

**Select Board Meeting  
Mount Holly Town Office  
December 12, 2022  
6:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Carol A Garrow-Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, Christine Pratt, Billy Austin, Dennis Devereux, Zena Gates, David Johnson, Jon McCann, James Seward, Donna Seward, Chad Farrar, Steve Hazelton, Barbara Hazelton, Monique Szechenyi, James Corven, Katherine Heald, James Heald, Clinton Woolley, Andrew Shulz (via Zoom), Philippe Crane (via Zoom), Katy Crane (via Zoom), Glen Kreig (via Zoom), Anne Roest (via Zoom), June Capron (via Zoom), Diane D (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order at 6:30 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** There are three additions: Discussion of Quotes for Town Garage Cleaning, a Fire Department Update; and a Town Office closure update.
4. **Approval of November 14, 2023 Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update.** Road Foreman Clinton Woolley noted that the hydraulic study for the Beaver Meadow culvert has been completed; the work to rebuild the culvert is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. The hydraulic study for the culvert at Lake and Belmont has also been completed; this culvert will need further engineering. Mr. Woolley also noted that the highway employees are interested in switching vendors for uniform provision. The Select Board Clerk will inquire with the current vendor regarding terminating the current contract. The Transfer Station continues to need another attendant on a regular basis; there is room in the budget for the creation of this position, and the Select Board Clerk will post the job opening. The Clerk noted that the Rutland County Solid Waste District has a rolling grant that can help pay for new signage and resident education at the transfer station, to support user compliance with waste diversion; the Select Board agreed that the Clerk should pursue this grant. Mr. Woolley predicted that the new scrap metal container should likely be delivered to the Transfer Station in the spring; he will update Casella when the Town is ready for it.
  - b. **Town Treasurer Update.**
    - i. **Monthly Income and Expenses Report:** Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that the state has a new Municipal Climate Recovery Fund (MCRF) designed to provide municipal budgetary relief in the flood recovery effort by lowering the costs of borrowing, to bridge FEMA reimbursement. She noted that the date for applying for the loan program is January 5. Mr. Chase made a motion to pursue the application for the MCRF; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Ms. Karle also noted that the month's expenses include a few new expenses for the former Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad (MHVRS) building, as the Town has taken over responsibilities for utilities and insurance. Most support expenses have been paid out to the libraries and organizations that the Town voters support. The Town also closed out the Tiny Grant on behalf of the Conservation Commission, and the Municipal Planning Grant that covered the Planning Commission's work on the Belmont Village Plan.
  - c. **Animal Control Officer Update:** Interim ACO Laura Swarz submitted a mid-year report of ACO-related calls handled since the beginning of the fiscal year; there have been nine calls since July 1. The position remains open; the Town does have one interested candidate who will submit a formal letter of interest.

- d. **Town Health Officer Update:** Town Health Officer Chad Farrar noted that he had hand-delivered notices of junk ordinance violations to the three residents whose properties are in violation. He has also responded to a report of a dog bite requiring medical attention; the dog in question was put down voluntarily by its owner, and Mr. Farrar will file his report with the Town when the certificate of death has been provided.
- e. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Update:** Jon McCann noted that the public hearing regarding the Town Plan was held on November 15 and was well attended; he thanked those who contributed to edits and offered feedback. A revised draft that integrates public comment has been submitted to the Select Board and is [available for review by residents on the Town website](#) and in hard copy at the Town Office. The next step is for the Select Board to set a date for its own public hearing on the Town Plan, and for the Regional Planning Commission to approve the plan. Resident Katherine Heald asked whether there would be an opportunity for further public comment; the Select Board confirmed.
  - i. **Appoint New Members:** There are three candidates for the two open seats on the Planning Commission: incumbents Brigid Sullivan and Andrew Shulz, and Stephen Michel. Each candidate's letter of interest was read at the meeting. Mr. Chase made a motion to reappoint Mr. Schulz for a three-year term; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Ms. Garrow made a motion to appoint Mr. Michel for a three-year term; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
  - ii. **Set Date for Town Plan Hearing:** The Select Board agreed to set the date for the Town Plan Hearing for January 16 at 6:30 pm at the Town Office. Mr. Chase noted that residents can submit comments beforehand and/or attend the meeting with questions.
- f. **Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update:** There is no substantive update at this time.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Set Budget Workshop Meeting:** The Select Board agreed to set the date for January 4, 4 pm at the Town Office.
- b. **Review NEMRC Reappraisal Service Contract:** The Town has received a proposal for a town-wide reappraisal to begin during July 2026, for completion in 2028. The total cost of the reappraisal will be \$130,200, paid at a monthly rate of \$5,425 for a period of 24 months beginning July 2026. The Town will ensure there is room in the budget for the proposed costs.
- c. **Discuss Creation of Town Plowing Policy:** Mark Turco made a motion to adopt a policy regarding snow plowing and mailbox damage, and to approve the draft policy as written; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved. The Select Board Clerk will publish the policy on the website and in the Newsflash.

## 7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Update on MHVRS Dissolution and Transfer of Assets.** The notice of default has been received by the MHVRS and the requisite 30-day default period has ended; the former MHVRS has also confirmed receipt of the Town's request for financial documentation and transfer of remaining assets. The former MHVRS building, contents and ambulance are now owned by the Town, and both are now covered under the Town's insurance policy.
- b. **Update on Draft Contract with Ludlow Ambulance Service.** The Town's attorney has reviewed the draft contract with the Select Board Clerk and made revisions; the Select Board approves the draft as currently written. The Select Board Clerk will reach out to the Ludlow Town Manager to seek signature.
- c. **Consideration of Quote for Cleaning of Town Garage.** Diana Garrow made a motion to accept the quote as provided, as it is an expansion of the Town's current arrangement for cleaning the Town Office; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
- d. **Fire Department Update.** MHVFD Chief Billy Austin confirmed that the department is still seeking to build a first responder force, working with Sue Poitier and Stephanie Grover; six individuals are interested in receiving the required VFERS certification. In addition, two former MHVRS personnel have joined the MHVFD; one is an EMT-A, the other is an EMT; both are now firefighters; Mr. Austin noted that this is a big asset for the fire department. Mr. Austin also

expressed interest in assuming the use and maintenance, and associated costs, of the former MHVRS building and vehicle; Mr. Turco noted that the Select Board would consider this request.

**8. Citizen Comments**

- a. Jim Heald noted that he has lived on Belmont Road since 1966 and is concerned about drivers speeding on Belmont Road. His comment was second by Phillippe Crane, Barbara Hazelton, and Katherine Heald. The Select Board will seek a quote for a flashing radar sign that will help with enforcement. Mr. Farrar noted that the Sheriff's Department may need some more guidance on where and how long to monitor traffic; Mr. Chase and Mr. Turco confirmed they will communicate with the Sheriff's Office to offer this feedback.

**9. Announcements/Other Business**

- a. The Town Office will be closed on Christmas Day, December 26, and New Year's Day.
- b. January 3, 2024 is the due date for articles to be included in the Town Report.
- c. Dog license renewal begins January 1, 2024.

**10. Review & Sign Orders**

**11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel (if needed).** Diana Garrow made a motion to go into executive session; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

**12. Adjourn**