

**Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
August 12, 2025
6:00 pm**

Minutes

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Zena Gates, David Johnson, Dennis Devereux, Bob Knight, Christine Pratt, Clinton Woolley, Stephen Michel, Craig Fortier, Maria Fortier, June Capron, Barbara Pulling, Norman Cohen, Phil Leonard, Laura Davis, Glenn Davis, Mary Leonard, Carol Garrow Woolley, David Peterson (via Zoom), Liz Karle (via Zoom), Donna Seward (via Zoom).

1. Call to Order 6.04 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: two additions were made - item 7d VFM DPS Hazard Mitigation Grant Signing (FEMA buyout) and 7f NRCS grant
4. Approval of July 8th, July 14th Minutes: Mark Turco made a clarification on the July 14th minutes which misstated that the Town has a noise ordinance. Diana Garrow moved to accept the July 8th minutes and the July 14th minutes with the correction on the noise ordinance, seconded by Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
5. Reports
 - a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: The Transfer Station fence has been reinstalled. Several road signs have been stolen and will need to be replaced. Shrewsbury has a 500 gallon tank and sprayer which they no longer need which the Highway Department can use. Mark Turco will find out the price. Lake Ninevah grant funded road improvements are finished, though if there is additional funding left this will be used for surepak. Hortonville Road is now ready for paving and work should start in the coming days. Craig Fortier requested a hidden driveway sign near the entrance to his property on Healdville Road; he also asked if the culvert pipe at end of his driveway could be reviewed since it seems to be damaged. Clinton Woolley will inspect it.
 - i. Potential locations for radar speed sign - Mark Turco noted the need to ensure the sign is well anchored and suggested locations on Belmont Road, Healdville Road, potentially near a residence. Jeff Chase volunteered to assist Clinton Woolley with set up.
 - ii. Beaver Meadow Culvert Repair: David Peterson of VTrans gave details of the bridge replacement on Rte 155 near Beaver Meadow Road. The new bridge will widen the opening from 16 feet to 40 feet to allow debris to flow through. Work is expected to take place in summer 2026, and Rte 155 will be closed for up to 28 days, with incentives to the contractor to complete sooner. Full road closure will be after 4th July but pre and post construction will involve daily lane closures. The main detour will be marked on State Roads, with an unmarked local detour also available. There are bypass grant funds which can cover additional signs, maintenance or enforcement during road closure. The State Public Information Officer will also ensure information on closures is publicly available.
 - b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle. The tax bills have gone out and payments are coming in, with over \$1m now in the general fund. The first State Aid for Roads has now been received; there were strong Transfer Station sticker sales in July.
 - c. Listers' Report - David Johnson
 - i. Errors and Omissions - VTransCo. The State determined a revised value for VTransco to update in the Grand List. The Grand List has now been filed with the State.

- d. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Faith Tempest gave an update on behalf of Jon McCann, noting that two subdivisions have been completed so far this year, with two more applications, and that the first Flood Hazard Area permit has been issued following the Town's bylaw adopted last year.
6. New Business
- a. Excess donations for Veterans Memorial renovation: there is a surplus of \$1005 of donations over work undertaken to renovate the Memorial. Mark Turco proposed using the funds for future repairs, agreed by Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow.
 - b. Dog License registrations: Carol Garrow-Woolley reported 247 dogs registered, 64 unregistered noting that Adam Karle did make follow up calls to some owners. Ms Garrow Woolley asked if the Select Board is going to impound unregistered dogs? She acknowledged Christine Pratt's efforts last year, but asked what approach the Select Board wants to take in the future. Mark Turco proposed an executive session to consider what action to take.
 - c. Town Animal Control Officer: Adam Karle submitted his resignation as Animal Control Officer. Mark Turco moved to accept his resignation, Diana Garrow seconded, approved unanimously. The position will be advertised.
 - d. Vermont Declaration of Inclusion: Norman Cohen and Barbara Newell introduced this item. The declaration is intended to promote Vermont as a welcoming State and has been adopted by 164 Towns adopted including most towns in Rutland County. It is supported by Gov Scott, Chambers of Commerce, and others who wish to attract people to the state to support economic benefits, and can be a tool in the Town's economic development toolkit. Laura Davis asked if this was something which should be put to the Town to vote on? Barbara Newell responded that each Town can decide how to approach this, but it is often a Select Board decision. Mark Turco suggested that this be put on the agenda for discussion at the next regular Select Board meeting, with information circulated beforehand in the Chit Chat, Newsflash and website..
 - e. Open and review bids for winter sand: four bids were received, two for regular sand, two manufactured. For 4 tons, delivered, bids were: Pike industries \$80,220, MandM \$58050, Casella \$57780, Wallingford Crushed Stone \$52060. Clinton Woolley confirmed that manufactured sand worked well, and noted the difference in trucking between Casella and Wallingford Crushed Stone which made the bids more comparable. Diana Garrow moved to accept the bid from Casella, seconded by Mark Turco, motion approved (Jeff Chase recused himself).
 - f. New Opioid settlement. The Town has received a new Opioid settlement from Purdue Pharma. Other settlements have recently provided \$810.
7. Old Business
- a. Town office Electrical issues: Faith Tempest reported that one proposal has been received to undertake an assessment of the electrical system, but given the cost additional quotes are being sought.
 - b. T-Mobile addition to cell tower: The Town has received notification that T-Mobile has formally submitted its application to the Public Utility Corporation.
 - c. Chadburn Lane RFP: Two bids were received - Mountainview \$23,500 or \$34500 for a better finish; Hawkins not to exceed \$75,000, possibly around \$60-70,000 (but the bid was received late). Jeff Chase noted that FEMA funds have already been allocated for this. Mark Turco moved to award to Mountainview option 2 given proof of appropriate insurance, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously. Jeff Chase noted that the guardrail may need some work from the Town; the property resident has offered to assist with this.
 - d. VFM DPS Hazard Mitigation Grant Signing (FEMA buyout): Jeff Chase has the grant based on his role as authorized signer. The next step is to arrange the appraisal and lawyer to act for the Town.
 - e. Natural Resources Conservation Service grant (Rte 155): Jeff Chase prepared the survey for this in the Spring and now the ANR permitting is complete. The next step is an RFP with the hope that the work can be completed this year. Jeff Chase will invite bids from a number of entities, and post on the State bid site.

8. Citizen Comments: Zena Gates asked if the Transfer Station is stopping taking mattresses. Mark Turco confirmed that these will no longer be accepted due to the cost. Clinton Woolley also reminded residents that the Transfer Station cannot accept air conditioners, refrigerators, and propane tanks. Craig Fortier complained about 2.5 hours of noise from a neighboring wedding and asked that the Select Board look into a noise ordinance or investigate what other Towns do. Other neighbors, Laura Davis and Mary Leonard, echoed Mr Fortier's complaints. Mark Turco agreed to put the issue on the next SB agenda when more information is available on how other Towns deal with this. Dennis Devereux raised concerns about the collapsed concrete abutment in the brook behind the Walter White museum building, part of the old mill. The museum would like to remove it but are having difficulty getting a response from the State: Mr Devereux asked if the Select Board could contact the State authorities. Clinton Woolley pointed out that the Town does not own this, so the Museum and ANR will need to work with the landowner.
9. Announcements: Town office closed Labor Day. Property tax 4% discount closing on 28th August.
10. Review & Sign Orders
11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel. Mark Turco moved to go into executive session, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
12. Adjourn

In draft form until approved at the Select Board meeting 9th September

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