

## Select Board Meeting

Town Office

October 8, 2024

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

**Attendees:** Mark Turco (Chair), Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, June Capron, Dennis Devereux, Liz Karle, Steffanie Bourke, Phil Crane, Steve Michel, Paul Barton, Chris Pratt, Jim Seward, Zena Gates, Gary Norton, Lori Norton, Tiffany Austin, David Johnson, Clinton Woolley, Katie Kleczkowski, Chad Farrar, Kevin Winter. Via Zoom: Donna Seward, Barbara and Steve Hazelton, Faith Tempest.

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.** Mark Turco added NEMRC Funding Contract to Reports, and Bottle Collection at the Transfer Station to New Business.
4. **Approval of September 10th, 20th and October 1st Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report** - Clinton Woolley noted that ditching is in progress on Tiffany and Beaver Meadow. Mr. Turco noted that there were some resident concerns regarding the depth of ditching on Tiffany Road, but that if the ditches meet state specifications, no further work will be needed. Mr. Turco asked the road crew to check the grading against state specifications to determine whether further work is required. Mr. Woolley noted that the Town's newly purchased truck won't be ready until spring.
    - i. **Hortonville Culvert.** The Select Board instructed the road crew to clear the culvert of the beaver dam material to protect the road and neighboring property.
    - ii. **Beaver Meadow FEMA Box Culvert & Sawyer Hill VTrans Grant Box Culvert Status Update.** Jeff Chase noted that he had reached out to VTrans to see if the Town was required to use a PE-stamped set of drawings; if not, the Town will work with the manufacturer of the box culvert to come up with a design, and the Town will seek its own permits.
    - iii. **Winter Salt.** Mr. Woolley priced winter salt from Cargill and Appalache. The Cargill price is \$87.25/ton, inclusive of trucking. The Appalache price is \$93/ton inclusive of trucking. Mr. Woolley noted that he preferred the Appalache product due to higher quality. Jeff Chase made a motion to select Appalache as the vendor; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
    - iv. **Missing Road Signs.** Mr. Woolley noted that there have been 8 missing road signs in recent months; six have been replaced already; two are outstanding. He noted that the cost to replace road signs runs approximately \$90 each, including the cost of the signs and brackets, and not including the cost of the post. He noted that he is securing road signs more aggressively in response to the presumed thefts.
    - v. **Warming Shed Cleaning.** The current warming shed has a mold issue; Mr. Turco will price out a new 8x10 shed for use by the Transfer Station attendants in the colder months.
    - vi. **Employee Vacancy:** Mark Turco thanked Chad Farrar for his service to the Town as a highway employee and during the emergency flooding of 2023, and noted that it was with regret that the Select Board accepted his resignation from the Town highway crew.

- b. **Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth Karle.** Ms. Karle noted that there is currently \$4.8 million in the Town's General Fund; this is due to tax collection; the Town has collected 85% of the annual taxes, and 80% of this was paid by residents using the discount rate. To date, the Town has also received FEMA reimbursement funds for all requests to date. Solid waste label revenues are on track with the budget, as are salaries and benefits. The Town also received a \$5,000 grant for elections purposes; this will support training and other resources for the upcoming November elections.
- c. **Fire Department Update - Bill Austin.** Tabled.
- d. **Conservation Commission Update:** Mr. Crane noted that the MHCC had a productive meeting with a representative from the Wetlands Commission, who made recommendations regarding invasive species mitigation in Star Lake. Mr. Crane also noted that the emerald ash borer mitigation efforts were successful and were a net zero cost financially. The energy audit visits done under the auspices of the MERP Mini Grant have been completed as well. A new Recreation Committee has been formed by members of the MHCC as well, and early enthusiasm is encouraging.
  - i. **October Re-appointments:** Jim Corven and Phil Crane's terms have expired, and Phil Crane is seeking reappointment. The vacancies have also been posted in public places; residents are encouraged to register their interest with the Select Board. Mr. Turco made a motion to reappoint Phil Crane to one of the vacancies, for a three-year term, effective October 1; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. One vacancy remains.
- e. **Animal Control Officer Update.** Mr. Karle has submitted documentation of calls received and responded to.
- f. **NEMRC Assessor's Service Agreement FY25.** NEMRC's rate has not been raised from the previous year. Senior appraiser rates are \$145/hour and standard appraiser rates are \$95/hour. Mr. Turco made a motion to accept the contract as written; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Status of the Rutland Regional Plan Update - Steffanie Bourque.** Ms. Bourque attended the meeting as a representative of the RRPC. She noted that the update to the regional plan is at its midpoint; the Phase One work included successful community engagement in regional towns; results are available at the RRPC website. She noted that Phase Two includes community engagement events this fall in all 27 regional towns, and two feedback sessions, the next of which will be October 30, in person, at the RRPC office, or virtually; more information at the RRPC website. A second survey will also be launched, and residents are encouraged to complete the survey and to react to the draft plan. Survey respondents are entered in a drawing to win \$200 in tickets from the Paramount Theater.
- b. **Emergency Management 50/50 Grant for Storage Container.** Mr. Chase noted that he sought pricing for a storage container for townwide emergency preparedness. The quote he received was for a 20-yard container, at \$3,800 total, of which 50% would be paid by the Town and 50% matched by Black River Good Neighbors. The storage container would be equipped with blankets and other supplies for use in the case of an emergency. Mr. Turco made a motion to purchase the container at the \$1,900 quoted price; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

- c. **Confirm Fuel Vendor.** Mr. Chase made a motion to maintain Cota & Cota as the liquid propane vendor and Marcell Oil as the on-road diesel and #2 heating oil vendor; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- d. **Discuss BCBSVT Renewal.** The Select Board made an initial review of the 2025 BCBSVT plans for small-group employee health insurance and will make a decision regarding renewal of the plan at a subsequent meeting.
- e. **November Planning Commission Reappointments:** There are two vacancies arising in November for the MHPC. Jim Seward and Andrew Seward are seeking reappointment, and the vacancies will be posted publicly; interested residents are encouraged to submit interest.
- f. **Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission Heritage Partners.** Dennis Devereux has been in communication with the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission regarding Mount Holly becoming a partner in its activities.
- g. **Bottle Collection at the Transfer Station.** Ms. Karle spoke as a representative of the parent teacher organization at Mount Holly School and requested the Select Board transfer responsibility of the bottle collection shed, and its proceeds, from Rainbow Riding Center to the Mount Holly PTSA. Diana Garrow made a motion to shift the bottle collection responsibilities and proceeds to the Mount Holly PTSA; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

## 7. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. **Vote on Using Paving Reserve Fund for Shunpike Paving Project.** Jeff Chase made a motion to use the Paving Reserve Fund for the Shunpike paving project; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.
- b. **HSGP Generator Grant - Electrician Bid.** Mr. Chase received one bid for an electrician to install the generator purchased under the auspices of the HSGP grant; the pricing will be variable between \$1200-\$1800. Mr. Chase will integrate this pricing into the project scope and will update the Select Board at a subsequent meeting.
- c. **Discuss and Approve Private Road Sign Policy.** Mr. Turco read the draft policy and solicited feedback from the public. The Clerk noted that one possible addition to the draft would be to bill property owners for the cost of time and labor in addition to materials, in cases when a private road sign needs replacement. Mr. Truck made a motion to adopt the policy as drafted and with the additional provision suggested by the Clerk; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

## 8. Citizen Comments.

- a. Mount Holly Katie Kleczkowski noted that there was an open school board position pursuant to David Venter resigning from his role. Ms. Kleczkowski noted that she has been involved in school board issues since last spring. Her background is in both UX for website design, and in copywriting for Blackrock, a major financial institution, and she is versed in communicating complex financial information to those without a financial background. She seeks the Select Board's support as she seeks to fill the remainder of Mr. Venter's term.
- b. The Select Board noted that it had received one application for the job opening on the road crew. It advised the Clerk to purchase an ad in the Rutland Herald to promote the

opening of additional applications are not received within two weeks.

**9. Announcements**

- a. Town Office Closures: Indigenous People's Day: October 14; Veteran's Day: November 11; Thanksgiving: November 27th at noon - November 28th; Christmas: December 24th at noon- December 26th; New Year's Day

**10. Review & Sign Orders**

- 11. Executive Session:** Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel: Mr. Turco made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel compensation items; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved. During the session, the board discussed Transfer Station attendant compensation and approved partial reimbursement of employee training expenses for a Town employee.

**12. Adjourned at 7:32 pm.**