

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

July 12, 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

Visitors present: Justin Lindholm, Planning Commission, Devon Neary, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Susan and John Feenick, Susannah Loffredo, Ellen and Roy Prior, CJ Abatiell, Judy Dark, Al Wakefield, Norman Cohen, Carol and Brian Gates.

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to approve the agenda with the additions of June 28th payroll, July 10th payroll, June 30th orders and the Irene Recognition Committee to the agenda. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

SAVE the DATE Mendon Town Picnic Remembering Irene September 18, 2021 Noon to 3 PM at the Mendon Recreation Area with a rain date of September 19, 2021.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to amend the motion made on 6/28/21 to approve payroll for 6/26/21 for \$9,184.73 which was the net amount to 11,494.42 the gross amount. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll for 7/10/21 for \$9,876.35 and pay orders for 6/30/21 for \$9,922.46 and \$228.54. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 6/28/21. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed.

Public Comment J. Lindholm attended the meeting to express dissatisfaction with the reappraisal and the lack of explanation by Vermont Municipal Assessor in how values are derived. Somehow a quality rating and functional depreciation is factored into property values and it is unclear how these are determined or the effect they have on the value. N. Gondella offered to contact the State of Vermont Property Valuation and review to see if they can provide additional information or definitions.

Year End Update N. Gondella reported the numbers have not been finalized yet and she will have a further report at the next meeting.

Business

Traffic Study Devon Neary, Transportation Planner with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission provided an overview of what a traffic study entails. The Selectboard has received a request from residents of Journeys End to reduce the speed limit on the road. Residents provided details regarding how 35 mph is too fast for the dead end rural road. Traffic from construction projects, visitors, delivery vehicles, new drivers and residential traffic all contribute to the problem. A fairly recent transfer of multiple properties have brought multiple families with children to the road.

Green Mountain National Forest Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project Issue tabled until Chris Mattrick can attend the Selectboard Meeting.

Mendon on the Move – Route 4 Development Issue tabled until Megan Smith can attend the Selectboard Meeting.

Declaration of Inclusion A. Wakefield and N. Cohen requested the Selectboard reconsider the removal of the wording that listed out the protected classes in the Declaration of Inclusion. They requested to continue the discussion into the Fall when additional residents in support of the Declaration of Inclusion can participate in the discussion and encouraged the Board to refer to versions of the Declaration of Inclusion that other communities have adopted. V. Taylor expressed that in order to support this document she wants details on how it will be used in the future to shape policy and action. L. Courcelle emphasized the need for education and support from the community and suggested that maybe the appropriate action is for the Declaration of Inclusion go to town vote. R. Wilcox questioned the timing of the adoption with pressure to adopt something quickly, but now a request to push the issue off until the Fall. The Selectboard agreed to table the issue until further discovery, research and discussion. The Selectboard experienced difficulties getting through this discussion with multiple disruptions and unruly behavior by C. Gates and B. Gates that included physical threats by B. Gates to “take it outside”.

The Vermont State Police were called and dispatched.

Procurement Policy/Conflict of Interest Policy S. Tully discussed increasing the thresholds of each spending tier. The discussion was halted.

C. Gates and B. Gates continued their inappropriate, disruptive, and unruly behavior while each member of the Selectboard tried to calmly address their questions and correct misinformation the couple was yelling. C. Gates and B. Gates were met in the parking lot by law enforcement.

The meeting was able to continue.

Procurement Policy/Conflict of Interest Policy The Purchasing and Conflict of Interest Policy presented meets state and federal guidelines of procedures that must be in place to accept federal funding. Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the Town of Mendon Purchasing and Conflict of Interest Policy with spending tiers that include Incidental Purchases up to \$1,500, Minor Purchases between \$1,501 and \$30,000 and Major Purchases over \$30,000. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously. The Town of Mendon Purchasing and Conflict of Interest Policy replaces the Town of Mendon Procurement Policy adopted 2016 and the Town of Mendon Conflict of Interest Policy adopted 2019.

Public Information Request Policy The Public Records Inspection, Copying and Transmission Policy presented is modeled from a Vermont League of Cities and Towns model policy. It establishes a clear procedure for requesting access to and obtaining copies of public documents in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 315-320. It also clearly identifies the fees for services in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 316(e). Motion by L. Courcelle to adopt the Public Records Inspection, Copying, and Transmission Policy. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The motion passed unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding Request Motion by R. Wilcox to accept ARPA funds and comply with the US Department of Treasury Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions and Assure Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). R. Wilcox continued the motion to appoint Val Taylor to be the Authorized Representative to act as a duly authorized representative to act on the town's behalf. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Irene Recognition Committee Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Ann Clark to the Irene Recognition Committee. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:50 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