

Special Select Board Meeting

Mount Holly Town Office
50 School St
Mount Holly, VT 05758

January 6, 2026

4:00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Carol Garrow-Wolley, Clinton Woolley, Dennis Devereux, Mary Surething, Stephen Michel, Brigid Sullivan (via Zoom), Liz Karle (via Zoom), Gary Norton, Lori Norton, Phil Crane, Tiffany Austin, Faith Tempest (via Zoom)

1. Mark Turco called the meeting to order at 4pm.
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: none
3. Mark Turco introduced the Budget Workshop and asked the Town Treasurer to present the proposed budget.
4. Liz Karle went through each budget item and clarified the rationale for keeping or adjusting each item. In the main these were minor adjustments reflecting (to the degree possible mid way through the year) actual expenditures and expected changes.
5. A larger budget change (approx 12%) is the increase in the cost of general employee benefits including retirement, childcare and payroll taxes. Engaging the Sheriff for Animal Control and Traffic enforcement increases costs. There is also uncertainty regarding future costs for Ludlow Ambulance Services, and of costs associated with FEMA's Beaver Meadow Road culvert improvement. The Treasurer also noted that the impact of the early payment 4% tax discount on education taxes has been underestimated over recent years in the budget. It does generate interest income and quarterly collection, which some towns do, would increase administration costs.
6. The Treasurer raised a question regarding how the Treasurer/ Assistant Treasurer function will be budgeted. Select Board members agreed to discuss this at a later date.
7. The budget workshop concluded with an agreement to continue on 13th January at 5pm to discuss the outstanding item of Highway Operating Expenses.
8. Mark Turco adjourned the meeting at 5.52pm.