

Select Board Meeting
@ Town Office
October 11, 2022
6:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

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

Town Officials: Caitlin Boyle, Dennis Devereux, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: In Person: Paul Barton, Via Zoom: Katy Leonard, Phil Leonard, Donna Seward, Andy Shulz, Brigid Sullivan

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 Junk Ordinance complaints.
4. Approval of September 13 and 21, 2022 minutes. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.
5. Reports
 - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley:** Mr. Woolley reported that the Hazardous Waste Pickup Date at Transfer Station will be October 15, from 8-10 am. The salt contract from Cargill has come in at \$85.50/ton, delivered. Belmont Road paving is complete and has come out nicely. Winter grading is close to done. Finally, there is an ash tree on Lampert property that the property owners would like Town to take down. Mr. Woolley does not feel it is the Town's responsibility, as their fence is on the front side of the ash tree.
 - i. Summit Road Culvert Update: Jeff Chase noted that the contracted engineer has requested that the project be pushed back due to beaver activity. The engineering firm would like to be paid for the culvert and storage of materials. The Selectboard agreed to pay for the materials, if completed, and to add to November orders.
 - b. **Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - David Johnson**
 - i. **Monthly Income and Expense Report:** Mr. Johnson reported no change in interest income. Miscellaneous receipts don't include anything new. Solid waste income is in line with last year; all budget items for museum, *Chit Chat*, library and social services will be paid at the end of the month; we have not yet received the Casella bill; under highway and equipment maintenance, the new expenses are for new tires; in Summer Road Expenses, we are well under half of budget; American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant expenses included funds for the Cott System.
 - ii. **Renewal of Town Employee Health Insurance and HRA Accounts:** Diana Garrow made a motion to renew the current health insurance and HRA plans at the new 2023 rates. Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

- c. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann:** Mr. McCann provided an update via email. He noted that he recently stumbled across a previously unseen memo sent from the state that requires subdivisions with access to a state highway to include a letter from the state in the application; he noted that the MHPC updated the subdivision application form to request that information. He also noted that at the MHPC's next regular meeting, they will meet with the new RRPC transportation planner to restart the MHPC's work on the Town Plan Transportation chapter. (The previous planner was promoted to the executive director of RRPC.) He also reported that the MHPC continued to work with the Conservation Commission on a recreation plan and scenic roads for the town plan.
 - i. **One Three-Year Term Ends November 2022:** Jon McCann's term ends in November; Mark Turco noted that any members of the MHPC (or other commissions) who wish to be reappointed should send a letter of interest to the Selectboard prior to their term ending; other interested candidates may submit letters of interest as well.
 - ii. **River Corridor / Flood Plain Grant Rate:** Jeff Chase noted that if we update our River Corridor and Flood Plain Hazard regulations, the Town will qualify for a higher grant rate from FEMA in the case of a disaster. Mr. Chase recommended using the model to update the regulation. The Selectboard agreed.
- d. **Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Phil Crane**
 - i. Mr. Crane reported that at the commission's October 3 meeting, it approved the annual report to the Selectboard; elected officers for the coming year; discussed the inventory of recreational assets in Mount Holly; and discussed the process to determine scenic roads in Mount Holly. He reported that the commission's newly elected officers are: Philippe Crane, Chair; David Martin, Vice Chair; Francis Devine, Treasurer; and Philip Leonard, Scribe.

6. New Business

- a. **FY23 Municipal Planning Grant:** Jeff noted that the MPG is in process now.
- b. **School District Payment Schedule for Review and Approval:** David Johnson presented a proposed schedule for remittance of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District FY22-23 budget, and recommended the Selectboard approve the schedule as proposed. Mark Turco made a motion to accept the payment schedule as presented; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- c. **Swap Shed Winter Maintenance:** Mary Nortunen noted to the Selectboard that she cannot maintain the Swap Shed during the winter months, and proposed that the Swap Shed may need to be closed during the winter months. Caitlin Boyle offered to do clean-up and maintenance periodically if needed during the winter. Mr. Turco noted that this decision could be tabled until the next meeting.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **NEMRC Contract Review:** The Town is awaiting a draft contract from NEMRC for assessor services.
- b. **Board of Adjustment Guidance from VLCT:** VLCT's attorney offered guidance on rules and procedures models for town Boards of Adjustment. Caitlin Boyle will provide these resources to the BOA at their first meeting.
- c. **Update on Vermont Journal as Paper of Record:** The *Vermont Journal* noted that if they received \$60/week (on average) in advertisements, that amount would cover the cost of delivery to Belmont addresses and would enable the paper to reestablish delivery to Belmont.
- d. **Speed Limit Enforcement Update:** Mr. Turco noted that the Sheriff has been monitoring roads, but that he was not aware of any tickets issued. Mr. Chase noted that he will follow up with the Sheriff to receive an update on tickets. The Sheriff's Office has billed for enforcement in August

and September. Mr. Chase made a motion that the Town not exceed \$4,000 in ARPA funds for speed limit enforcement expenses; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

- e. **ARPA Funding Request for Oddfellows Hall Renovations:** Dennis Devereux noted that he had received guidance on which expenses qualify for ARPA funding; he recommended that the item be kept on the agenda for next month, and he will submit a new letter to update the Selectboard on the adjusted request.
- f. **Openings: Board of Listers, Constable and Treasurer:** Openings have been posted in the Town Office, in the *Chit Chat* and on the Town Website for these listings. Mr. Turco encouraged interested individuals to submit letters of interest to the Selectboard and to inquire with the Town Office regarding running for the Treasurer, Lister and Constable positions, which are elected offices.
- g. **Junk Ordinance Enforcement:** Mark Turco noted there are two properties on Route 103 that raise concerns. In addition, Kenneth Guy, of 3611 Route 155, submitted a complaint to the Selectboard regarding a neighboring property that is in violation of the junk ordinance. The Selectboard Clerk will send a letter to the property owner; the property in question is now owned by the bank. Former Constable Paul Faenza also submitted a complaint regarding a property on Branch Brook Road. The Selectboard Clerk will reach out to all property owners.

8. Citizen Comments

- a. Paul Barton thanked Paul Faenza for his service to the Town as Constable.
- b. Dennis Devereux noted that the Mount Holly Beer Company made an attempt to demarcate the area in which they were serving beer, but that they were not enforcing the keeping of beer within the designated area. He suggested that the Selectboard write a letter to the licensee to remind them that alcohol must be consumed within the marked premises. Mark Turco indicated that the Selectboard would not be inclined to re-issue a permit for a future festival if the alcohol consumption could not be contained on the premises.
- c. Dennis Devereux also requested that a sign indicating “Dead End” or “No Outlet” be placed at the entrance to Scampsville Road, to indicate to motorists that the road is not a through road. Mr. Woolley noted that the Road is not a dead end, but that a sign indicating “No Through Traffic” or “Class 4 Road, Not Maintained” could be posted.

9. Announcements/Other Business

- a. **AT&T Cell Phone Tower Update:** The attorney for AT&T reported that the tower will likely be activated in November 2022, barring unexpected delays regarding fiber connection and weather.
- b. **November Selectboard Meeting Reschedule:** Diana Garrow made a motion to move the November meeting to November 15 at 6:30 pm, due to the Election Day conflict on November 8. Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

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 7:45 pm.