

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

September 28, 2020

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Teri Corsones, Planning Commission, Justin Lindholm, Planning Commission, Rod MacCuaig, Animal Control Officer

Visitors present: Brooke Dingedine

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM with all present participating remotely.

In response to COVID-19, the Selectboard strongly encourages the public to participate in this meeting by video or teleconferencing. The public can follow the directions on the agenda and posted publicly on the Mendon website at www.mendonvt.org.

As Chair of the Town of Mendon Selectboard I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by video with additional access offered through telephone. We are using Gotomeeting.com for this remote meeting. All members of the Selectboard have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by **joining the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

Selectboard Meeting
Mon, Sep 28, 2020 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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- a) Providing public notice of instructions for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access the meeting using telephone and video in our posted meeting agenda. Instructions have also been provided on the town website at: www.mendonvt.org.
- b) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anybody has a problem, please *e-mail mendonclerk@comcast.net* and
- c) Continuing the meeting if necessary. In the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance of all members participating in the meeting.

Roll call: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Mendon History Panels. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

The Town of Mendon is accepting applications for a Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator and Building/Grounds Maintenance. This is a full-time position. Information can be found on the town website at www.mendonvt.org.

There is a vacancy on the Selectboard, Planning Commission and Cemetery Commission. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Sara Tully, Town Administrator at mendonadmin@comcast.net

Wheelerville Road is open. The culvert replacement project concluded on Friday 9/25/20 and road reopened.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve pay orders for the period ending 9/27/2020 in the amounts of \$29,622.79. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll for the period 9/19/2020 in the amount of \$9,432.74. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Business

Mendon History Panels Ann Singiser reported that because the town installed acrylic over the vinyl panels to protect against vandalism. The vinyl has been repaired twice due to excessive moisture trapped between the acrylic and the vinyl panels. Awesome Graphics recommends removing the acrylic covering the vinyl. The Selectboard approved removal of the acrylic. N. Gondella requested the acrylic be saved. The town could possibly reuse to construct additional sneeze guards for protection against COVID. A. Singiser will coordinate this work with Awesome Graphics.

Irene Recognition Committee Motion by R. Wilcox to appoint Jennifer Bagley, Larry Courcelle, Ann Singiser, Richard Wilcox and David Wolk to the Irene Recognition Committee. This committee will look back at the town's recovery in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene and plan for the 10th anniversary in 2021. S. Tully will help facilitate the initial meeting and inform the committee they must follow all COVID protocol established in response to the Governors Executive Order.

Animal Control Ordinance/Noise Ordinance The Selectboard requested that Animal Control officer Rod MacCuaig attend the Selectboard meeting to discuss complaints he is received over the years that pertain to chickens or livestock. Rod reported over the past 11 years, he is received 9 complaints involving chickens going on neighboring properties and causing damage in gardens, harassing other domestic animals or leaving feces. Two of those cases involved complaints about crowing roosters in early morning hours. He has received a few other complaints about loose sheep, pigs and horses as well. Rod would support regulation that required animals to remain on the property in which they reside. S. Tully reached out the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Municipal Assistance Center which provided sample Animal Control Ordinances from four other towns as well as a summary of the towns legal authority. G. Wells supports an ordinance that keeps animals on your own property. S. Tully will draft changes to the Mendon Animal Control Ordinance for review and input by R. MacCuaig and then submit to the Selectboard for further discussion.

Town Owned Lots: The Selectboard received a request inquiring whether they would consider selling the lot owned by the town on Stoney Meadows. The Selectboard discussed and determined they would not be interested in selling this property. Last year, the Selectboard discussed identifying the survey pins of the town owned lot in Brookwood. S. Tully will contact a surveyor to complete this work. The Selectboard discussed the town owned lot on Woodward Road. This lot contains some wetlands and maintenance of this property is restricted by a requirement to obtain a wetlands permit for certain maintenance activity. The town must also make sure the legal trail that goes from Woodward Road to Wheelerville Road remains unencumbered at least to Mendon Brook. After Tropical Storm Irene, the

footbridge is no longer there to access Wheelerville Road from the legal trail.

Helvi Hill Update There is no status update at this time.

Journeys End There is no status update at this time.

Road Crew Opening S. Tully recommended the town continue to advertise for the full time Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator and Building/Grounds Maintenance. D. Wilcox requested job advertisement be updated to CDL preferred instead of required. S, Tully discussed hiring a part time position from November to April 1st for a non-CDL driver. She also discussed contingency plan for to arrange for contracted work if employees are unavailable to work due to illness.

AT&T J. Lindholm discussed the impacts of a snow packed roadway to the tower in the winter time on the nearby wintering deer yard. This creates easy access to the deer yard in the winter that threatens their safety buy either chasing or killing the deer. J. Lindholm has communicated this concern to the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and Noyle Dodge is supposed to be contacting him to discuss these concerns. He would also like the Selectboard to issue concerns regarding access to the deer yard to the PUC. He believes the mitigation solution is fairly easy. The PUC is soliciting comment from the town to be filed October 5th. The Selectboard reviewed an approved a draft letter submitted by T. Corsones. Minor changes were suggested. T. Corsones thanked Brooke Dingledine for her expertise and generous legal assistance in this case. The Selectboard agreed. B. Dingledine commended the talents, wealth of knowledge and expertise of the members of the Boards and Commissions for the Town of Mendon. She indicated the town is lucky to have such dedicated officials representing Mendon.

VLCT Unemployment Insurance Rates to Increase The Town received information from VLCT that the unemployment rates are expected to increase. The impact on the current budget is unknown at this point. S. Tully has requested additional information and will report to the Selectboard as soon as additional information is available.

Tax Sales Nancy Merrill, Delinquent Tax Collector submitted information on delinquent properties to the Selectboard. N. Gondella was unable to verify amounts owed on each parcel and stated Nancy Merrill would need to clarify this information. Issue tabled until more information is available.

Municipal Grants N. Gondella reported the town received the grant for digitization of the land records. The grant amount is \$28,984.48 and the town will be responsible for approximately \$9,000 to be paid out of the Preservation Reserve Fund.

COVID-19 Response & Town Government Operations N. Gondella reported that she submitted the grant for reimbursement of COVID expenses, but has not heard any information to date regarding its status.

Recreation: Play Structures Liam Fracht-Monroe, Chair of the recreation Committee requested the Selectboard consider opening the play structures at the Mendon Recreation Area. L. Fracht-Monroe provide a sample sign that Rutland City posted at their playgrounds that addressed COVID precautions. The current guidance is “play structures may be open to the public if they are properly signed reminding users not to use them if they or anyone in their household has been ill and to wash hands before and after use. Organizations responsible for the play structure are encouraged to provide hand sanitizer for users.” The Selectboard discussed that the town is strictly adhering to the state’s guidance and has determined to keep the play structures closed.

Employee Schedules N. Gondella reported that the school schedule has been updated that will effect Jesse Bridge’s work schedule. She will be working full days Monday and Thursday in the office and must be home Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. S. Tully stated the guidance just came out from Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union with the schedule change that will start next week and is expected to change again after October 16th. S. Tully stated her schedule remains unchanged and is able to work her full schedule remotely.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 10:00 AM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Geoff Wells