

## **Special Select Board Meeting**

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

**January 13, 2026**

**5:00 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase (via Zoom), Diana Garrow, Liz Karle, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Phil Crane, Stephen Michel, Mary Surething, June Capron, Dennis Devereux, Faith Tempest.

1. Call to Order
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: none.
3. Town Budget Workshop (continued): Liz Karle outlined the budget elements relating to Highway Operating Expenses, costs for which have risen over the last year. Jeff Chase noted that pay rates need to be competitive if the open Highway maintenance position is to be recruited. Mark Turco proposed a 6% increase. Liz Karle noted that equipment repair and maintenance has been underbudgeted in the past. Submissions from the Volunteer Fire Department and the Conservation Commission asked for amendments to these sections of the budget which had been discussed in the last budget workshop. Costs for the Treasurer function, which were previously split between Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were placed under a single budget item. Liz Karle noted that \$35000 from the specified fund balance and \$85000 from the general fund balance could be applied to reduce the tax burden, rather than being kept as a surplus, which would still leave three months of operating costs at the end of the fiscal year to allow the Town to operate until the next tax payments come in. Jeff Chase asked whether there was a risk that the Town ran down its surpluses and needed to borrow funds, but Ms Karle said this was a very low risk if the amount shifted was \$100000. She also stated that without applying these funds to the budget, the increase would be almost 20% year on year; with it, the budget increase would be 11.46%. Mark Turco supported the proposal to buy down taxes.
4. Meeting adjourned 6.02 pm.

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