

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

August 23, 2021

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Phil Douglas, Constable, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Mary Ann Reich, Deputy Health Officer

Visitors present: Justin Lindholm, Susannah Loffredo, Steffanie Sheehan

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda:

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda with the addition of Rutland Ambulance Service, COVID Precautions and Woodward Road Dry Hydrant. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

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. Details about the event will be posted on the Town of Mendon website at www.mendonvt.org and Mendon's Facebook page.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll in the amount of \$10,561.16 for the period ending 8/21/21 and orders for 8/19/21 for \$18,510.61 and \$5,125.30. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 8/9/21 as amended to include an additional sentence in the reappraisal paragraph to include a comparison of total taxes billed. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment Steffanie Sheehan attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss that she has quizzed Spencer Potter on the property assessments multiple times and have not received answers to her questions. The chair responded that some information is not relevant to the hearing and therefore Mr. Potter need not respond and that discussions about other property assessments were not relevant to her hearing. S. Sheehan wanted to know what information was submitted for a neighboring property that would cause the assessment to be lowered. D. Wilcox encouraged a review of the procedure. The

BCA site visit has been conducted and Spencer Potter is no longer involved in this part of the appeal. If S. Sheehan continued to be unhappy with her assessed value after the BCA renders its decision, she can continue the appeal to the State Auditor or Court. S. Sheehan continued to question whether the town officials are required to answer her questions.

Business

Rutland Ambulance Service M. Reich is the Mendon representative on the Rutland Ambulance Service and provided an update that they are experiencing staffing shortages. Emergency response calls are unaffected, but non-emergency transports could experience significant delays.

COVID Precautions M. Reich is the Deputy Health Officer in Mendon and a nurse. She attended the Selectboard meeting to recommend an increase in safety precautions at the Town Office in response to the surge COVID cases in Vermont from the Delta variant. The safety precautions included all staff be vaccinated, go back to telecommuting when possible and require everyone to wear masks at the Town Office and Town Garage. M. Reich urged the Selectboard that the pandemic is not over and we must protect the staff that runs the town and our two highway employees.

Tax Sales N. Merrill requested the Selectboard authorize the use of legal assistance by Chris Corsones to issue three letters of payment for Delinquent Taxes in order to avoid the town sending these properties to tax sale. Motion by R. Wilcox to authorize Chris Corsones to send letters requesting payment of delinquent taxes to Travis Giese, Eloise Suker (Estate), and Nils Trahnstrom. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed.

Journeys End Traffic Study and Erosion Control Project The traffic study on Journeys End was completed and a report submitted by Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The results of the study were reviewed by Selectboard. During the period of 7/30/21-8/6/21 the average daily volume was 85, the average speed was 28 mph, the 85th percentile speed was 28 mph, the percent driver's over the posted speed limit was 1% and 93% of the vehicles were classified as passenger with 7% classified as commercial or heavy duty. The results of the traffic study supports lowering the speed limit on Journeys End to 25 mph. S. Tully described the process of changing the Traffic Ordinance. P. Douglas and B. Ellis will review the Traffic Ordinance to determine any additional changes that need to be updated. Issue tabled until the next meeting. S. Tully reported there is no update on the Erosion Control Project at this time. Issue tabled until the next meeting.

Sherwood Drive and Helvi Hill Erosion Control Project S. Tully reported there is no update on the Erosion Control Project at this time. Issue tabled until the next meeting.

Irene Recognition Committee Update L. Courcelle provided a brief update on the 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.

VLCT Town Fair VLCT's annual town Fair is being conducted with both in person and remote options. S. Tully will distribute information of the trainings being offered to the Selectboard and town staff .

Woodward Road Dry Hydrant P. Douglas reported on the site visit conducted at the Woodward Road Dry Hydrant with Bill Lovett, Rutland City Fire Department and Troy Dare, VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force. The proposed plan would extend the dry hydrant pipe from the current location to Woodward Road and construction a 12' X 40' pull off for a fire truck. The proposed plan would enable two fire trucks to access water from the pond. T. Dare has requested copies of the original installation plans of the dry hydrant. Zapata Courage, Wetland Specialist will determine if a permit is required.

Rutland County Sheriff P. Douglas reported there will be two officers assigned to Mendon to fulfill the contract with the Town of Mendon. The RCS is currently experiencing a shortage of officers and to assign one officer to complete all the hours under the contract is currently not feasible.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 6:35 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