

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

February 8, 2021

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable, Jesse Bridge, Bookkeeper & Assistant Clerk

Visitors present: Gordon Stake, Imants Smildzins, Elizabeth Swett, Hal Rosenzweig, Bret Yates, Val Taylor

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM 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.**

- 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.

Selectboard Meeting
Mon, Jan 25, 2021 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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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: Geoff Wells and Larry Courcelle. Richard Wilcox joined the meeting at 5:45 PM

Agenda: G. Wells moved to add Air B&B's, Public Safety Fund and Certificate of Highway Mileage to the agenda. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

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

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed. Motion by G. Wells to approve pay orders for February 8, 2021 for \$15,979.56 and \$3,093.93. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll in the amount of \$9,509.78 for the period ending February 9, 2021. G. Wells recommended tabling the motion. The motion did not receive a second and was not voted upon.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: G. Wells moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed.

Public Comment

G. Stake addressed the Selectboard requesting a better understanding of the zoning process. He outlined three potential zoning violations citing sections of Mendon's Zoning Regulations. S. Tully responded that zoning violations are determined by the Zoning Administrator, Steve Cosgrove and provided Mr. Cosgrove's contact information.

Business

Firearm Discharge Ordinance P. Douglas presented the draft of the Firearm Discharge Ordinance. Multiple residents spoke in favor of its adoption. S. Tully provided an overview of the adoption process. S. Tully was directed to find out from the town of Killington who they

used for legal review. D. Wilcox will contact VLCT. Once the legal review is complete the Selectboard will move forward with warning the adoption of the ordinance.

Salt Shed Maintenance B. Ellis presented 3 quotes for maintenance of the salt shed. Motion by D. Wilcox to hire Belden Company for \$5,985 to complete maintenance requirements as per the building maintenance schedule to be paid out of the Garage Maintenance Fund. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Town Meeting 2021 & Voting The Selectboard discussed the specifics regarding the Informational Meeting 3/1/21 and the polls will be open at the Town Garage on from 8 AM to 7 PM.. The ballot postcard has been mailed. The Town Meeting Mailer is at the printers and will cost approximately \$800 to prepare. N. Gondella expects to spend half of this out of the grant proceeds and the remainder out of the General Fund budget for postage and printing. The Selectboard discussed the presentations for the informational meeting.

COVID-19 Response & Town Government Operations- S. Tully provided an update on the progress of the Continuity of Operations Plan. S, Tully reported the US Department of Labor issued stronger workplace guidance on coronavirus: New OSHA guidance seeks to mitigate, prevent viral spread in the workplace. The VT department of labor issued the VT Critical Infrastructure Worker Inclusion Guidance. S. Tully is reviewing all new regulations to determine an implementation plan for the Selectboard.

CDL Drivers J. Bridge provided an update regarding the hiring procedure for CDL drivers. S, Tully recommended the town adopt a medical card policy as recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. L. Courcelle spoke against the medical card policy as it could eliminate qualified employees already in short demand. The Selectboard elected not to create a medical card policy. J. Bridge will implement the CDL hiring procedure with any sensitive material regarding going to S. Tully, Town Administrator.

Woodward Road Update The Selectboard reviewed direction given by Z. Courage, Wetlands Permit Specialists and will pursue discussions with adjacent property owners regarding access to the pond.

Air B&B's G. Wells recommended the Town look into regulating Air B&B's like Killington with permit fees.

Mendon Public Safety Fund G. Wells stated we should have put more money in the fund for the Barstow generator maintenance. D, Wilcox responded the budget is complete but we can look at that next year.

Certificate of Highway Mileage Motion by G. Wells to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage with no changes from last year. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously. S. Tully will arrange for the Selectboard sign the certificate for submittal before February 20th.

Zoning Violation S. Tully provided an update and was directed to work with the property owner and S. Cosgrove, Zoning Administrator to assist the property owner in obtaining/ the proper zoning permits.

Personnel Issue Motion by D. Wilcox to enter Executive Session at 7:40 PM to discuss Personnel with the Selectboard and S. Tully present. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair declared the board out of Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

No action taken.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Geoff Wells

Larry Courcelle