

Select Board Meeting

Town Office

September 10, 2024

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

Attendance: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase, Zena Gates, Paul Barton, Dennis Devereux, Chris Pratt, David Johnson, Clinton Woolley, Billy Austin, James Seward, Sharon Gordon, Edgar Pauk, Paul Wellin, Kenneth Saccardo, June Capron, Stephen Michel, Evelyn Tully Costa, Caitlin Boyle (Zoom), Christine Boudreau (Zoom).

1. Call to Order at 6:00 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda. Mr. Turco noted that item 5.a.ii. "Dust Control on Shunpike Road" would be edited to "Dust Control on Town Roads"

4. Approval of August 14th and 22nd minutes. Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report** - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley reported that the town crew is working on the replacement of the culvert on Shunpike Road; the road has been closed but will be opened to one lane of traffic again beginning on September 11. Mr. Woolley noted that there will be a staffing shortage at the Transfer Station the weekend of September 13; one attendant will be present. Ken Saccardo, a town Transfer Station attendant, noted that there is some mold at the site's warming hut and recommended that it should be dealt with or the building repurposed. Mr. Turco noted that the Town would resolve the mold situation. Mr. Saccardo also noted that a portable toilet, with antifreeze for the winter, is needed at the Transfer Station; the issue has been raised and tabled in past meetings. Mr. Turco noted that the Board would seek vendors for a portable toilet that was suitable for winter use.

i. **Beaver Meadow Culvert Repair RFP.** Mr. Chase noted that the RFP will be for the engineering of the culvert, with construction to follow.

ii. **Dust Control on Town Roads.** Mr. Woolley shared that he sought a quote for an all-inclusive dust control system for the town, which includes a tank with a pump and sprayer on a skid, to be used by the Town's F550. He said area towns use 20,000-30,000 gallons of calcium chloride per year, at a quoted price of \$1.11/gallon. The total projected cost for the system would be ~\$30,000. Paul Barton inquired about what dust control refers to, and Mr. Chase explained that in periods of dry weather, certain roads in Town have high levels of dust, particularly higher-traffic roads with heavier truck traffic. He noted that the Town Crew needs to balance the need for dust control with state regulations regarding when roads can be repaired. Several residents shared concerns and complaints regarding rising dust levels. These residents noted that dust levels are higher now than in past years and that they are concerned about the health risks. The Select Board acknowledged the issue and noted that dust control will be accelerated on problem roads. While the all-inclusive system is not currently budgeted for, the Town

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will purchase calcium chloride pellets and will treat priority areas to control dust in the short-term.

- b. **Treasurer's Report** - Elizabeth Karle. Ms. Karle was not present due to attendance at an annual training. She provided a written report, which the Clerk read into the record as follows: 60% of the Town's annual taxes were paid in August; 2.5% of the total tax base was paid via the new direct debit option, with more signed up for direct debit in 2025; ~\$243K in reimbursements were received from FEMA; the Town has fully paid off its flood related loan with the receipt of FEMA funds; tax payments were the major activity this month, with the Town realizing discounts through September 5th; discounts totaled just over \$185,500, compared to \$173,000 budgeted.
- c. **Fire Department Update** - Bill Austin. Mr. Austin noted that the Fire Dept is repainting its buildings red; the first responder team will be attending a training in West Virginia; and the department now has a new rescue boat and can respond to water emergencies. Mr. Austin noted that the department averages 1-2 calls per week, with good response times.
 - i. **Rescue Building Water Softener.** The Town Clerk has noted that there is a sulfur smell in the Town Office bathroom; she inquired about whether the water softener installed in the former Rescue Building, which has been deactivated due to a leak issue, might be the source of the smell. The Select Board noted that it is not sure whether the Town Office shares a water source with the Rescue Building and that it will investigate the matter.
- d. **Listers' Update - David Johnson.** No major updates. Drive-arounds will begin soon.
- e. **Planning Commission Update.** No updates; tabled until November.
- f. **ACO Update.** Tabled until next month.

6. New Business

- a. **Cider Days Road Closure - Kevin Hollebeek.** Mr. Hollebeek requested the same road closures for Cider Days as were requested last year and provided a map. This year's dates are on October 12 and 13. Mr. Chase noted that the Mount Holly Community Association should notify the Ludlow Ambulance Service of any closures. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve as requested provided that passage were allowed for emergency vehicles; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.
- b. **Farm Stand Relocation at Transfer Station - Ashley Rose.** Ms. Rose asked whether she could relocate her farmstand to within Town property at the Transfer Station; the board noted that this presented a traffic congestion issue and declined the request.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Cider Days Liquor License.** Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the application, conditional upon the applicant following all state guidelines; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

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- b. **Municipal Planning Grant (Housing Study).** Mr. Chase drafted an RFP for a consultant who can perform a Town-wide housing study. The RFP will be sent out for bids.
 - c. **Homeland Security Grant (Generator Bids).** Mr. Chase shared three quotes for an emergency generator purchase and installation, to be paid from a grant the Town received from the Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$24,899. He noted that Steady Power has a GSA contract to provide generators to federal agencies and offered the best price at \$23,350. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Steady Power; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
 - d. **NRCS Grant (Storm Repair) - Christine Boudreau.** Mr. Chase drafted an RFP for the repair work and submitted it for review from NRCS; once it has been reviewed, Mr. Chase and the Clerk will send the RFP to area engineering firms to solicit bids for the work.
 - e. **Transfer Station Signage - Review/Approve Quote.** The Board approved the quote. In addition to the quoted sign, the board also asked the Clerk to order two 18" x 24" signs indicating that stickers are required for disposal in the open C&D container, per Mr. Saccardo's suggestion.
 - f. **Town Office Water Heater - Review/Approve Quote.** Mark Turco made a motion to approve the quote as submitted, but asked the Clerk to inquire about whether the bid included moving the water heater to a more accessible location, and if not, what additional costs that work would entail.
 - g. **Review Attorney's Comments - Mount Holly School Well Installation.** The Town Attorney has reviewed the new draft MOU between the school district and the Town regarding the Mount Holly School well project. The new agreement indicates that the involvement of the project on Town property is now less significant than in the proposal initially approved by the Select Board in 2021. The Select Board will review the attorney's comments and make a decision to sign the next meeting. The Clerk will find out whether there is a deadline for the Select Board to approve the MOU.
8. **Citizen Comments.** Citizens shared further comments regarding dust control, and made suggestions regarding signage on roads to reduce speeds, as well as inquiries regarding testing of the shur-pak used to dress the roads. The Select Board noted that it will take measures to increase dust control on priority roads.
9. **Announcements.** None.
10. **Review & Sign Orders**
11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel.**
12. **Adjourned** at 7:23 pm