

Select Board Meeting

Town Office

June 11, 2024

****6:00 pm****

Attendance: Jeff Chase, Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Caitlin Boyle, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, Clinton Woolley, Paul Barton, Dennis Devereux, James Seward, Andy Shulz, Jim Corven, Stephen Michel, Christine Pratt, Zena Gates, Andy Tanger, Barbara and Stephen Hazelton (via Zoom).

1. **Call to Order** at 6:01 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** Mark Turco noted the need to add two items: the Child Care Tax Contribution and the Junk Ordinance.
4. **Approval of May 14 Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report** - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley noted that the Town did not receive a paving grant from the state this year but recommended the Town address road repairs first on Shunpike Road, and then, after Shunpike, on the four-way intersection on Hortonville Road. Mr. Chase noted that the Town can prepare a request for proposals to pave Shunpike and will seek bids from Fuller, Pike and Wilk as well as posting the RFP on Vermont Bids. Mr. Woolley also noted that property owner Andrew Bellina submitted a request to make Sawyer Hill Road passable during the winter months; the Town doesn't currently maintain the road in the winter. Mr. Woolley noted that this is a Class 3 road, and would not be a substantial repair, but that the road would need to be widened. Mr. Turco asked Mr. Woolley to prepare a cost estimate for the repair to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Woolley noted that the mower has been repaired and roadside mowing will begin next week. The Highway Department's Freightliner has also returned from repairs; these were covered almost entirely under warranty, with a \$500 bill to the Town. Mr. Woolley will continue to seek a bid for outsourcing solid waste collection to a vendor. The Town also received a special highway grant, which can be applied to both Sawyer Hill and Beaver Meadow repairs.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** - Elizabeth Karle. Ms. Karle reported that she had passed the voter-approved budget amounts into the appropriate Town funds. The Town has had its first FEMA project obligated; a total of approximately \$400,000 in FEMA reimbursements could be obligated, or cleared, by the end of June. The Town continues to make its education payments; there is not any other significant profit and loss activity this month. Ms. Karle also noted that the Town's audit firm is preparing for an annual audit and has submitted a list of items to be prepared prior to scheduling. Mr. Chase asked whether there are any year-end needs for the Town Office or administration; Ms. Karle noted that the line item for these expenses has been fully tapped for this fiscal year.
 - c. **Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update** - Jim Corven. Jim Corven noted that the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) is asking the Select Board to approve the

formation of a Recreation Committee, as outlined in the newly adopted Town Plan. The MHCC is also requesting that the Town perform regular (biweekly) testing of the swimming area at Star Lake during the summer months, and make results available to the public. He noted that the Emerald Ash Borer mitigation treatment has begun, and the MHCC is assisting property owners in injecting their ash trees with the chemicals that protect trees from ash borers. The MHCC is also working on solid waste diversion initiatives, including a program to sell home composters and an initiative to give away recycling bins. Finally, Mr. Corven invited the community to attend its free Energy Fair on Saturday, June 15.

- d. **Fire Department Update** - Bill Austin. Fire Chief Bill Austin submitted a letter requesting that the Fire Department be allowed to make a series of minor construction repairs/additions to the former Rescue Building, so as to link the former Rescue Building to the Fire Department Building via a walkway. The Fire Department is also interested in selling its ambulance to cover the cost of a new pickup truck.

6. New Business

- a. **Open FY25 Winter Sand Bids.** The Select Board opened bids for FY25 Winter Sand. Vendor bids for material costs and trucking of 3,000 tons of sand were received as follows:
 - i. Casella: \$56,850 manufactured; \$48,750 non-manufactured.
 - ii. Wallingford Crushed Sand: \$57,450 manufactured.
 - iii. Pike Industries: \$49,200 non-manufactured.

Mr. Woolley noted that he would like to try manufactured sand for the coming winter season. Ms. Karle noted that the budget for FY25 sand and trucking is \$53,000. Ms. Garrow made a motion to purchase winter sand from the lowest bidder, which is Casella, for a total of \$56,850. Mr. Turco seconded; Mr. Chase recused himself due to his employment at an affiliated company.

- b. **Fire Warden Appointment.** Mr. Turco made a motion to reappoint the current Fire Warden, James Seward; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
- c. **S55 Open Meeting Changes.** The Select Board noted that the changes to the Open Meeting Law will go into effect July 1; the Town will comply with the new regulations.
- d. **Set New Meeting Date for August due to Election.** Mark Turco made a motion to move the August regular Select Board meeting to Wednesday, August 14; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- e. **Review Sheriff's Office Contract for Speed Enforcement.** The Select Board reviewed the Sheriff's proposed contract for speed enforcement at \$54.53/hour. Paul Barton asked whether radar signs had been considered for speed enforcement; the Select Board noted that it had considered such signs, but has concerns about cost and theft. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the contract as provided; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- f. **Review Cota & Cota Contract for Propane.** The Select Board reviewed the Cota & Cota proposed contract. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept Cota & Cota's capped price option for propane delivery in FY25; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- g. **Consider Letter of Support for OVRCC Tourism Grant.** Mr. Turco made a motion to write a letter of support for the OVRCC's application to a state tourism grant; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

- h. **Waive Homestead Penalty on Late-Filed HS-122.** Mr. Turco made a motion to waive the homestead penalty on late-filed HS-122 declarations; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- i. **Child Care Tax Payroll Contribution.** Ms. Karle noted that as of this year, there is a new state tax of .44% to fund child care initiatives; the contribution can be paid by employers or split between employers and employees. Mr. Turco made a motion for the Town, as employer, to cover the full payroll contribution; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Review Veterans Monument Donations and Select Contractor.** The Select Board reconsidered the two bids the Town received to restore the Veterans Monument. Approximately \$1,300 has been raised in private donations from Town residents to cover the cost. The Select Board deferred to Dennis Devereux, who has spearheaded the project, to select the contractor. Ms. Karle requested that any remaining donations be applied to future repairs or veterans' causes. Mr. Devereux noted that he would invite the local bidder, Angus Ferrand, to complete the project.
- b. **Consider Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs.** Ms. Christine Pratt reported that she has almost completed the annual census of unlicensed dogs; there are six dogs outstanding, and four of those are in the process of completing registration. Ms. Pratt recommended that no warrant be issued until next month. The Select Board asked the Animal Control Officer to follow up with the two remaining dog owners who have not yet complied.
- c. **Junk Ordinance.** Mr. Turco noted that the Select Board Clerk should issue a letter of complaint and request for compliance to the property owners on Shunpike Road whose property is not in compliance with the Junk Ordinance.

8. Citizen Comments

- a. Mr. Stephen Michel noted that there is damage to a concrete portion of the historic water wheel located near the museum, which he believes poses a flood risk; he asked whether the concrete can be removed from the brook. Mr. Turco noted that the DEC/ ANR will need to be contacted for permission, as will the property owner on whose land the concrete is located.
- b. Mr. Devereux thanked Mr. Chase for the road painting at the Belmont Road intersection with Tarbellville Road and asked whether additional signage can be installed.

9. Announcements

- a. Green Up Coordinator Needed
- b. Transfer Station Attendant Needed
- c. Town Office Closed on June 19 and July 4.

10. Review & Sign Orders

- 11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel: Review FY25 Pay Rates.** Diana Garrow made a motion to enter Executive Session; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

- 12. **Adjourned** at 8:30 pm.