

**Select Board Special Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
October 22nd, 2025
4.30 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Chad Farrar, Christine Pratt

1. Call to Order: 4.30 pm
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: none
3. New Business
 - a. Advertising vacancy on the Planning Commission: Mark Turco noted the opening in November and the need to advertise. All Select Board members agreed.
 - b. Review of applications for Highway Maintenance Worker position: three applications have been received, though no applicants have a CDL. Jeff Chase asked how to make the full salary and benefits package clear in adverts; he also noted that it may be possible to compensate if an employee does not want to take all the insurance benefits; and the potential use of smaller vehicles not requiring a CDL. Mark Turco stated that if the Town supports applicants in getting a CDL, they would need to work for a minimum of 3 years, or pay back whatever the Town funds. Following review of CVs, Select Board members agreed to call one applicant for a further discussion.
 - c. Review of Dog Ordinance: Mark Turco noted a number of recent incidents involving dogs and stated the need for better enforcement of the ordinance. Chad Farrar responded that there have been several dog bite incidents but only one formal complaint, making it difficult to identify 1st, second or third offences as required by the ordinance. Chad Farrar had submitted a letter to the Select Board and Jeff Chase highlighted two points, specifically that dogs involved in incidents are usually unregistered and/or unvaccinated, and that the Sheriff's office has not always been helpful. Jeff Chase noted that although the Sheriff will take an informal approach and is unlikely to issue tickets, having the Sheriff involved gives more weight to enforcement but the Town also needs to take steps to publicise the ordinance. Mark Turco proposed the Select Board speak to the Sheriff to be clear about enforcement of the ordinance. Chad Farrar stated that calls come to him as THO because people do not want to call the police on their neighbors, and reiterated the need to get information on the ordinance publicised, including amongst the Sheriff's deputies; he also noted the problem of long response times by the Sheriff's office which is a problem if unvaccinated dogs bite a person and suggested a ACO based in the community would probably be able to respond more quickly; he also suggested that combining the THO and ACO roles may help. Jeff Chase noted the difficulty in getting the ACO on a stipend or voluntary position and stated his position that the Town should retain the Sheriff's services. Jeff Chase noted he was not opposed to combining the ACO and THO roles but wants first to meet with the Sheriff's department to make the Town's expectations clear and to improve communication including identifying where to send reports. Mark Turco proposed that the dog ordinance is revised to remove the current waivers, better define vicious dogs and nuisance dogs. Chad Farrar stated the need for better education of town residents about the requirements, including for example sending out flyers in the tax bill and sandwich boards. Carol Garrow-Woolley asked if fees should be changed and shared details of license fees charged in neighbouring towns: there was no further discussion on this. Christine Pratt asked about enforcement when owners do not register or vaccinate their dogs. Chad Farrar asked that the penalties be made clear in any new ordinance. Jeff Chase confirmed that the Sheriff's department will undertake enforcement and the Town can ask them to write tickets for violations.
4. Adjourn 5.29pm