

# Town of Mendon

Selectboard

December 14, 2015

Members of the Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Geoff Wells, Richard Wilcox

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable

Residents and Visitors present: Cort Jones, RNESU Act 46 Research Committee

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

*Additions/deletions to the Agenda:* Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda. Seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 12/7/15. Motion seconded by D. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Business

*Adoption Town Plan* L. Courcelle moved to adopt the Mendon Town Plan as presented to the Selectboard by the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*Town Garage Improvement Project* B. Ellis reported that the project will require a permit from Labor and Industry and they may require the foundation blocks to be engineered. B. Ellis will follow up with P. Douglas regarding this requirement as he is finalizing the project costs.

*Bond Vote Warning Requirements* The Selectboard will warn a bond vote for Town Meeting in March 2016. A resolution will be signed on January 25, 2016. An informational meeting must be conducted within 10 days prior to the vote. The Selectboard will conduct the information meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the vote is to take place on March 1, 2016 at the Mendon Town Office. Notice of the bond vote will be published for three consecutive weeks in the newspaper.

*Planning Commission Appointment* L. Courcelle moved to fill a vacancy on the Mendon Planning Commission and appoint Nicole Kesselring to complete a four year term ending 3/31/16. Motion seconded G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*Act 46 Report of the Research Committee* Cort Jones attended the Selectboard meeting to the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Act 46 Proposal For Side by Side Mergers. RNESU is presenting this merger plan to the Department of Education on December 15, 2015. A Special Meeting of the Mendon School District will be warned and held on January 18, 2016 at the Mendon Methodist Community Church. Voting to form the Barstow Unified School District

will be held at the Mendon Town Office on January 19, 2016. Tax incentives of \$.08, \$.06, \$.04 and \$.02 will be granted over a 4 year period. Mendon's Homestead Tax Rate will be capped at a 5% increase. RNESU will receive a Merger Transition Grant of \$130,000 to cover transition cost. S. Tully asked C. Jones how or when Mendon is voting to terminate the Barstow Joint Agreement and why it isn't being done in coordination with creating a new agreement. Mr. Jones is unclear of this answer and has asked RNESU to clarify. S. Tully asked Mr. Jones why the two appointed Mendon School Board Directors, Michelle Erikson and Chris Gandin are not on the ballot for January as is required by State Law. Mr. Jones responded that according to Superintendent Jeanne Collins, the statute does not say this is required at the "next" election. S. Tully disagreed and has contacted the Secretary of States Office to clarify for the town but at this point it is too late to meet warning requirements and deadlines for petitions. Mr. Jones reiterated that this transition is simply solidifying agreements with towns we already do business at our discretion. The alternative is the state requiring consolidation in the future and Mendon not having control over what other towns we are forced to consolidate with.

*2016-2017 Budget* The Selectboard discussed the funding of the various reserve funds and salaries.

Motion by L. Courcelle to enter Executive Session at 9:05 PM to discuss personnel with the Selectboard present. Motion seconded by D. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The chair declared the board out of Executive Session at 9:25 PM.

The Selectboard will budget a 2% rate of pay increase for all employees in the 2016-2017 budget.

G. Wells made a motion to increase Newt Jones hourly rate of pay to \$15.50 effective January 1, 2016. Motion seconded by D. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 9:34 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Larry Courcelle

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Sara Tully- Clerk

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Geoff Wells

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Richard Wilcox

