

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

October 12, 2021

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer

Visitors present: Representative James Harrison, Megan Smith, Fred Bagley

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM at the Town Office.

Agenda:

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll in the amount of \$10,298.03 for the period ending 10/5/21 and orders for 10/7/21 for \$47,221.19 and \$2,838.70. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 9/27/21. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment None

Business

Rep. James Harrison Representative James Harrison attended the select board meeting to discuss a variety of topics that may be addressed during the next legislative session. ARPA funds and investments broadband issues clean water climate change affordable housing are just a few. Recently the Barstow Unified Union School District discussed limiting school choice which met stiff opposition. This may be an issue that is discussed at the state level to discuss additional criteria the old schools must meet to receive public funds. The formula for education funding will likely be discussed. The reapportionment process based on the 2020 census will occur by April or May of next year. There is a shift in population from the Northeast Kingdom as well as Rutland County in the southern part of the state. The northwest part of the state gain population. The reapportionment committee will determine a

proposal for the legislature to vote on. They should have a draft for comments by next week. State pensions for state employees and teacher funds are and underfunded liability based on a miscalculation of future needs. Affordable housing S 79 was a bill that established a registry for apartments in short term rentals unless the town has their own registry the governor vetoed the bill and it's likely to discuss a compromise. The Cannabis Control Board has been established and it is working on proposed regulations. The details should be available in early December. This will establish licensing fees and potential revenue for municipalities. A town must vote to allow for the sale of retail cannabis within the town. It is likely the Town of Killington will have a question on its ballot this year.

Road Reclassification The Selectboard discussed reclassifying the Notch Road from Tamarack Notch to Bridge 22, the Orchard Road and the Falls Road from the intersection of Wheelerville Road to the intersection of Notch Road. The Selectboard is looking for additional information regarding maintenance and reconstruction costs of the Falls Road and the Notch Road. S. Tully reported the Town will be conducting site visits with Casella Construction, Josh Carvajal River Management Engineer Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Rivers Program.

ARPA Funds The Selectboard will solicit community input in January 2022 on what to projects the Town should spend ARPA funds on. Information on what types of projects are eligible for ARPA is still being determined. Ultimately it is the Town of Mendon's responsibility to make sure all federal funds spent in accordance with all federal regulations.

Cannabis Control Board S. Tully provided an overview of who they are and what do they do. The regulations of the retail sale of cannabis are still being developed by the Cannabis Control Board. The town must vote to approve the retail sale of cannabis in their town. S. Tully provided a copy of a Power Point presentation from the Cannabis Control Board to the Selectboard for their information.

Mendon on the Move – F. Bagley provided an update regarding Municipal Planning Grant application. The Mendon on the Move Route 4 Safety Committee will no longer request the town apply for this grant. Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Devon Neary has suggested the town submit an application for a Transportation Alternative Grant under community development. It is likely this grant application will be approximately \$45,000 to conduct a scoping study on the safety of Route 4 through Mendon. There is a 20% match requirement. The grant application deadline is in November and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will assist with grant writing. S. Tully discussed the \$9,000 matching funds could be taken from the Mendon Economic Development Fund which currently has a balance of approximately \$11K. M. Smith discussed the Route 4 Economic Development Subcommittee may seek a community development grant for a study to determine a plan for a Community Center which would likely cost approximately \$17,000 with a 10% match requirement of \$1,700.

Road Crew Opening/Salaries The Selectboard discussed the need for increasing the hourly rate of hiring truck driver's especially if they hold a Commercial Driver's License. The Selectboard discussed the effects on existing employee rates per hour. S. Tully provided a salary spreadsheet comparing current rates of pay with anticipated increases for evaluation as well as comparison with the VLCT

Compensation and Benefits study. The Selectboard requested S. Tully calculate the Road Crew position at \$24.00 per hr. to determine its effects on the budget.

2022-2023 Budget S. Tully provided the Selectboard with the first draft of the budget. Department Head input will be presented at the next meeting.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 11:20 AM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

The Liquor Control Board meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the second half of the year Third Class Liquor License for

Suisse Chalet, LLC
d/b/a The Countryman's Pleasure
63 Townline Road
Mendon, VT 05701

Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Liquor Control Board approved the motion.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 11:25 AM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Liquor Control Board approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Larry Courcelle

Val Taylor