

**Select Board Special Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
September 2nd 2025
4.30 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, David Johnson

1. Call to Order 4.30pm
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Mark Turco asked to add an item on curbing at Belmont General Store as item 3d.
3. Old Business
 - a. RFP Stream Stabilisation Rte 155: bid opening. Five bids were received, Markowski - \$32,295, Hallstrom Excavating \$29,175, Mountainview Earthworks \$41,200, Hawkins Excavating \$12,830, K T Hathaway \$24,000. Jeff Chase made a motion to accept the bid from Hawkins Excavating; seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - b. ACO Position - Contract with Rutland County Sheriff. Following an animal control incident during the last week Mark Turco noted the difficulties of the enforcement aspect of this role. Jeff Chase had spoken to the Rutland County Sheriff's department who are willing to add on ACO services to the proposed traffic enforcement contract. The cost is \$10363 for the rest of the fiscal year, with 16 hours a month of coverage. They would receive calls and respond either urgently or during their regular hours in the town. Mark Turco made a motion to contract with RCS for the remainder of the fiscal year, Jeff Chase seconded, approved unanimously.
 - c. Town office Electrical issues: quotes for repairs: Two quotes have been received, one for \$1440 from Rob Stubbins Electrical to conduct an assessment (with remedy at additional cost), and one from Wirenuts Electrical with a price maximum of \$2000 to remedy the existing problems. Jeff Chase moved to contract Wirenuts at maximum price of \$2000 to undertake the work, Diana Garrow seconded, approved unanimously.
 - d. Rte 155 Speed restriction request: letter for signature. Mark Knoll has collected signatures of support for the letter to be signed and submitted by the Select Board to the Traffic Committee.
 - e. Belmont General Store curbing: Mark Turco and Clinton Woolley discussed with Dave Tilly proposals to add curbing in front of the Belmont Post Office entrance along with a ramp for wheelchair access, and the implications for plowing and parking. Additional work will remove the boardwalk in front of the Store. Clinton Woolley noted that with the right design there should not be a plowing issue. Mark Turco noted that the removal of the boardwalk may allow additional parking. Jeff Chase requested full drawings to ensure that AOT standards are met and which can be used for a formal agreement with the Town (which owns the land concerned). Mark Turco will ask Dave Tilly to provide drawings. Mark Turco asked that VLCT be consulted regarding an agreement and that the issue should be discussed further at the Regular Select Board meeting.
 - f. Clinton Woolley raised a question regarding a Town Right of Way question related to a property on Syria Road. Jeff Chase proposed this should be discussed at the Regular Meeting following clarification of whether this is Town or State RoW, and consultation with VLCT on the implications.
4. Citizen Comments:
 - a. School bus driver: Tatiana Abatemarco wrote to the Select Board requesting information on the decision to end the trial of a Highway Crew member driving the School bus. The Select Board drafted a response outlining the issues behind the decision:

The decision to no longer allow Dennis Cointreau to continue with driving the morning bus was based on concerns about safety and productivity of the 3 person road crew. A typical day with this split role (road crew member driving the bus) went as follows and presented some challenges for the crew.

The road crew start their day at 6:00 am and leave the garage to work on roadway maintenance by 6:30am. The bus driver needs to start the bus by 6:45am to do its first pickup at Frost Hill at 7:00am and comes back to the school by 7:55am. By the time the bus driver parks the bus and is available to work on the road crew it is 8:15am. Theoretically it will take another 15 minutes for the bus driver to get to where the crew is working and join in for productive work. The driver is missing ~ 2hours of work in the morning which they are to make up at the end of the day after the other workers leave. The other workers leave at 2pm. The road crew member that is driving the bus would have to stay till 4pm and be a productive member of the crew, but they would be working by themselves, which is unsafe. The road crew does high risk work and if there was an accident there would be no one to help the crew member. Also on the afternoon bus run the bus driver needs to start the bus at 2:45pm to pick up the students at the school at 3:00pm, leaving the last ~1 hour of the road crew member's work day having to be made up after the driver has already left his road crew position 2 times, working alone which is unsafe.

In addition to safety concerns, the board was concerned about having a third fully involved and productive crew member. If we continued to allow the split role we had concerns about being able to adequately maintain Town roads with just a three person crew (road grading, ditching, brush clearing, mowing, plowing, etc). Given the current economic state of large property tax increases this year and rising costs of insurance (workers comp, health insurance, etc) and wages, we decided for the Town it was best not to continue the split role. We understand the hardship it presents to residents with school aged kids and hope either Dennis is able to find another job that can pair well with bus driving or that the school is able to advertise and find someone to fill the role if Dennis leaves the bus driver position. We regretfully accepted his resignation and are in the process of finding a replacement with the same skill set, which is hard in the current employee marketplace.

- b. Declaration of Inclusion: Don Eatmon wrote requesting that the Select Board consider the implications of the Declaration before adopting it. The Declaration is on the agenda of the next Regular Meeting.

5. Adjourned: 5.15pm