - ii. Grant Award - Better Back Road Class C Freeman Brook Road Riverbank Stabilization: Mr. Woolley inquired about ordering rock for Freeman Brook Road; he has not yet heard back.
    - iii. Mr. Woolley contacted Tom Murren, the property owner at 3241 Shunpike Road. Mr. Murren has given town permission to remove the dying maple trees at the edge of his property from the Town right-of-way. Mr. Woolley will reach out to Josh Bickford and Greg McKirryher re: contracting for tree removal.
    - iv. RFP Review - Paving Belmont Rd (Village Section) and reclaiming portion of Hortonville Rd: A RFP will be prepared for paving Belmont Road from Teer Rd to south side of the library. In addition, the RFP will ask for bids to reclaim a section of Hortonville Road. There will be a deadline of October 6 for paving.
    - v. No transfer station updates.
  - b. **Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - David Johnson**
    - i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Items of note include that property tax bills were sent out July 28; the first payment of quarterly state highway aid has been received; monthly solid waste labels sales are on target; the state has issued credit for property taxpayers in the amount of \$433,193.41.

- ii. Town Treasurer Opening: David Johnson will retire in March. Candidates for Town Treasurer are strongly encouraged to run for this elected position. Candidates may inquire with the Town Clerk regarding paperwork to register for candidacy. The opening will be listed in the *Chit Chat*.
- iii. LMHUUSD Advances (August + Sept): Advances in the amount of \$100,000 in August and \$200,000 in September will be paid by the Town to LMHUUSD to operate the schools. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the budgeted advances put on the Selectboard orders for August and September; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- iv. NEMRC Proposal for Appraisal Service: Mr. Johnson proposed that NEMRC be invited to a special meeting to discuss their proposed services agreement for the completion of assessor services of all real property in the Town of Mount Holly. The Selectboard will reach out to the Town attorney to vet the proposed NEMRC services. August 31st will be the date for a special meeting, after all bids for assessor services are received.

**c. Town Clerk Update:**

- i. Since the Animal Control Officer was tasked with updating the dog registration list on June 30, ten people have registered their dogs with the Town Clerk.

**d. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann**

- i. Jon McCann reported that the MHPC is continuing to prepare a flood resilience plan for the Town Plan. Kyle Medash is the state's Western Floodplain Manager; he shared information with the MHPC about how to shape its plan to maximize benefits from The Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF), which provides State funding to match federal assistance after federal disasters.

**e. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane**

- i. Phil Crane reported that the newly adopted Shade Tree Plan is now being implemented and the shade tree inventory continues. The MHCC is also working on improvements to the Star Lake area and continuing its inventory of town attributes. Chairperson Fra Devine has decided to recuse himself from the Chair position but will continue on as a member of the Conservation Commission.

**f. Town Health Officer Update - Tim Bickford**

- i. Tim Bickford has spoken with Mr. Turco, and will be reporting to the Selectboard regarding a May dog bite incident by the end of the week of August 8.

**6. New Business**

**a. Fuel Oil Contract Renewal**

- i. The Selectboard will seek three bids for Town Office heating oil and for on-road diesel for the Highway Department.

**b. Mount Holly Elementary School Window Disposal**

- i. The MHES custodian asked whether he may dispose of school windows in the Town Dumpster. The Selectboard noted that the school should discard the windows in either the Transfer Station, per the fee schedule, or at the Gleason Road Transfer Station.

**c. Application for Festival Permit for Mount Holly Cider Days (Oct. 7 - 9)**

- i. The Selectboard asked Selectboard Clerk Caitlin Boyle to draft an addendum to the permit from the Mount Holly Beer Co., to specify that all alcohol provided by the company at Cider Days must be consumed on the premises, and that signage must be provided to indicate that alcohol may not be consumed beyond the premises. Caitlin will provide that addendum to the Town Clerk to submit to the State alongside the festival application. Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the festival application with these conditions; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

## 7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. Dog License Registration Update - Laura Swarz-Hoc
  - i. No update was provided in time for reporting at the meeting.
- b. Public Access Computer Update
  - i. Ms. Garrow-Woolley reported that the computer has not yet been prepared for public access. Jon McCann is preparing the computer for this purpose.
- c. Reassign MPG Municipal Authorizing Official (M/ AO)
  - i. Mark Turco made a motion to accept the amended resolution for MPGs, to reassign Jeff Chase as the new MPF Municipal Authorizing Official; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- d. Speed Limit Enforcement Update
  - i. Mr. Chase reported that a contract is now in place from Rutland County Sheriff's Office for speed limit enforcement in Mount Holly, at a cost of \$49 per hour, billed monthly and capped at \$3,528.
  - ii. The Selectboard is also in receipt of a letter from a resident of Tarbelville Road regarding signage and a need for speed limit enforcement.
  - iii. Mr. Woolley and Mr. Chase will collaborate to continue mapping areas that need additional signage.
  - iv. Dennis Devereux indicated that there are continued reports of higher-than-posted speeds in Belmont Village. The Selectboard will initiate enforcement and monitor the situation before making further decisions regarding additional signage in the approach to Belmont Village.
- e. Junk Ordinance Enforcement Updates
  - i. The Selectboard will ask Constable Paul Faenza to serve a notice regarding the junk ordinance to the property owners at 137 Shunpike Road.
  - ii. Grover Taylor Jr. reported that additional junk vehicles were dropped off at his father's property at 1694 VT Route 103 N, without the knowledge or permission of the property owners. The Selectboard asked that Ms. Boyle reach out to Mr. Taylor Jr. to inquire about a timeline for junk vehicle removal.
- f. Board of Listers Opening
  - i. No letters of interest have been received as of yet; Mr. Turco encouraged interested candidates to apply.
- g. Constable Opening
  - i. Constable Paul Faenza has submitted his resignation as Town Constable; Diana made a motion to accept the resignation, with regret; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

## 8. Citizen Comments

- i. Dennis Devereux noted that he could not find his original letter to VTrans regarding the intersection of Belmont Road and Route 103; Mr. Chase will initiate a new letter to VTrans regarding the possibility of re-engineering the intersection to provide for better visibility.

## 9. Announcements/Other Business

- a. The Town Office will be closed Tuesday, August 16, for Battle of Bennington Day.

## 10. Review & Sign Orders

## 11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel (if needed)

- a. No executive session needed.

## 12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

