

**Town of Mount Holly Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2023 at 7 pm**

**Moderator Andrew Tanger** called the meeting to order and stated that it was customary to offer the floor to the state representatives for a chance to speak.

Vermont House Representative Logan Nicoll (Rutland-Windsor, D), led the participants in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Nicoll noted that he had brought a Town Meeting Legislative Report for review by attendees, as well as information regarding the Affordable Heat Act. He reminded attendees that this is the "crossover period" in the legislature, which is the unofficial midpoint of the legislative session, after which bills must be voted out of their originating policy committee if they are to move forward. He welcomed all constituents to call or email at any time; his contacts are in the *Chit Chat*. He noted that they are 100% in-person in Montpelier at this time, and he's glad to be back in person.

Moderator Andy Tanger noted that this is the duly warned Town Meeting, and that polls are open between 10 am and 7 pm on March 7 for ballot voting. Mr. Tanger reviewed Robert's Rules, which govern Vermont Town Meetings. He reminded attendees that participants may attend via Zoom, but that Zoom participants are observers only and cannot make comments or participate in discussion.

**Article 1: To elect all Town Officers.** The moderator asked if any candidates wished to speak. Elizabeth Karle spoke to share that she is running for Town Treasurer. She encouraged residents to read her bio in the *Chit Chat* and thanked them for their vote on Tuesday.

**Article 2: To act on the Town Officer's Report.** No discussion.

**Article 3: Town Budget.** No discussion.

**Article 4: Asset/Equipment Fund \$70,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024.** No discussion.

**Article 5: Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. \$57,500 and Vehicle Replacement Fund \$112,500.** No discussion.

**Article 6: Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad Inc. \$36,250.** Vicki Seward noted that the Rescue Squad has always appreciated the support of the town, and that if any town residents have any questions, they can reach out. She invited interested parties to reach out if they wish to be certified and to join the rescue squad.

**Article 7: Mount Holly Town Library. \$12,000.** Katharine Crane, trustee of the Mount Holly Library, noted that the Library is very excited to order lots of good books for adults and children, and to have more programming and events at the library, including a film festival in September, a film event in February, authors talks, children's programming in the summer, a book group that has reconvened since the pandemic, and a writer's group. The library is available for small-group meetings. The library can be contacted at [mthollylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mthollylibrary@gmail.com). Ms. Crane also encouraged residents to visit the library.

**Article 8: Mount Holly Chit Chat \$2,000.** Diana Garrow, *Chit Chat* editor, noted that the *Chit Chat* has been published since 1974; next year will be its 50th anniversary. The Board has voted to seek \$2,000 from the town to defray the cost of postage, printing, and other expenses associated with production of the *Chit Chat*. She thanked her Board directors and members, and all who help in the production and delivery of the *Chit Chat*.

**Article 9: Community and Social Services. \$8,635.** No discussion.

**Article 10: Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. \$2,500.** Stephen Michel thanked residents for their support, and encouraged residents to visit the museum in the summer, when it is open almost every weekend.

**Article 11: Mount Holly School Afterschool Program. \$6,500.** Julie Goraj thanked the town for its past support. The program receives support from the Town of Mount Holly, a 21st-Century Grant, and as a DCF-licensed program, state funding. The program operates Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5 pm. Activities include fort-building, sledding, scooters, pump track, an open library program, arts and crafts, STEM activities, tutoring math enrichment, and a community read-aloud. The program provides quality after-school care and enrichment for the town's children.

**Article 12: Elimination of Town Constable.** No discussion.

**Article 13: All Other Business.**

- Jim Heald shared that he has been in Mount Holly since 1966. He noted that there are 77 miles in Mount Holly that the town has to take care of. 13 are tar; 64 are dirt. He urged the town to consider hiring four people for the town road crew, in anticipation of a possible retirement of one of the current crew.

- Dennis Devereux shared that David Johnson will be retiring after more than 30 years of service as the Town Treasurer. Mr. Devereux noted that he appreciated Mr. Johnson's service to

the town; Mr. Johnson received a standing ovation. Mr. Johnson thanked Dennis and shared that he was first appointed in 1988; that was the first year the Town needed \$1M taxes for the town and schools; now it is \$5M. He shared that he followed Fred Speth, who was called in to service unexpectedly; some of his policies Mr. Johnson still follows today. Mr. Johnson thanked Susan Covalla, retired Town Clerk for the Town of Mount Holly, and Diana Garrow, the Assistant Treasurer for 26 years.

- The Select Board presented a Resolution in Appreciation of Public Service for David H. Johnson, read by Diana Garrow.
- Stephen Michel asked about a \$10,000 line item in the town budget for the Cott Systems. The Select Board clarified that Cott Systems provides land records digitization.
- The Select Board announced a retirement party for David Johnson and Sue Covalla, to be held from 12-3 pm on March 11, at the Community Center.

Adjourned at 7:49 pm.

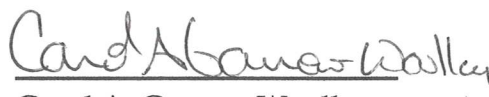
Respectfully submitted,

*Caitlin Boyle*  
Caitlin Boyle, Select Board Clerk

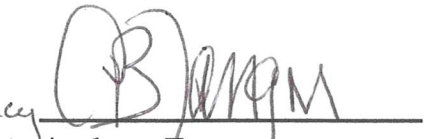
Signed,



Diana Garrow  
Select Board



Carol A. Garrow Woolley  
Town Clerk



Andrew Tanger  
Presiding Official