

**Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
December 9th, 2025
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Liz Karle, Jon McCann, Roger Garrow, June Capron, Stephen Michel, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Zena Gates, Fra Devine, Abe Leber, Kathy Leber, Ron Unterman, David Johnson, Dennis Devereux, Barbara and Steve Hazleton (via Zoom), Leah Knoll (via Zoom), Mark Knoll (via Zoom), Andy Schulz (via Zoom), Christine Boudreau (via zoom).

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Mark Turco added an item - update on dog licenses (5d)
4. Approval of November 11th meeting minutes. Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
5. Reports
 - a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley. After a two year wait, the new truck has arrived. A resident has reported a damaged maple tree in the town's right of way on Johnson Lane and Branch Brook Road. It is located close to power lines and requires a crane to remove it. Mark Turco asked if Green Mountain Power might deal with this. Mr Woolley will follow up with GMP; if they will not deal with it he will seek quotes from tree companies. The Transfer Station warming hut has now been insulated.
 - b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle. Taxes still unpaid are now delinquent and collection efforts have started. On the income side, interest earnings, at approximately \$40,000, are well above projections, other income is generally in line with expectations. Expenses, including salaries, are generally as budgeted, although the delayed arrival of the new truck required further repairs to the old truck, bringing vehicle maintenance over budget. Stephen Michel asked how the salary expenditure is in line with the budget if the road crew is one person short. Mark Turco responded that Les Deyette has stepped in to help the road crew part time and thanked him for this.
 - c. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Subdivisions are keeping the PC busy. Mr McCann took VLCT training on upcoming changes to Act 250, specifically the "road rule", and Tier 3 designation which is intended to avoid fragmentation of areas of natural resources. He has asked that the State uses the Town's maps when they finalise the Tier 3 designation. He attended Cavendish PC to see how they are approaching the adoption of new subdivision regulations. Mr McCann will attend the Okemo long range management plan meeting on 16th December. Ron Unterman raised again his comment from the last SB meeting that the PC is adversarial, based on his experience at the last PC meeting. Whilst the PC adopted rules of procedure which state that the Commission acts as one, in relation to the Belmont General Store this was not the case. Mr Unterman noted that Commissioner Andy Schulz had sent information to the Act 250 Coordinator in regards to her jurisdictional opinion on whether the Store is subject to Act 250. Mr Schulz responded to Mr Unterman during the PC meeting that he had acted as an individual but Mr Unterman stated that the Act 250 Coordinator included the email in evidence from the "Town of Mount Holly". Mr Unterman asserted that Mr Schulz's email was designed to push the State into acting, which is beyond the scope of the Planning Commission and is not supportive of businesses in our town. Mr Unterman asked the Select Board to determine if Mr Schulz had violated the open meeting law or any rules regarding ex parte communications. Mr McCann responded, stating that Mr Unterman's comments contained misinformation: the actions of Mr Schulz were agreed by unanimous resolution of the PC to provide information to the State which the Store owner had not provided of their own volition. Mr McCann noted that all residents in the Town must follow the rules, but some

people feel they have the privilege to ignore rules. Mr McCann responded on the issue of the open meeting law that two members of a five person board are able to discuss business without contravening the law; since there was no public hearing or other proceeding there was no possibility of ex parte communications. Mr McCann stated that it is inappropriate to attack an individual member of the Commission, and that he as Chair takes responsibility for the actions of the Commission. Mr McCann concluded by stating that the issue at hand, Act 250, is determined by the State, and the JO has settled the question. Kathy Leber asked for the record to note that Mr McCann's comment about privileged people was inherently biased; Abe Leber also stated that there is a division which separates the "privileged" people from others and that is awful. Mark Turco responded that we are all one community. Stephen Michel suggested to the Select Board that they review all of the evidence considered in the Act 250 Coordinator's decision.

- d. Dog licenses: Faith Tempest confirmed that the two dog owners who received letters requesting they register their dogs still have not done so. Mark Turco requested that the ACO be asked to issue tickets. Mr Turco also noted complaints regarding dogs on Shunpike Road, for which the ACO has issued tickets. He has also received complaints of junk on Shunpike Road, and asked the Select Board Clerk to send a letter to the resident concerned.

6. New Business

- a. Two-way radio communication - Highway Dept and Ludlow and Mount Holly Schools: this would loop both road crews and schools into the same radio system. Mark Turco asked Clinton Woolley if he had any concerns. Mr Woolley asked about the technical details and whether this would incur any expense for the Town. Jeff Chase noted this is a frequency programming issue and Steve Josslyn of Central Vermont Communications stated that there would be no cost if the work is done in Highway Department vehicles at the same time as it is done at the School. Select Board members gave their blessing to this as long as there is no cost to the Town.
- b. Set Budget Workshop Meeting Date and Time: first week of January - 6th Jan at 4pm. Mark Turco noted that TRSU have offered to provide information to the SB regarding issues related to budgets for education in the upcoming year.
- c. Set Town Meeting Date and Time: March 2nd 6pm, voting on the 3rd.

7. Old Business

- a. Speed limit on section of Rte 155: inputs to Traffic Committee Meeting on Dec 10th: Mark Knoll stated that the traffic engineer's report recommended against any changes in the speed limit, but noted they do take into account the views of town residents and encouraged those who are interested to attend. Mark stated he is happy to lead and asked for authorisation to speak on behalf of the SB. Jeff Chase said he would try to attend.
- b. Municipal Planning Grant Housing Study - Status and Draft Report Review, Upcoming Housing Study Public Mtg and Comment collection in January 2026. The report has been drafted and will be shared through various channels. The grant has been extended to the end of April, and a public consultation will be held on January 27th at 6pm, with the final report prepared for the February or March Select Board meeting.

- 8. Citizen Comments: Ron Unterman thanked the Ludlow Rescue Squad for the prompt arrival to a medical emergency. Mark Turco noted other examples and appreciated the excellent job the Ludlow Rescue Squad is doing.

9. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closures: December 24th and December 25th; closed at noon on December 31st, and all day January 1st New Year's Day
- b. Dog Licensing Renewal Begins January 1

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

These minutes are in draft form until approved by the Select Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.