

Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
February 10, 2026
6:00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Layne Millington, Dennis Devereux, Jim Seward, Zena Gates, June Capron, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman, Amy Turco, (via Zoom: Morgan Collins, Don Patch, Liz Karle, Alissa Tilly, Michael Chronert, one person unidentified).

1. Mark Turco called the meeting to order at 6.00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Mark Turco added adoption of updated road standards added as item 6f.
4. Approval of Minutes Jan 13th Special Meeting, Jan 13th Regular Meeting, Jan 22nd Special Meeting: Diana Garrow moved to approve all minutes as written, seconded by Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
5. Reports
 - a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: Clinton Woolley was unavailable due to plowing responsibilities. Jeff Chase noted his submission of an application for a grant to fund tree and ledge removal to improve road safety. Mark Turco noted two bids received for tree removal: GM Tree Tech \$4800 for removal of one tree on Branch Brook Road, and from McCullough Bros \$9000 two days with a 4 person crew and unlimited tree removal. Dennis Devereux asked if this could include one tree at Carlton Cemetery (to be funded by the cemetery fund) and one at the Museum (to be paid by the Museum). Liz Karle noted that the tree fund does not include as much as \$9000, but Clinton Woolley would need to advise as to whether there are options to move from other aspects of the budget. Jeff Chase moved to contract McCollough Bros using the ash tree budget, Museum and cemetery reimbursements, and using the Highway budget for the remaining costs, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle
 - i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: there has been limited activity in January, \$60,000 of the paving grant for Hortonville Road has been received, with the \$120,000 remainder expected before the end of February. Highway employee expenses remain in budget since there are only 2.5 employees. The Aquatic Nuisance control grant reimbursement has been received, with most to be forwarded to the Ninevah Foundation.
 - ii. Audit: The 2025 draft Audit has been submitted and the Select Board is asked to accept it. The report is too late for inclusion in the Town Report, but Ms Karle will consider how to distribute it more widely, including in the March issue of the Chit Chat, an electronic version on the website, and a hard copy made available by request. For 2026, major changes to auditing standards has led to more front loading by the audit firm including signing an engagement letter and making a down payment now. Ms Karle recommended to the Select Board that they engage RHR Smith, with few other audit firms available.
 - c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: In Ms Surething's absence, Faith Tempest presented two documents for approval and signing - the Certificate of no appeal to the Grand List, and the contract with CAI for data mapping services at a cost of \$3000. Diana Garrow moved to sign the contract with CAI, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - d. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Mr McCann thanked Andrew Seward for his service on the Planning Commission. The Commission has approved two subdivisions in recent weeks. The comment period for the Housing Needs Assessment is extended for another week. Jeff Chase confirmed that the final report will arrive in the next week. Mr McCann hoped the report would be adopted by the Select Board at their next meeting. The PC will continue its work on updating the subdivision regulations. Mr McCann noted that he was not able to attend the Select Board's recent special meeting, but has submitted a letter for the record in response to

statements made at that meeting and agreed it is now time to move on and focus on Town business.

6. New Business

- a. Vacancy on Planning Commission. Mark Turco thanked Andrew Seward for his service on the Planning Commission, and requested any interested people to apply to the Select Board for the vacant PC position for the remainder of the term to end in November 2027.
- b. Vacancy Board of Adjustment alternate: Due to the death of David Johnson, there is a vacancy for an alternate on the Board of Adjustment. Mark Turco requested applicants to submit a letter of interest to the Select Board. Mr Turco moved to post a plaque in the Town Office honoring David Johnson given his many years of service to the Town, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
- c. LMHUUSD presentation on the school budget: Layne Millington. Mr Millington gave a presentation on the 2026-27 school budget and its impact on tax rates. LMHUUSD is proposing a level service budget (ie no increase except inflation); he also noted that there has been a correction since the initial budget which brings the rate down slightly (there will be a correction notice sent out to residents). Mr Millington's main point was that the State's approach to equalizing the tax burden (the Common Level of Appraisal) has a high effect on the overall tax payments residents make, with limited ability of school districts to influence the overall tax rates. Stephen Michel asked where the information on CLA can be found. Liz Karle responded that the State provides information. Amy Turco asked how long time residents can be protected from the effects of price rises fueled by recent purchases. Mr Millington responded that residents are being penalized because the CLA is looking at the value of properties in the whole town. He also noted that there is a homestead reimbursement for those on an income below \$115,000 which can reduce taxes. Liz Karle noted that all residents should submit their homestead declaration because there is also a reimbursement element to the town.
- d. SAM Renewal: Faith Tempest confirmed that this has been completed.
- e. Open meeting law annual training: Mark Turco confirmed that he will undertake annual training on the Open Meeting law.
- f. Updated roads standards: The State has improved its standards and Towns are asked to adopt the new standards. Jeff Chase noted that while the Town is mainly following these there are a couple of things to adjust. Liz Karle noted that any FEMA reimbursement needs to provide proof that these standards are being followed. Mark Turco proposed updating the Town's standards and bringing them to the next meeting for adoption.

7. Old Business

- a. 2026 Mileage Certification Updates: Following some exchange with the AoT there is a proposed change to the mileage certificate. Jeff Chase moved to reclassify the TH37 class 3 section to 1.52 miles and class 4 to 0.64 miles, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments: Jeff Chase attended the regional sub-region disaster meeting with Shrewsbury, Wallingford, which was a good experience sharing opportunity.

9. Announcements

- a. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1. Mark Turco reiterated the request for dog owners to register their dogs and get them vaccinated.
- b. Town Office Closed on February 16 for President's Day.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel

12. Adjourn at 7 pm .

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