

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

January 22, 2018

Members of the Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells, Scott Bradley

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Phil Douglas, Constable

Residents and Visitors present: Julia Purdy, freelance journalist

Constance Pell participated in the meeting via teleconference.

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

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Motion by R. Wilcox to add Helen Lawrence to the agenda. Seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders approved and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of 12/18/17. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. G. Wells and S. Bradley approved the motion. Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of 1/8/18. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. G. Wells and R. Wilcox approved the motion.

Business:

2016-2017 Audit S. Tully has reviewed the audit and submitted comments to N. Gondella to discuss with auditor, Jeffrey Bradley. Overall, the audit for FY 17 looks complete.

Finalize and Adopt Budget 2018-2019 S. Tully presented the final version of the 2018-2019 budget. The only change was the Rutland County Tax line item. The overall budget increase is 2.6% without including appropriations. The budget increase is 3.5% if all petitioned appropriations are approved. Expenses increased \$38,426 which is partially offset with an increase in revenue of \$5,000. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the 2018-2019 budget for inclusion in the Town Report and to be voted at Town Meeting. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

Warning Town Meeting The Selectboard reviewed the articles for Town Meeting, March 5, 2018, at Mendon Mountainview Lodge. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Polls will be open March 6, 2018 at the Mendon Town Office from 8 AM to 7 PM. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the warning for Town Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by G. Wells and unanimously approved.

Town Report 2017 The Selectboard discussed the various components of the Town Report

Highlights and Objectives The Selectboard reviewed the draft Highlights and Objectives report. S. Tully reported there is some details that still need to be added to the report and for the

Selectboard to submit comments by January 29th so the report can be finalized.

Almo Tax Sale Motion by R. Wilcox to enter Executive Session at 5:58 PM to discuss confidential attorney-client communication made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Selectboard in which premature public knowledge would place the public body at a substantial disadvantage, with the Selectboard and S. Tully present. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously. The chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 6:20 PM. The Selectboard moved to contract the legal services of Carroll, Boe and Pell, P.C. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

Reappraisal The Selectboard had submitted questions to contractors to clarify submitted bids. The Selectboard reviewed those answers. A decision should be able to be reached at the next Selectboard meeting. The town wide reappraisal is scheduled to be completed by 2020.

False Alarm Ordinance Lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of having a false alarm ordinance that required property owners to annually register and provide proof of maintenance for their systems. The Selectboard decided to draft an ordinance that would issue a civil penalty to false alarm calls due that would recoup the cost to the town for Rutland City Fire Department Response. P. Douglas will present a draft ordinance to the Selectboard.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 7:00 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully, Selectboard Clerk

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley