

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Town Office, 50 School Street

Mount Holly, VT 05758

March 10, 2026, 6 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Carol Garrow-Woolley, James Seward, Paul Nevin, Zena Gates, Dennis Devereux, Mary Surething, Philippe Crane, Julie Parsells, Isaac Turco, Ron Unterman, Jon McCann, Christine Pratt.

Via Zoom: Andy Schulz, Phil Leonard, Liz Karle, Donna Seward, Michael ?, June Capron, Morgan Collins, Jonathan Washburn, jc.

1. Call to Order 6.00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Changes and/or additions to the agenda: 911 measuring responsibilities removed; Conservation Commission vacancy added to item 6d; Star Lake Inspection (new item 7a), Mount Holly Post Office (new item 7c).
4. Approval of February 10th Minutes: Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
5. Reorganization
 - a. Select Board Chair: Diana Garrow nominated Mark Turco as Chair, seconded Jeff Chase, approved.
 - b. Tree Warden: Mark Turco nominated Phil Crane, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
 - c. E911 Coordinator: Diana Garrow proposed Ann Hansen, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
 - d. RCSWD Representative & Alternate: Carol Garrow Woolley asked not to be nominated as alternate. Clinton Woolley confirmed he would continue until another person can be found. Diana Garrow moved to appoint Mr Woolley until a new volunteer could be found, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - e. Designated Employer Representative: Jeff Chase proposed Faith Tempest, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - f. Newspaper of Record: Vermont Journal submitted a request to continue as the paper of record, but Diana Garrow noted that many people do not receive it. Mark Turco, noting that it is not free but more easily available, moved to adopt the Rutland Herald as the paper of record, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
 - g. Assistant Town Clerk(s): Jeff Chase moved to appoint Sue Covalla, Diana Garrow, Nancy Connor, and Ann Hansen, seconded Mark Turco, approved.
 - h. Assistant Town Treasurer(s): Jeff Chase proposed to appoint Dawn Augustine and Julie Parsells, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

- i. Set Day & Time of Regular Meeting: Mark Turco moved to set the meeting for the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
- j. Set Public Posting Places for Warnings: Given the closure of the Mount Holly Post Office, Jeff Chase moved to set the public posting places as the Town Office, the Belmont Post Office and the Oddfellows Hall, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
- k. Designate Signer & Authorization for Orders: Mark Turco moved to designate Diana Garrow, seconded Jeff Chase, approved.
- l. Reappoint Emergency Management Director (EMD): Diana Garrow moved to reappoint Jeff Chase, seconded Mark Turco, approved.
- m. Reappoint Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Rep & Alternate: Diana Garrow moved to reappoint Clinton Woolley and Jeff Chase, seconded Mark Turco, approved.
- n. Reappoint Rutland Regional Planning Commission Commissioner & Alternate: Mark Turco moved to reappoint Jessica Metcalf and Jon McCann, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously,
- o. Readopt Town Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy: Mark Turco proposed readopting the policy unchanged, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
- p. Readopt Town Conflict of Interest Policy: Diana Garrow moved to adopt the Town Conflict of Interest Policy for this year, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

6. Reports

- a. Highways & Transfer Station Report - Clinton Woolley: Mr Woolley noted that mud season is here, and the crew is working to keep roads in a reasonable condition. He has received a quote from Cintas to provide and clean uniforms at a price of \$45 per week for uniforms, with other items such as rugs available. Liz Karle noted that this uniform cost is marginally more than currently being spent, but means less washing etc. Mark Turco asked Mr Woolley share the information with Ms Karle and to get a complete proposal for the next meeting. Mr Woolley reported that one of the transfer station attendants will not be able to work on both days. Mark Turco agreed to advertise for a position for the two days, with Jeff Chase noting that if no-one can be found, then alternative approaches to waste collection should be considered.
- b. Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - Elizabeth Karle: Ms Karle reported that income and expenses were similar to last month, with the largest expense being the payment to the School. The remaining amount of the paving grant for Hortonville Road has been received. Delinquent tax collection has continued. The other notable expenditure was for tree work, including removal of a tree on Museum property. Dennis Devereux asked what the Museum's contribution would be; Mr Woolley confirmed \$800 to be paid by the Museum and the neighboring property owner to the Town.
- c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: Ms Surething welcomed Tiffany Austin as a newly elected Lister. The listers have asked NEMRC to continue support to reappraisals which they are

hoping to get in time to allow the issue of new appraisals and grievance hearings completed by June.

- d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Report - Phil Crane: Mr Crane clarified that the Commission will have two vacancies by the end of the month. He asked for permission for planting at the Star Lake Recreation area, and provided a list of plants at a cost of \$409. Liz Karle responded the Commission may be over its budget but would look into this. Mr Crane asked if the Town would hold donations to support the weed harvesting on the lake, including to pay the operator, and if needed fund repairs. Liz Karle confirmed that it would be possible to hold donations, but the Commission would need to acknowledge donors, and asked the Commission to share a draft letter to be given to donors to agree wording. Jeff Chase noted that any funds would be subject to the Town's procurement policy. Carol Garrow Woolley also asked if the operator would be required to have their own insurance. Mr Crane noted that there are funds left from the MERP grant and proposed to put LED lights in the Town office. Jeff Chase asked for more details to consider what might be possible.

7. New Business

- a. Star Lake Dam inspection: The State has asked for permission to access on June 23rd to inspect the dam. Mark Turco moved to give permission, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
- b. Set Spring/Summer Transfer Station Hours: 29th March last Sunday, April 1st first Wednesday.
- c. Mount Holly Post Office: Carol Garrow Woolley asked the Select Board to consider erecting a building as a dedicated post office since it is unclear whether or when the Mount Holly Post Office will reopen. She asked SB to write to USPS, and proposed that a prefabricated building could be put on the cement slab where the former town garage was. Paul Nevin asked if rent would come to the Town. Dennis Devereux asked about getting mail delivered to the Town Office. Mark Turco noted that any such proposal would have to go to a vote. Mark Turco and Jeff Chase agreed to send a letter to the USPS expressing concern about the lack of a PO in the Town and seeking clarity on the USPS plans.

8. Ongoing & Old Business

- a. Adopt 2026 Town Road and Bridge Standards: Mark Turco moved to adopt 2026 Town Road and Bridge standards as written. Seconded by Jeff Chase, adopted unanimously.
- b. Appointment of Planning Commission member: Mark Turco stated that two candidates had applied for the position, Ron Unterman and David Martin. Mr Turco asked Mr Unterman to speak, and then recited David Martin's letter. Mr Turco noted that both candidates are excellent and each had several letters of support. Jeff Chase asked Ron Unterman if he could work well with current Planning Commission members given recent events, to which Mr Unterman responded that this is one reason why he wants to join the Commission. Mark Turco moved to appoint Ron Unterman, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

- c. Appointment of Board of Adjustment alternate member: Mark Turco stated that Julie Parsells has expressed interest. Diana Garrow moved to appoint Ms Parsells, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
9. Citizen Comments: Clinton Woolley stated that there are issues with Town Office building access for those with mobility issues. Mark Turco asked that Mr Woolley get quotes for alternative designs.
10. Announcements/Other Business
 - a. Dog License Registration Deadline April 1.
 - b. Diana Garrow asked residents to file homestead declarations as soon as possible.
11. Review & Sign Orders
12. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)
13. Adjourned