

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

January 14, 2020

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

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

Visitors present: Chris Voda, Property Owner, Will Dodge, DRM, Janielle Smith, Centerline Communications

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 8:28 AM at the Town Office.

Agenda: G. Wells moved to accept the agenda with the addition of Roadside Mower, Merry Maple Drive sewer line failure and Truck Accident. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed and signed.

Rutland Region Public Works Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement was signed by the Selectboard.

BC2018 Amendment The request for amendment for the BC2018 grant for culvert 07-42 replacement to increase the funding amount by \$30,000 was signed by the Selectboard. S. Tully will submit the request to Brian Sanderson, VTrans Project Manager, District 3.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Business

2020-2021 Budget The Selectboard reviewed the final draft of the budget. The Board will be presenting a budget with less than a half of 1% increase. However, the final budget was lowered by \$19,000 from underspending the Town Garage Improvement Bond. The remaining areas of the budget have a 2% increase. The Selectboard is requesting a master plan for the Recreation Area. They have incorporated in the budget an additional \$2,000 for the Recreation Reserve Fund.

Timeline of Reserve Funds B. Ellis must meet with S. Tully to discuss the Equipment Replacement Schedule to incorporate the replacement of the lawnmowers and the purchase of a Roadside Mower. S. Tully will also update the Town Office Reserve Fund.

Town Report S. Tully reported she requested all town reports be submitted by January 13th. The Highlights and Objectives report will be completed and sent to the Selectboard for final review.

Articles for Town Meeting The Town Meeting warning was discussed. The Selectboard will include an article that will ask the voters if they want to spend \$10,000 from the Town Shop

Fund for a historical kiosk as proposed by the Mendon Historical Society. A separate article will ask the voters to transfer \$10,000 from the Town Shop Fund to the Town Office Maintenance Fund to pay for continued maintenance of the Town Office property and to also transfer the remaining balance of the Town Shop Fund to the Contingency Fund to pay for unexpected expenses and emergencies.

Roadside Mower B. Ellis presented three quotes for roadside mowers. Mendon intends to make a joint purchase of this equipment with Rutland Town with a 1/3 & 2/3 ownership. Motion by G. Wells to authorize B. Ellis to spend up to \$28,000 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to purchase a one-third ownership of a roadside mower with Rutland Town owning two-thirds of the equipment. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. B. Ellis will work with Rutland Town Road Commissioner Byron Hathaway and the Rutland Town Selectboard to determine which roadside mower to purchase.

Merry Maple Drive Sewer Line Failure B. Ellis reported there is a hole in Merry Maple Drive due to a sewer line failure. The Robinwood Development has contacted B. Ellis with a plan to dig up the road and repair the line. S. Tully asked B. Ellis if an Access Permit has been submitted. B. Ellis responded not at this time and he will inform the Robonwood Development of this requirement.

Truck Accident Truck #1 was involved in an accident on December 30th while Newt Jones was driving the truck on Wheelerville Road and a large pine tree fell on top of the cab of the truck. Insurance adjustors have inspected the damage. It is estimated the truck will be repaired and returned to the town by January 24th. In the meantime B. Ellis is pursuing multiple avenues to meet the town needs in the event of large scale or long term weather event. S. Tully is communicating with the towns insurance carrier regarding covered expenses.

Community Visit Program The Planning Commission, Selectboard and MEDC all overwhelmingly supported a Community Visit by the Vermont Council for Rural Development. An April meeting was determined the best timeframe for the Town and VCRD. VCRD recommended a Steering Committee of community members be created to work with VCRD to organize the event. To date Mendon has not sufficiently recruited members for the Steering Committee. Timing is critical to have this committee in place by the end of this month in order to organize enough information to distribute at Town Meeting and outside of the polls on Tuesday. The Selectboard will ask each of its members and each Planning Commission member to recruit 2 to 3 people and S. Tully will arrange an organizational meeting Thursday, January 23rd at 5 PM. Interested parties can contact S. Tully at the Town Office.

AT&T Wireless Communication Facility The town responded to the 60 day notice submitted by AT&T to construct a 140' tower in the Ridgeline District. A request was made to hold one joint public hearing with the Selectboard, Planning Commission and ZBA; to conduct a publically warned balloon test and; to provide computer generated pictures of the tower in the highest visible sites in Mendon. Chris Voda, Property Owner, Will Dodge, DRM, Janielle Smith, Centerline Communications attended the meeting and discussed the schedule for the balloon test and public hearing. J. Smith proposed January 23rd to conduct the balloon test which is weather dependent and therefore a back up date of the 24th was also proposed. The Selectboard issued concern that to date there has been no public notice regarding the project beyond the abutting landowners to one of the two parcels Chris Voda owns under CVMendon LLC. Dates later in

January were discussed for the balloon test, but accurate weather forecast can not be determined at this time. The Selectboard will be sending notice to all taxpayers and AT&T agreed to publish notice of balloon test and public hearing in the Rutland Herald that will direct readers to the Town's website www.mendonvt.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/townofmendonvt as well as DRM's website www.drm.com/news/att-firstnet-Mendon-balloon-test for the most up to date information regarding the balloon test schedule and public hearing. In accordance with a required submission of a telecommunication tower in the Mendon Telecommunication Bylaws, the Selectboard has requested computer generated pictures of what the tower will look like in the areas of Mendon that will experience the highest visibility of the tower. R. Wilcox stated that nowhere in the 60 day notice information does it show what the tower will look like or what it will look like on top of Mendon's ridgeline. W. Dodge directed the Selectboard to a picture of a balloon test that was included in the 60 day notice. R. Wilcox clarified that the town would like to see what the tower will look like with all its attachments and panels as well as what the tower will look like on top of the mountain, not a balloon.

Mailing – Community Visit, AT&T Wireless Communication Facility, Reappraisal The Selectboard discussed the importance in getting information to the taxpayers regarding three time sensitive matters. The first two subjects, the Community Visit and the AT&T Wireless Communication Facility as discussed previously at this meeting. The third subject is to encourage property owners to sign up for an interior inspection of their property for the town wide reappraisal nearing its conclusion. The Selectboard directed N. Gondella, S. Tully and J. Bridge to complete a newsletter to be sent to the taxpayers this week, and information posted on the Mendon website and Facebook page.

Barstow Generator Maintenance Status S. Tully will follow up with Chittenden Selectmen Preston Smith to confirm Mendon's agreeance to pay for \$1,500 of the maintenance upgrades to the Barstow Generator.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 10:40 AM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. Motion carried.

Date Approved_____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley