

Select Board Meeting
@ Town Office
November 15, 2022
6:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

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

Town Officials: In Person: Caitlin Boyle, Dennis Devereux, Phil Crane, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Steven Michel, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Clinton Woolley. Via Zoom: Jon McCann

Members of the Public: In Person: Paul Barton, Donna Seward, Zena Gates. Via Zoom: Barbara Hazelton, Steve Hazelton, Jessica Metcalfe

- 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 update re: the Back Roads Grant and an item regarding Junk Ordinance complaints and updates. Jeff Chase noted an additional item regarding updating Town representatives to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee.
- 4. Approval of October 11, 2022 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:** Mr. Woolley reported that he attended a Road Foreman's conference. No notable updates on the Transfer Station
 - i. Summit Road Culvert Update: Jeff Chase received the signed contract today from the engineering company and received the stored materials invoice in the amount of \$88,894, to be added to next week's orders.
 - ii. Diana Garrow noted that on Belmont Road the speed limit signs go from 40 mph to 25 mph, without a transition. Jeff Chase noted that the Town could install a "reduce speed" advisory to assist in the transition. Mr. Woolley noted that if additional speed limit signs were added, this would require a modification of the current Traffic Ordinance.
 - iii. Mr. Chase noted that the Vermont Better Roads Grant Program offers a grants-in-aid opportunity from the state Agency of Transportation, and there may be Town needs this grant could address. Mr. Woolley noted that there are some spots on Perry Road that could use some stabilization, and that this might be a candidate for the grant program.
 - b. Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - David Johnson**
 - i. Monthly Income and Expense Report: Mr. Johnson noted that as of this week, there are \$167,108.64 in outstanding delinquent taxes; this is the lowest delinquent tax amount the Town has had in the last ~15 years. The quarterly payment of state aid has been received. Solid waste label sales are slightly under the same time as last year; this might be accounted for by the fact that the Belmont Store has not purchased stickers since October (due to its closure in November). Mr. Johnson noted that if the Selectboard

wished to continue to retain the Sheriff for speed enforcement, there is room in the Town budget to cover ongoing costs of enforcement. All local social service agencies, the *Chit Chat*, the Mount Holly Historical Museum and the Town Library were all paid in October. This month's Zero Sort hauling and disposal charges have exceeded previous credits received from Zero Sort this year. The blower repair was significant, so the Town has used about half of the budget for vehicle/equipment repairs and maintenance for the year.

- ii. Investment Bank Account: Mr. Johnson recommended putting the Rescue Squad's reserve fund in an account within the Community Bank Subaccount, in order to take advantage of the interest rate increase (from .5% to 1.75%) offered by the Credit Union of Vermont. Diana Garrow made a motion to make this shift as recommended; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously agreed.

c. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann: The Commission is proposing to update and expand the Town's FHA Regulations based on a model prepared by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). There will be a hearing on December 7, 2022 at 6 pm at the Mount Holly Town Office and via Zoom to consider a Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaw.

- i. One Three-Year Term Ends November 2022: Letters of interest for the open spot on the Planning Commission were received by the Selectboard from current Planning Commission Chair Jon McCann and from former Planning Commission member Steven Michel. Multiple letters of support were received for both candidates. Both candidates made brief remarks. Jeff Chase made a motion to appoint Jon McCann to the open position; Diana Garrow seconded. Unanimously approved.
- ii. Diana Garrow requested that the Planning Commission share website updates or permit application updates with the Selectboard before making them available to the public, so that the Selectboard can review and understand updates prior to their publication or distribution. Mr. McCann agreed.
- iii. Flood Hazard Area Updates: The Planning Commission is proposing to update and expand the Town's FHA Regulations based on a model prepared by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and approved by FEMA. The model involves very few changes to regulation of activities within the special flood hazard area that is already defined. The model includes new provisions governing development in river corridors. Adding these provisions to Mount Holly's regulations will allow the Town to receive a 40% increase in disaster relief funding from the State (from 12.5% to 17.5% of the Town's costs), for a total of 92.5% of combined State and federal reimbursement, during FEMA-declared disasters. More information can be found at <https://www.mounthollyvt.org/planning-commission/flood-hazard-area/>.

d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane

- i. Mr. Crane reported that the MHCC is updating the scenic roads mapping for the Town Plan. He also noted that divers have not yet come to remove the bottom barrier from Star Lake. The MHCC would like to submit a proposal for funds from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program, which if received would provide outside funding for the care and maintenance of trees planted along the roads of Mount Holly. This opportunity is called "Communities Caring for Canopy" and the MHCC would like the Selectboard's input on their proposal, as it includes a commitment of a 50/50 match from the Town in the form of in-kind labor and services, and/or monetary funds. The Selectboard requested that the MHCC prepare a draft proposal for the grant for review.

6. New Business

- a. **Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance Program:** The Selectboard noted that it won't pursue this program's support at this time.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. ARPA Funding Requests

- i. A/V Equipment for Town Office: Patrick Cody at Okemo Valley TV is seeking quotes from vendors to upgrade A/V at the Town Office (a previously approved funding request.) Jeff Chase will pass along those quotes to the Selectboard for review once they are received.
- ii. Oddfellows Hall Renovations: Dennis Devereux noted that efforts are continuing.
- iii. Mr. Devereux added that many Town buildings that host public meetings do not have defibrillators; ARPA funding could cover this expense. Mr. Turco noted that some research should be done regarding whether certification is required or recommended once defibrillators are installed. Diana Garrow noted that ARPA funds might also be used to update the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the Town Office.

- b. **FY22 Municipal Planning Grant:** Jeff Chase noted that The Town of Mount Holly applied for and received a Municipal Planning Grant from the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Select Board contracted with [Community Roots, LLC](#), led by Melissa Levy, to identify and understand community concerns related to housing, economic development, and public infrastructure. A survey has been created to collect data to help steer the grant objectives. Surveys will be collected through November 30th and are available online and at the Town Office. More information is available at <https://www.mounthollyvt.org/planning-commission/municipal-planning-grant>.

- c. **Swap Shed Winter Maintenance:** The Selectboard noted that it will reduce Swap Shed hours for the winter, opening on Saturday only in November through March.
- d. **Speed Limit Enforcement Update:** The Rutland Sheriff's Office has made a number of traffic stops, and issues warnings and tickets, while enforcing the town's Traffic Ordinance. Jeff Chase made a motion to continue speed limit enforcement via the Rutland Sheriff's Office, at a cost of up to an additional \$2,500. Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- e. **Openings:** There is an opening on the Board of Listers; an opening for Constable; and an opening for Town Treasurer. There are also two open seats on the Conservation Commission. Mark Turo encouraged interested candidates to inquire with the Selectboard.
- f. **Junk Ordinance Update:** Letters have been sent to three property owners who are not currently in compliance with the town Junk Ordinance. An additional complaint has been registered regarding one of these properties; Selectboard Clerk Caitlin Boyle will send an additional letter to the tenants at the property in question.
- g. **Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee:** Mark Turco made a motion that the two existing members of the REMC (Jon McCann and Jeff Chase) continue in their roles; Diana seconded; unanimously agreed.

8. Citizen Comments (None)

9. Announcements/Other Business

- a. Town Office will be closed on Wednesday, November 23 and Thursday, November 24, 2022, in honor of Thanksgiving.
- b. Jeff Chase asked that residents fill out the Community Survey; the deadline is November 30.

10. Review & Sign Orders

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

- a. Executive session needed. Diana Garrow made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.