

**Select Board Meeting
Town Office
August 8, 2023, 6:30 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Billy Austin, Caitlin Boyle, Danny Cavoto, Jeff Chase (Select Board), Philippe Crane (via Zoom), Dennis Devereux, Chad Farrar, Sam Farrar, Diana Garrow (Select Board), Russ Garrow, Joan Garrow, Carol Garrow-Wooley, Zena Gates, Anna McGee Hanson (via Zoom), Barbara and Steve Hazelton (via Zoom), David H. Johnson, Elizabeth Karle, Jon McCann, Lori Norton, Gary Norton, Christine Pratt, Donna Seward, James Seward, Andy Shulz (via Zoom), Faith Tempest, Mark Turco (Select Board Chair), Cash Woods, Clinton Woolley.

1. **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of Any Changes to the Agenda.** None.
4. **Approval of July 11th Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update:** Road Foreman Clinton Woolley noted that he and Jeff Chase spoke about reclaiming Belmont Road between Gates Road and Teer Road. The exact scope can be adjusted to fit the existing budget. Mr. Woolley also got winter sand bids from Pike Industries and Casella Construction. Sand is \$8.30/ton; Pike's bid is \$1,690, delivered. Casella's bid is \$1,670, delivered. Mr. Woolley also spoke with Hubbard's to remove the steel from the Transfer Station. Mr. Turco made a motion to purchase Pike sand at \$8.30/ton, for a total of 4,500 tons of sand, and to utilize local trucking; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
 - b. **Paving FY24 RFP:** Mr. Chase noted that the scope will include July 9th storm repairs.
 - i. Grant in Aid FY23 (MRGP Stormwater Improvements): New scope due to storm damage; will create RFP for \$31K. Deadline for work completed: 9/30/23
 - ii. Grant in Aid FY24 (MRGP Stormwater Improvements): Select Board signed for \$21K.
 - c. **Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report:** Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that tax bills were sent and tax payments are coming in. The Town's payment to the school has not yet gone out. Two payments have been received from the state for Current Use and for the first quarter of state aid. The second quarter of state aid will come early, to help towns with flood expenses. Ms. Karle anticipates receiving that by next month. General expenses do not include anything out of the ordinary, but there is a new category in the expense reporting for storm damage repair.
 - d. **Listers' Report:** Lister David Johnson reported that there were four grievances; one was reduced; two others had questions that could be answered by the Listers; there are no appeals for the Board of Civil Authority.
 - e. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Update:** MHPC Chair Jon McCann noted that the Commission is drafting the Town Plan and is on track for an October hearing for the Planning Commission. There is also an upcoming meeting for the Belmont Village Plan. Mr. McCann noted that the Town may be interested in pursuing another Municipal Planning Grant; one possible area of work for this grant could be a housing study and policy development regarding short-term rental regulation.

f. **Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update:** No update this month.

6. New Business

a. July 9th Storm Recovery

- i. Infrastructure Repair Update: Mr. Woolley noted that everything is close to being resurfaced. Completed major repairs include: Freeman Brook Rd (stacked rock wall built in two locations); Freeman Brook (river realigned); Lushes Acres Rd (road rebuilt; some work remaining); and Beaver Meadow Brook (stacked rock wall built). Mr. Chase suggested putting out an RFP for remaining repairs, with bids requested on a unit basis.
 - ii. Major repairs remaining include: 1) Healdville Road Slope Failure - Ongoing; 2) Paving Patches; 3) Road Surfacing; 4) Continue Swale Repairs (re-establish, seeding, rock lining, etc); 5) Shunpike Rd Culvert Replacement - Sizing/ANR Permit; 6) Belmont Road / Star Lake Culvert - Need Hydraulics Study and Engineering 7) Beaver Meadow Rd Large Diameter Culvert Replacement - Need Hydraulic Study; 8) Sawyer Hill Rd Large Diameter Culverts - Engineering; 9) Star Lake Dam - Repair Small Erosion Sites - Confirm with state repairs based on their inspection; 10) Lushes Acres Overflow Culvert - Sizing/ANR Permit; 11) Church Street/Maple Hill Culvert - Jet
 - iii. FEMA Public Assistance Update: The deadline for individual assistance is the first week of September; once the deadline passes, there is no recourse. The Town has applied for assistance with FEMA to cover storm damage costs and is waiting to be assigned a state and FEMA representative. We are documenting and tracking all storm related expenses/tasks in anticipation of reimbursement up to 92.5%.
 - iv. Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Hazard Mitigation Program - Flooded Property Buyout: This program buys homes that have been flooded; Mr. Chase will draft a letter for property owners that may be affected.
 - v. Lessons learned from Highway, Town Office, Fire, Emergency Management: Emergency Management Director (EMD) Jeff Chase noted that having additional cots on hand for the shelter would be a good idea for future emergencies. He noted that photo documentation has also proven critical; an app that automatically geolocates each photo could be helpful in the future. Ms. Garrow also noted that better options for quickly contacting school officials quickly could be in place. Mr. Turco noted that, all things considered, the Town had an amazing response; he thanked Mr. Chase for his work as EMD; offered kudos to all the individuals who supported emergency efforts during the week of and weeks after the flood. Fire Chief Billy Austin also noted that the Fire Department is not fully handicapped accessible. He also noted that the FD is interested in writing a grant to better prepare for emergency water rescue operations, if necessary in the future. Mr. Turco also noted a desire to expand the list of contractors and emergency service providers, for quick reference and use during the next emergency.
- b. ARPA Request: Storage Container for Emergency Management Supplies:
 - c. Camper Ordinance: The Select Board is considering adopting a camper ordinance; the clerk has provided a range of example ordinances for the Select Board to consider. Mr.

Turco noted that the Planning Commission is welcome to look into the issue as well; the Clerk will share information

- d. Fuel Bids: The Clerk will solicit bids for heating oil and diesel from area vendors. Bids will be opened at the next regular meeting.
- e. Reappraisal Notification. The Town has received a Reappraisal Order Notification from the state and is required to sign the response. Mr. Turco noted that the Town has considered hiring NEMRC for the reappraisal. Mr. Turco made a motion to ask NEMRC for a proposal to complete the town reappraisal; Diana Garow seconded; unanimously approved.
- f. Highway Department Hiring: The town will hire Chad Farrar for the new position.
- g. Transfer Station Fees: Mr. Johnson noted that the fees have been at \$2 since 2004. Mr. Chase shared a report of area towns. RCSWD is \$3; Rutland Town is \$3; Wallingford is \$4; Weston is \$4; other area towns are also at \$2. Mr. Chase that due to inflation and desires to keep the tax rate low, the Town might consider a higher transfer station sticker fee. Mr. Woolley suggested the Town might consider putting solid waste removal out to bid; the Select Board agreed to do this. Ms. Karle noted that the town currently has a \$139,600 budget for solid waste removal; income is \$28,000 from transfer station stickers. Mr. Turco made a motion to increase sticker fees to \$3/bag for a 30 gallon bag, starting September 1; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- h. Municipal Planning Grants: Potential Application Ideas (Deadline Nov 1, 6pm). Mr. Chase noted that the town could proceed with a grant application to conduct a housing study, as referenced in Item 5.e.
- i. Emergency Personnel and Compensation Rates: Mr. Turco made a motion for the Town to compensate emergency personnel, using DOL average rates, for purposes of FEMA reimbursement; Diana Garrow seconded; Jeff Chase recused himself.
- j. Veteran Monument Maintenance: Dennis Devereux noted that the veteran monument is in need of repair; a notice will be sent to the Chit Chat.
- k. Junk Ordinance Complaint: The Clerk will reach out to the Town attorney to determine whether sending a letter of notification to the property owner will impact the property's current tax sale.
- l. Traffic Ordinance Complaint: The Clerk will send a note to the resident to follow up. Mr. Chase will ask the Sheriff's Office to visit the road during enforcement hours.
- m. Culvert Complaint: The Clerk will send a note to the resident to follow up.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. ACO Search Update: The position remains open; interested parties are invited to apply.
- b. Dog License Registration Update: Christine Pratt began with a list of 105 unregistered dogs in June; there are now only 10 remaining on the list. Residents who have not yet registered their dogs, or whose previously registered dogs have passed away, are asked to call the Town Clerk.
- c. Final Approval of Amended Countryside Alarm Quote. Signed by Select Board.

8. Citizen Comments

- a. Lester Lampert noted a complaint regarding water and road damage at his property.

9. Announcements

- a. The Town Office is closed Wednesday, August 16 for the Battle of Bennington.
- b. Residents are invited to join a meeting regarding the Belmont Village Plan at the Community Center, August 16 at 5 pm.
- c. There will be a retirement party for Les Deyette on Saturday, September 9 at 2 pm at the Town Office.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. **Executive Session:** Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed). Diana made a motion to enter Executive Session; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
12. **Adjourned** at 8 pm.

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