

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

January 27, 2020

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Visitors present: None

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 4:53 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: D. Wilcox moved to accept the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed and signed.

Financial Report N. Gondella provided the year to date financials report to the Selectboard.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the minutes of January 14, 2020. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Business

Law Enforcement Fines The town is not receiving law enforcement fine revenue from the State of Vermont. N. Gondella has been unsuccessful in tracking down the issue at the state level. Payments received are not accompanied with a breakdown of the ticket numbers for which the payment is being made. It is estimated that the State of Vermont has only paid to the town 10% of the revenue owed to the town. N. Gondella will continue to work with Phil Douglas, Constable, to resolve the issue.

2020-2021 Budget S. Tully presented the final budget to be printed in the Town Report. The layout of the budget in the Town Report was discussed. The 2018-2019 audit has not been submitted to the Selectboard. N. Gondella stated she just received the audit today and has not had a chance to review. S. Tully will prepare the history of the budget from the audit report and present the 2020-2020 budget separately in the Town Report. Overall the budget to be presented to the voters is level funded. However, the town was able to take advantage of a reduction of the principal payment for the Garage Improvement Bond from unspent bond proceeds. This offset expenses by \$19,000. It is unclear what the result of the town-wide reappraisal will have on the tax rate.

Timeline of Reserve Funds The reserve funds were discussed specifically the Highway Improvement Fund and the Town Office Maintenance Fund. The Selectboard is including Articles on the warning for Town Meeting to eliminate the Town Shop Maintenance Fund.

Town Report S. Tully submitted the Highlights and Objectives report to the Selectboard for approval. Statute requires the Town Report to be available by February 19th. Mendon typically has the Town Report available for the voters at least 3 weeks before Town Meeting S. Tully issued concerns that the Town Report will not be completed by February 8th because multiple reports have not been submitted her and the FY19 Audit is not complete. S. Tully had distributed to the Selectboard what is required to be included in the Town Report.

Town Meeting The Selectboard was unable to confirm with the Cortina that we can utilize the building for Town Meeting. S. Tully confirmed with Mendon Methodist Community Church that we can have Town Meeting there. S. Tully presented the warning to the Selectboard.

Article 3 is “Shall the Town adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot?” The Barstow Unified Union School District Budget is now voted by Australian ballot. Historically 40 to 50 people attend Town Meeting to vote the Municipal budget from the floor. Voting the Municipal budget by Australian ballot allows for early voting and the polls are open from 8 AM to 7 PM. If the article passes it will go into effect at the next regularly scheduled Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting.

The Town Shop also known as the Old Town Hall was demolished in the spring of 2019. There is \$40,000 remaining in the Town Shop Maintenance Fund. The next 3 articles on the warning ask the voters what to do with these remaining funds.

Article 4 is “Shall the Town transfer \$10,000 from the Town Shop Maintenance Fund to the Town Office Maintenance Fund for the purpose of constructing a historic kiosk at the former location of the Town Shop also known as the Old Town Hall?” The Mendon Historical Society has asked the Selectboard for \$10,000 from the Town Shop Maintenance Fund to help pay for a kiosk that will relay historic information about the town. If approved, the money will be earmarked for this purpose and transferred to the Town Office Maintenance Fund which allows the money to be available when the project is ready to be constructed.

Article 5 is “Shall the Town transfer \$10,000 from the Town Shop Maintenance Fund to the Town Office Maintenance Fund?” The balance of the Town Office Maintenance Fund is fairly low after the painting of the exterior of the Town Office this year. In lieu of increasing the budgeted amount to the Town Office Maintenance Fund, the Selectboard is asking the voters to approve a transfer of \$10,000 from the Town Shop Maintenance Fund to the Town Office Maintenance Fund. Article 6 is “Shall the Town transfer the remaining balance of the Town Shop Maintenance Fund to the Contingency Fund and close out the Town Shop Maintenance Fund?” The final request is to close out the Town Shop Maintenance Fund and transfer any remaining money to the Contingency Fund.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the Warning for Town Meeting on March 2, 2020 at 6 PM at the Mendon Methodist Community Church. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Community Visit The informational meeting last Thursday was successful with again overwhelming support for the program. Four members of the community have signed up to be

on the Steering Committee. The town is still looking for additional volunteers for the Steering Committee and interested people to help assist the Steering Committee. Anyone interested can contact the Town Office.

AT&T Wireless Communication Facility A tentative date for the balloon test was scheduled for January 28th which has been postponed. The town has requested pictures be taken of the balloon test in locations that will have the highest visibility of the tower. The list of these location were discussed. S. Tully will compile the list by determining addresses and submit to AT&T. AT&T offered a landowner permission form that the town has yet to receive. Please go to the Mendon website www.mendonvt.org or Mendon Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/townofmendonvt> for the most up to date information regarding the date of the balloon test and date of the public hearing.

Roadside Mower Mendon and Rutland Town have agreed to purchase a 2016 John Deere 6105E with Tiger boom mower and 50” rotary deck and a Cyclone EFI Debris blower for a total cost of \$79,300. Mendon will pay \$27,529 and Rutland Town will pay \$51,771. A previous motion made by the Selectboard authorized B. Ellis to spend up to \$28,000 from the New Equipment Fund for the mower.

Hemp Legislation The Mendon Selectboard has supported additional legislation that would restrict the state from granting small lot exemptions for growing and processing hemp in residential zoning districts. Rep. Jim Harrison is looking for members of the community to testify if a bill is brought to the floor.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. Motion carried.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley