

Special Select Board Meeting

Town Office

August 31, 2023, 6:30 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Clinton Woolley, Anna McGee-Hanson, Erik Hanson, Michelle Gaboriau, Jon McCann, Steve Hazelton, Carol A Garrow-Woolley

AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 6:35 pm
2. NRCS - Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) - Sponsor 4435 RT 155 Storm Repair of Stream
 - a. Jeff Chase noted a resident's request that the Town serve as liaison to help the residents of 4435 Rt. 155 qualify for a grant program that supports flood damage in protected watersheds. The role would not incur costs by the Town. Jeff Chase made a motion to sponsor the NRCS Grant for the resident at 4435 Rt. 155; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
3. FY24 Portion of Belmont Road Reclaim and Paving and July 9th Storm Repairs
 - a. One bid, from Wilk's Paving, was received after the deadline and was disqualified from consideration.
 - b. Fuller Sand and Gravel's base bid is \$143,415.25 and alternate bid is \$87,000.
 - c. Pike Industries' base bid is \$170,917 and alternate bid is \$74,800.
 - d. Peckham Road Corporation's base bid is \$177,000 and alternate is \$237,690.
 - e. Mark Turco noted that the lowest bid is from Fuller Sand and Gravel.
 - f. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept Fuller's bid; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. The budget available for the project is \$143,553.
4. FY24 MRGP Stormwater Improvements - Rim Rock, Summit, and Stewart Rd N
 - a. Hawkins Excavation submitted the only bid, at \$21,365. Mark Turco made a motion to accept the Hawkins bid; Jeff Chase second; unanimously approved.
 - b. Pending a MRGP extension for FY23 work, the Select Board will be letting Hawkins extend out the completion of the Stormwater Improvements Project on Summit Rd and Stewart Road.
5. July 9th Storm Repair - Freeman Brook Gravel Berm Removal
 - a. Hawkins Excavation's bid is not to exceed \$24,000.
 - b. F.A.S. Trucking Inc.'s base bid is \$75,000, not to exceed \$95,000.
 - c. Markowski Excavating's bid is not to exceed \$185,400.
 - d. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept the Hawkins Excavation bid; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
 - e. Jeff Chase noted that the ANR Rivers and Stream Engineer is allowing the work on Freeman Brook to be completed anytime, since work will not be in the river/brook.
6. July 9th Storm Repair - Shunpike Rd Culvert Replacement
 - a. Hawkins Excavation's bid is \$11,200.
 - b. F.A.S. Trucking Inc.'s bid is \$68,000.
 - c. G&N Excavation's bid is \$24,812.
 - d. Mark Turco made a motion to accept the Hawkins bid, provided it qualified for FEMA reimbursement; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
7. Mount Holly Rescue Squad Changes

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- a. Mr. Turco noted that the Mount Holly Rescue Squad had registered paperwork to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) in June 2022, but that the Select Board had only learned of the Squad's intention to apply for 501(c)(3) status and dissolve the current organization in August. He asked why the Select Board had not been previously informed of the intent to make changes to the organization. Mr. Turco noted that the articles of organization for the current Mount Holly Volunteer Squad note that if the organization is dissolved, all of its assets must be first returned to the Town.
- b. Anna McGee-Hanson noted that she has not dissolved the old organization, but rather has formed a new organization, The Mount Holly Rescue Squad, with a new EIN, which has now been granted IRS 501(c)(3) status. She noted that the new organization will eventually supplant the old organization, but that currently there are two organizations.
- c. Ms. Garrow noted that the Select Board should have been notified earlier in the process; Mr. Turco noted this as well. Mr. Turco further noted that because of the terms of the current articles of organization, and the Town's budgetary contribution, the Squad's leadership should have brought the intention to change the organization to the Board's attention sooner.
- d. Ms. McGee-Hanson noted that she did not know if the new organization would be approved as a 501(c)(3) and said she decided not to inform the Select Board until the 501(c)(3) determination was made, so as not to "open a can of worms" prior to having a clear answer from the IRS.
- e. Ms. McGee-Hanson further noted that in order to provide services to the community via the rescue squad, she can no longer rely on a volunteer service. Membership in the squad has dipped, and she is anticipating losing an additional three members in the near future. She noted that, in her view, seeking IRS nonprofit status was the only route to ensuring the organization could continue to provide emergency services. Under the new organization, rescue responders will receive payment for their services, which will be funded in part through tax-deductible donations.
- f. Jon McCann said he, Jeff Chase and Russ Garrow had been looking into this situation with Rescue and noted the advantage of this non-profit status is federal funding in the form of Grants and FEMA monies.
- g. Mr. Turco asked whether the cost to the patient using ambulance services would change under the new structure. Ms. McGee-Hanson noted that patients would continue to be billed according to their insurance coverage. Medicaid- and Medicare-covered patients would not pay for services directly, and the rescue squad would continue to receive standard reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid. Patients covered by private insurance would pay variable rates for ambulance services depending on their policies. She further noted that the billing amount for a BLS (transfer for basic patient care) is \$880; for Medicare and Medicaid, the average for a BLS is \$350 per call. She also stated the annual payroll would be around \$90,000 per year and the amount required from the town would be \$45,000 to \$65,000, with the rest being fundraised up to a total of \$150,000 per year. She further stated that the organization's NEET Code is Ambulance.
- h. Mr. Turco asked what the average hourly rate would be for rescue responders under the new organization; Ms. McGee-Hanson noted that the average hourly rate of pay would be \$15-20/hour.

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- i. Mr. Turco noted that he would reach out to Ludlow Ambulance and the Ludlow Town Manager to ask what it would entail for Mount Holly to be included in their service area for emergency calls.
 - j. The Select Board noted that it would add an item regarding the rescue squad to the next regular meeting agenda for further discussion.
8. Adjourned at 7:23 pm