

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

May 24, 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

Visitors present: C. Gates, A. Cristelli, E. Swett, caller 1 & 2 unidentified

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, May 24, 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 no additions Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

The town wide reappraisal booklets were mailed Friday May 21st. Property owners can schedule phone meetings with Spencer Potter, VT Municipal Assessors set up for May 27, 28 and 29th.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve pay orders for 5/24/21 for \$14,812.10 and \$6,473.02 to approve payroll in the amount of \$9,630.08 for the period ending May 15, 2021. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 5/10/21. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment None

Business

Tax Sales There is one tax sale scheduled for June 24th 2021 for a property located on Cabin Row in Mendon. Chris Corsones submitted a letter requesting to make the opening bid on behalf of the town. The Selectboard expects Chris Corsones to open bidding add the amount owed plus fees. The Selectboard agreed to pay Chris Corsones the attorney's fees for conducting the tax sale if there are no bidders present at the tax sale. These fees will carry forward in the amount owed on the property if it does not sell at tax sale. Motion by R. Wilcox to not make the opening bid at tax sale on behalf of the town, rather authorize Chris Corsones to set the opening bid at the amount owed plus fees and the town will pay the attorneys fees if the property does not sell at tax sale. The fees will carry forward as amount owed on the property. Motion seconded L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

2008 Chevrolet Silverado Truck Offers S. Tully announced the town received four offers on the truck and recommended the Selectboard accept highest offer for the sale of the 2008 Chevrolet Silverado. S. Tully also recommended the Selectboard also accept the second highest offer in the event the transfer falls through on the highest offer. The Selectboard agreed. Motion by L. Courcelle to authorize the transfer of the Chevrolet Silverado and accept the high bid of \$14,000. In the event this transfer does not go through the second highest offer will be accepted. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. If the transfer does not occur with the two highest offers, the Selectboard will readvertise the truck for sale.

Crack Sealing S. Tully presented three bids for crack sealing. The two lowest bids are equal at \$4,000 per day. Motion by R. Wilcox to spend up to \$20,000 on crack sealing to be paid out of the Highway Improvement Fund. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Paving Bids S. Tully presented three bids for paving Old Turnpike Road. Motion by R. Wilcox to accept the lowest bid from Wilk Paving of \$60 per ton asphalt and \$20 per ton gravel, sweeping and compaction for the paving of Old Turnpike Road to be paid out of the Highway Improvement Fund. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle.

Irene Celebration Committee R. Wilcox elected to step down from the Irene Celebration Committee in order to avoid a quorum of the Selectboard present at their meetings. L. Courcelle recapped a meeting

conducted on May 20th. Present were Ann Singiser, Jennifer Bagley and Larry Courcelle. It is recommended to appoint additional committee members/ L. Courcelle moved to appoint Phil Douglas, Teri Corsones, Mary Rizk, Jesse Bridge, Betsy Reddy, Jim Reddy and Wanda Courcelle to the Irene Celebration Committee. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. Save the date for August 28, 2020 from Noon to 3 PM at the Mendon Recreation Area for a celebration of the 10th anniversary of TS Irene passing through Mendon, VT. L. Courcelle provided a brief overview of the details the committee is discussing that included food, supplies and advertising. The next Meeting of the Irene Celebration Committee will occur at the Singiser residence at 472 Meadowlake Drive, Mendon VT June 10, 2021 at 4 PM. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Larry Courcelle.

Blower Quotes S. Tully presented three quotes for self-contained debris blowers and trailers. The Grants in Aid Equipment Grant will pay for up to \$5,600 towards this purchase. Motion by R. Wilcox to accept the lowest bid for a Buffalo Turbine Blower and trailer with extra nozzles for \$8,504.00 to be paid out of the Equipment Replacement Fund. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Highway Employment S. Tully informed the Selectboard that both the seasonal fulltime position and the Assistant Road Commissioner position for the Highway Department are currently posted and accepting applications. The Selectboard authorized the continued part time employment of Dan Hendee to assist in road projects and mowing. Anyone interested in applying for these positions should contact Sara Tully at mendonadmin@comvcast.net or 802-558-3935.

COVID – Universal Guidance- VT Forward Plan S. Tully provided an overview the current Universal Guidance and the announce plan by the Governor to reach full open status once the State's population of ages 12 and over reach 80% vaccination status. The operations of the town office, highway department and remote meetings were discussed. N. Gondella expressed the ability to open the office to the public while allowing unvaccinated people social distancing space or remote services. The Selectboard authorized the office to remain closed at the beginning and end of the day to allow for the required cleaning. The Highway Department will resume normal operations while allowing unvaccinated people social distancing space. Remote meetings will continue as it is difficult to determine who would wish to attend and their vaccination status. The conference room at the office leaves little room for social distancing. S, Tully will update the COVID safety protocol memo for employees and staff.

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) S. Tully provided an overview of the training that occurred last week outlining eligible uses of the ARPA funds. N. Gondella provided an overview of the accounting requirements of the ARPA funds. The town will learn more as the plan is rolled out. Assistance will be provided by VLCT and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Firearms Discharge Ordinance R. Wilcox provided an overview of the research P. Douglas conducted contacting 248 towns in Vermont. 26 municipalities have a Firearm Discharge Ordinance. Most towns do not have a Constable that is certified law enforcement to enforce an ordinance. Some towns have regulated the discharge of firearms through a noise or nuisance ordinance. R. Wilcox recapped three directions the town can pursue. The first would be to modify the current proposed firearm discharge ordinance with a few changes and adopt. The second is to develop a highly modified firearm discharge ordinance that would identify neighborhoods and cluster developments. The Selectboard discussed this would be a long process and a lot of work looking at maps and defining the neighborhoods/cluster developments and unsafe shooting areas. The third option is to abandon the project and not pursue adoption. V. Taylor expressed she felt it was important. The Selectboard discussed developing a committee to look at the ordinance and make a recommendation to the Selectboard or if there is actually a need for an ordinance. This committee would be advisory and would report back to the Selectboard with their findings. R. Wilcox and S. Tully will pursue a balanced committee of members that have expressed support of and opposition to an ordinance.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 6:37 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Larry Courcelle

Val Taylor