

Special Select Board Meeting

Town Office

July 25, 2023, 3:00 pm

AGENDA

Attendance: Mark Turco (via phone), Diana Garrow, Liz Karle, Jeff Chase, David Johnson, Clinton Woolley.

1. **Call to Order at 3:06 pm.**
2. **Additional Agenda Items:** The Select Board will add an item re: Enacting Emergency Section of Town Procurement Policy to end of agenda.
3. **Set FY '24 Tax Rate:** Town Treasurer Liz Karle noted that the tax rate for FY'24 is .3871. This is a 3 percent increase compared to last year. Overall, the tax rate is going up, but it is lower in FY'24 than in 2019-2020. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept the tax rate as proposed by Ms. Karle; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Assistant Treasurer also noted that the town's customary 4% discount is allowed for first 30 days after tax bills are mailed, with a due date on the relevant Thursday at the Town Office's close of business.
4. **Discuss Establishment of Camper Ordinance.** Mark Turco noted that area towns have passed camper ordinances that allow for taxation of campers inhabited for more than 180 consecutive days. Liz Karle also shared a summary of the camper ordinance recently passed in Chester. Select Board Clerk Caitlin Boyle will request copies of area town ordinances and add discussion of a similar ordinance for Mount Holly to the agenda for next month.
5. **Discuss Countryside Alarms Installation.** Mark Turco noted that it would be wise to pursue quotes for a security alarm for the Town Office. Diana Garrow shared a revised quote from Countryside Alarm, to add to their existing scope, which originally included only fire and smoke alarm installation. The revised quote now includes security alarm installation. Mark Turco made a motion to approve the quote with the revised security system line item included. Jeff Chase second; unanimously approved.
6. **Enacting Emergency Section of Town Procurement Policy:** The Select Board noted for the purposes of record-keeping that the Town had enacted the emergency section of the procurement policy effective July 10, due to the emergency flooding that took place beginning that day. To memorialize the action, Jeff Chase made a motion to enact the emergency section; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
 - a. Treasurer Liz Karle also noted that \$150K in bills had been invoiced to the town thus far for the first week of the flood emergency of July 10-12. She noted that there are certain bills that can be held, but she preferred that smaller, private contractors be paid soon. She noted that there is enough cash on hand to pay these smaller contractors at least 50% of their invoiced amounts. Mark Turco made a motion to proceed as Ms. Karle proposed; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Relatedly, Mr. Chase noted that he is seeking a contractor to complete an emergency repair on Healdville Road, but has not yet heard back.
7. **Adjourned at 3:27 pm.**