

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

April 26, 2021

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

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

Visitors present: H. Rosenzweig, B. Limpert, B. Yates, G. Stake, C. Gates, D. Charles, E. Swett, A. Wakefield, B. Harnish, H. Smith

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 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, Apr 26, 2021 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (EDT)

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: Richard Wilcox, Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Barstow Youth Club and approval of April 3rd payroll to the agenda. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The Liquor Control Board meeting was also publicly warned and added to the agenda to approve a Liquor License at the conclusion of the Selectboard Meeting.

Announcement

The Town of Mendon has advertised the 2008 Chevrolet Silverado for sale for \$16,000 or best reasonable offer. The Town of Mendon will be accepting offers until May 6th at Noon. All offers must be submitted in writing and delivered to the Mendon Town Office, 2282 US Route 4, Mendon, VT during regular business hours M-TH 9AM-5PM or submitted via email to mendonadmin@comcast.net. Offers will be accepted in the order they are received. The town reserves the right to reject any or all offers. The vehicle is being sold "as is" with no warranties expressed or implied. The Town of Mendon logo will be removed prior to sale. Payment must be made in cash or certified bank check.

The truck can be viewed on Wednesday April 28, 2021 at 2 PM at the Mendon Town Office, 2282 US Route 4, Mendon, VT. At this showing you will be able to access the interior of the vehicle and ask questions with the Road Commissioner. The truck will also be parked at the Town Office for exterior viewing when not in operation with the highway department between 4/22/21-5/6/21. Additional information is posted on the website at www.mendonvt.org.

Otter Creek Communication Union District conducted its first meeting April 21, 2021 as reported to the Board from L. Courcelle. There is a tremendous amount of information for OCCUD members to learn as the OCCUD continues to form.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed. Motion by R. Wilcox to approve pay orders for 4/26/21 for \$160.00 and \$274,043.53 and to approve payroll in the amount of \$9,524.73 for the period ending 04/17/21 and \$9,466.18 for the period ending 4/3/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Financial Update N. Gondella provided year to date financials to the Selectboard with detail regarding each line item that may contribute to a surplus/deficit at year end June 30th. The Selectboard approved sending a reminder to register dogs. All dogs must be registered in the town they live in annually by April 1st.

2021-2022 Goals and Objectives S. Tully presented the 2021-2022 Goals and Objectives to the Selectboard with tasks and projects to be prioritized highlighted. S. Tully provided an overview of each task or project, its history, importance and timeline. Prioritizing the 2021-2022 Goals and Objectives provides direction to staff regarding which projects to tackle next as time allows. L. Courcelle offered to assist in policy planning to see if a policy can be updated and reviewed at each Selectboard Meeting. R. Wilcox explained that some policies will require additional research and consideration than that. The issue was tabled for further consideration.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 4/12/21. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment No public comment.

Business

Declaration of Inclusion Al Wakefield and Bob Harnish presented the background and development of

the Declaration of Inclusion. Currently, 8-10 towns have adopted or are considering adoption in the next few weeks. The Governor's Office has declared May 9-15th Inclusion Week. The document was distributed to all Selectboard members prior to the meeting. The actual document was not discussed in detail. B. Harnish, a business owner in Mendon for many years and a resident of Pittsford, felt he wanted to take a stand for inclusion to welcome all people to Vermont stating we are all immigrants. He credited Chittenden County's economic success to their diverse community. A. Wakefield, a Mendon resident, described the process of moving his family from New York City to Vermont noting he was welcomed by many members of the Rutland County community. He quoted Ernie Royal, owner of Royal's Hearthside Restaurant in Rutland, VT "When you move to Vermont, bring with you what you did that made you a success, and adapt it to the Vermont way." There was no discussion or action taken by the Selectboard.

COVID-19 Guidance S. Tully provided information regarding the universal guidance set forth in the VT Forward Plan. The town of Mendon's operations are within the Category A (low volume professional office & outdoor recreation) & B (construction) guidance and subsequent implementation schedule. The operation of Public Meeting Guidance was discussed. Public meetings are required to maintain 1 person per 100 square feet. This would only allow 4 people to meet in the Conference Room. The Town Garage would allow for the required square footage. The Selectboard agreed meetings of public boards and commissions will continue to be held remotely until this guidance is changed. The Wellness survey is no longer required under the universal guidance. A log of contacts that come to the town office is still required as well as not coming to work with symptoms, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.

Local Emergency Operations Plan Adoption Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the 2021 Local Emergency Operations Plan incorporating updates as presented by P. Douglas and S. Tully. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Firearms Discharge Ordinance L. Courcelle provided an overview of discussions with Sheriff Fox, Rutland County Sheriff and Lt. Gallant, Game Warden, Southern District regarding Mendon's proposed Firearm Discharge Ordinance. The Rutland County Sheriff has not enforced a Firearm Discharge Ordinance in other Rutland County towns that have such an ordinance. Lt. Gallant informed the town that the Game Warden's enforce state law, and do not get involved with discharging firearm issues or complaints unless there is an animal involved. The town was advised that a Firearm Discharge Ordinance would be nearly impossible to enforce. Enforcement of local ordinances is the primary responsibility of the Constable. There are municipalities that have adopted Firearm Discharge Ordinances. It was questioned if any of them have been enforced and how they were enforced. L. Courcelle summarized the options for consideration. The Selectboard must decide whether to not pursue adoption of the ordinance, leave proposed ordinance as drafted and expect it will be petitioned

for town vote, incorporate amendments by Constable P. Douglas and consider other submitted changes and hold another public hearing. A resident stated that the State Police made comment that a Firearm Discharge Ordinance is another tool in their toolbelt. The Selectboard continues to question whether the tool has ever been enforced in other municipalities that have adopted a Firearm Discharge Ordinance. The town will attempt to gather this information.

Lawnmower Replacement B. Ellis will present quotes at a future meeting. He is looking at machines with a 52" deck.

Request to Amend the Animal Control Ordinance to Include Chickens L. Courcelle provided an update regarding a complaint about chickens wandering off the property of their owner and damaging neighbor's gardens, grass and property. Currently this is a civil matter between neighbors. The town has received a handful of complaints in the last 10 years about livestock damaging neighboring property. Some municipalities have included regulation of livestock in the Animal Control Ordinance. The Selectboard discussed the problem is not widespread and the need to regulate the entire town based on a few incidents seems unnecessary. L. Courcelle will continue to try and mediate a solution for the frustrated property owner.

Request of Right of Way H. Smith attended the meeting to discuss the town's interest in selling or granting a right of way across town property. Two town owned lots located on Park Lane and Stoney Meadows would allow for easier access to his property that currently has access off Route 4. R. Wilcox stated the Selectboard is reluctant in giving up the rights to town property.

Mendon on the Move Community Visit Priorities Set:

1. Reimagine and Improve the Rt. 4 Corridor
2. Advance Outdoor Recreation

The April 21st Mendon on the Move Community Visit Meeting narrowed down multiple ideas brainstormed by community members on March 24th. The community members set two priorities to create committees and actions plans to tackle. The first is to reimagine and improve the Route 4 corridor. The second is to advance outdoor recreation. All members of the community were invited to these meetings to partake in setting these priorities and they are now welcome to join committees to tackle these goals in Mendon. Any interested parties can join a task force by going to: bit.ly/MendonOnTheMove. There were many ideas presented that the town has already pursued and this information should be provided to the task forces set up for each priority.

Barstow Youth Club Motion by R. Wilcox to waive the facility fee for the Barstow Youth Club to use the Mendon Recreation Area until June 11, 2021. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard approved the motion.

The Liquor Control Board Meeting was called to order at 7:21 PM with all present participating remotely.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the Liquor Licenses for:

- 1. Flannel’s Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Flannel’s Bar & Grill

Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Liquor Control Board Meeting at 7:23 PM. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved_____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Larry Courcelle

Val Taylor