

**Select Board Meeting
Town Office
July 11, 2023, 6:30 pm**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 6:30 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of Any Changes to the Agenda. Mark Turco noted that the town will significantly amend the agenda in light of the emergency flooding of the last two days. Select Board Clerk Caitlin Boyle noted two additions: consideration of Select Board approval for a private fireworks display, and Select Board signature of the payment estimate from G&N Excavation re: Summit Road.
4. Approval of June 13th Minutes. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
5. Reports
 - a. Highways & Transfer Station Update: Mr. Turco noted that Mr. Chase and the Town road crew have been especially busy in the last two days to make roads passable. Mr. Turco offered kudos to the Town crew, Poultney road crew, Yankee Management, Casella, Gary Norton, Tim Poczobut, Wayne Taylor, and others, for their support in repairing roads after the floods. He offered special thanks to Carol Garrow-Woolley and Amy Turco for delivering food to crews as well. Mr. Chase noted that Markowski Excavating will be coming to support repair of Freeman Book Road. Mr. Turco also noted that Les Deyette has given official notice of his retirement from the road crew, effective August 1. He noted that the Town thanks Les for his many years of service and wishes him a good retirement. The Transfer Station update will be tabled for the regular August meeting.
 - b. Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report: Treasurer Liz Karle noted that the Town's CD rolled over at a new interest rate of 4.44% and the FY22 audit took place on site at the end of June. Ms. Karle noted that the Town should continue to document all road and property damage in order to qualify for federal disaster reimbursement.
 - c. Listers' Report: Lister Mr. Johnson noted that property valuation grievance hearings will be held July 21. The Town will send tax bills when the Grand List is finalized and the tax rate set; the Grand List can be finalized after grievance hearings have taken place. Mr. Johnson recommended that the Select Board convene a special meeting in the last week of July to set the tax rate and finalize the Grand List. Mr. Turco agreed.
 - d. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update: Commission Chair McCann noted that the Town Plan is slated for Select Board review in September. He said several Commission members attended a training last month that included notable information regarding how towns are handling short-term rental issues.
 - i. Highway Crossings Grant Opportunity: Mr. McCann noted that they would not pursue this grant this year.
 - e. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update: Mr. Crane reported via email that ash borer mitigation efforts were in progress; their recycling workshop went well.

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6. New Business

- a. Establish FY'24 Tax Rate: The tax rate will be set at a special meeting on July 25. Provisionally, Mr. Johnson reported that the Grand List grew by just over \$4 million dollars this year, 37% of which is attributable to the GMP and Vermont Transco increase.
- b. Decision Re: Route 155 VTrans Fund & "Old Cook Fund": Mr. Johnson noted that there are two funds in need of Select Board attention. The "Old Cook Fund" is a fund of approximately \$1,458 donated by the Cook Family; these funds can be reassigned to another fund by the Select Board. Mr. Turco made a motion to put the funds into the Packer Cemetery Fund, in recognition of the Cook Family's interests; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously agreed. Mr. Chase made a motion to create a town Paving Fund and to move the approximately \$10,000 in funds from the Route 155 VTrans Grant to this new fund; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously agreed.
- c. Annual Internal Controls Document: Jeff Chase made a motion to make two minor edits re: training and to accept the document as amended; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously agreed.
- d. Junk Ordinance Complaint: Tabled for August regular meeting.
- e. Traffic Ordinance Complaint: Tabled for August regular meeting.
- f. Culvert Complaint: Tabled for August regular meeting.
- g. Consideration of Countrywide Bid re: PACIF Grant: Ms. Karle noted that the Town's insurer will reimburse the Town for up to \$2,500 of the cost of a Town Office alarm system for heat loss and fire detection. The Town has received a bid for \$2,529 from Countryside to install the system. Mr. Chase made a motion to seek the grant and install the system; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- h. Consideration of Vermont Community EV Chargers Grant: Tabled for August regular meeting.
- i. Private Fireworks Request: The Select Board approved a fireworks display planned on private property on Okemo View Drive for July 22. Approval is conditional on permission from the Fire Chief on the day of the display, pending weather conditions.
- j. G&N Partial Payment Estimate #2: Mr. Chase made a motion to sign the G&N Excavation Partial Payment Estimate for the culvert replacement at Summit Road, as submitted.; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. Sign Community Bank Financing Letter re: Loader Purchase; Mr. Turco made a motion to approve and sign the letter; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

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- b. Sign Adopted Junk Ordinance: Mark Turco voted to sign the adopted junk ordinance; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
 - c. ACO Search Update: Laura Swarz-Hoc has submitted her resignation from the position. A search is underway for a new ACO. Diana Garrow expressed her gratitude to Laura for her service.
 - d. Dog License Registration Update: Tabled for August regular meeting.
8. Citizen Comments: Faith Tempest noted that much of the town has experienced internet outages after the storm. Mr. Steve Michel thanked the Select Board for their quick action to repair roads after the storm; Mr. Turco noted that much of the credit goes to Jeff Chase.
9. Announcements
10. Review & Sign Orders
11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)
12. Adjourn

Regular Select Board meetings can be joined remotely at
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82186653362?pwd=Y1dKb2ZxdnBrNzVOQjBINUE3L1J5Zz09>