

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Town Office, 50 School Street

Mount Holly, VT 05758

April 14 2026, 6 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Christine Pratt, Cheryl Hammond, Dennis Devereux, James Seward, Zena Gates, June Capron, Kelly Tarbell, Phil Leonard, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Isaac Turco, Julie Parsells, Angelette Turco, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman.

Via Zoom: Barbara and Steve Hazleton, Michael ?

1. Call to Order 6.03pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: School Board appointment and laptop purchase for Assistant Treasurer were added to new business, junk ordinance complaints, animal control complaints, and paper of record were added to ongoing business.
4. Approval of March 10 Minutes: Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
5. Reports
 - a. Highways & Transfer Station Report - Clinton Woolley: Mr Woolley proposed hiring a crack sealer at cost of \$4500 for road repairs and to protect the newly paved Shunpike and Hortonville Roads. He will work with Shrewsbury to try to get a better price. The State suggests that salt sheds be filled now to avoid winter shortages; Mr Woolley asked if it would be possible to draw funds this FY rather than next FY. Jeff Chase asked how much can be stored - 6 loads, though the use is about 10 loads. Mark Turco asked Mr Woolley to get a price on 6 loads and bring that back to the Select Board. Mr Woolley noted that grading is ongoing, some culverts have collapsed and the price of replacements has risen. Jeff Chase noted some underspend on staffing and summer road materials (though bills may yet be coming and some winter and summer materials were mixed) which may provide the capacity for purchase of some salt; Mr Woolley will follow up with vendors.
 - i. Contract for Uniforms: Cintas has provided an updated quote which will be a similar cost to the previous uniform reimbursement for Highway employees. Jeff Chase moved to switch from reimbursement to the Cintas contract, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
 - ii. Transfer Station staffing: Mr Woolley reported on the hazardous waste collection the previous weekend; there are efforts to get the Rutland County Solid Waste District management back in order. Mark Turco proposed an executive session to discuss staffing.
 - b. Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - Elizabeth Karle. In Ms Karle's absence, Mark Turco asked Julie Parsells to present the monthly report. Ms Parsells responded that a lack of support from the Treasurer means that assistant treasurers are not receiving guidance, and as such, actions are being delayed. Ms Parsells asked if this could be discussed in executive session.
 - i. Town Credit Card limit: tabled.
 - c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: in Ms Surething's absence this report was tabled. .

d. Mount Holly Planning Commission Report - Jon McCann. Mark Turco read out the report sent by Jon McCann. The PC is working on another subdivision; the website has been revised to post links to PC decisions on subdivision; a subcommittee to undertake pre-feasibility work on a Belmont Village wastewater system has been formed. Mark Turco asked if the Town was expected to fund such a village waste water system. Jeff Chase and Faith Tempest confirmed that earlier discussions were focused on how users would fund it. Planning Commissioner Ron Unterman stated that the rules of the PC allow the Chair to form the committee, but that the committee has not yet been formed. Amy Turco asked why this was being considered for Belmont and not other locations and stated that taxpayers' money should not be used for this. Mark Turco responded that no town funds would be used for this; Dennis Devereux noted the fire district approach used in other towns to fund such systems. Jeff Chase noted the need to investigate and plan for the future and be more forward thinking on the future needs of the Town. Kelly Tarbell asked if Act 181 would have any implications for such a development.

6. New Business

a. Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory. Diana Garrow moved to accept the certificate and financial plan, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

b. Administrative Officer/ Planning Commission Clerk vacancy. Mark Turco noted the term of the incumbent is coming up and the 3 year appointment will be advertised.

c. FY27 Highway Paving Grant application: Jeff Chase agreed to prepare the application for a portion of Healdville Road.

d. Town website/email hosting: Faith Tempest noted that the most likely option is for the Town to have its own hosting account, but is still in discussions with EndeavourOps about how to move forward.

e. Easement deed LMHUUSD and Town of Mount Holly: The easement deed is the final step in getting the permits to allow the work to establish a water supply to the school. Faith Tempest confirmed that the Town attorney had reviewed the wording of the deed. Diana Garrow moved to sign the easement deed to resolve the school water problem, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

f. School Board appointment: There is one vacant position for Mount Holly on the School Board who requested the Select Board's view on interested candidates. Mark Turco noted the Select Board does not weigh in on such appointments. Kelly Tarbell was happy to hear the SB had no opinion.

g. Laptop for assistant treasurer: Jeff Chase asked which budget this would come from - Diana Garrow noted there is a budget for Treasurer's office costs which does have funds. Jeff Chase moved to approve up to \$400 for laptop for the Assistant Treasurers, second Diana Garrow approved unanimously.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Conservation Commission:

i. Appointment to the Commission: John Ackerman has expressed interest. Diana Garrow moved to accept Mr Ackerman's appointment for a three year term, second Mark Turco,

approved unanimously. Mark Turco noted there is still one vacancy and encouraged interested persons to apply.

ii. Star Lake Planting: Jean-Marie Fitzgerald confirmed she ordered plants for Star Lake recreation area and requested reimbursement. She asked about the possibility of removing dangerous trees which have been identified by the Commission, the Tree Warden and the contractor mowing the area for the Town. Clinton Woolley asked to meet with the Conservation Commission to identify the issue and seek quotes.

iii. Use of MERP Grant: no proposals as yet.

b. Dog Licenses: Follow up on unregistered dogs. Carol Garrow Woolley noted that there are still 89 unregistered dogs with 55 owners, reminder letters have been sent out.

c. Municipal Planning Grant Housing Needs Assessment: adoption of final report. Jeff Chase noted that the report is complete and will be submitted to the State. Diana Garrow moved to accept the Housing Needs Assessment Report, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

d. Junk ordinance complaints: Mark Turco has received multiple complaints regarding junk on Shunpike Road in two locations. He asked the Clerk to send letters to the property owners.

e. Animal control complaints: Mark Turco had received reports of dogs chasing boys on Shunpike Road; he asked the complainant to call the Sheriff's department as animal control officer. Diana Garrow noted reticence for public complaints in fear of reprisal. Mark Turco confirmed that the Sheriff has served tickets to dog owners in Mount Holly. Jeff Chase asked if Mr Turco could get more details from the Sheriff regarding specific actions they have taken.

f. Paper of record: Faith Tempest noted a conversation with the Vermont Journal who have offered to deliver to Belmont General Store but could not deliver more widely in Belmont. Mark Turco stated that there is no clear advantage to one or the other option and so the Board will stick with the decision to use the Rutland Herald as the paper of record.

8. Citizen Comments: Mark Turco has been approached by a number of residents asking if the Town will take a position on Act 181 and the potentially adverse effects on development, including the permitting costs of Act 250. Dennis Devereux stated the adverse effect is on small towns with benefits for cities; he noted that some elements are being delayed but he would like to see the Town send a letter. Ron Unterman noted that the rural component makes the situation worse, when the main objective is to stimulate housing development in urban areas. Kelly Tarbell also urged the Town to draft a letter. Mark Turco made a motion to draft a letter to be considered at the next SB meeting, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

9. Announcements/Other Business: Diana Garrow has prepared text for a plaque to honor David Johnson and asked others to review.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel: Mark Turco made a motion to go into executive session, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

12. Adjourn.