

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

October 25, 2021

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner

Visitors present: Fred Bagley

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 COVID-19 Safety Precautions, Cemetery space, Personnel Policy and Grants in Aid Final Documentation FY21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

The next Selectboard meeting will be postponed from November 8th at 5 PM to November 9th at 8:30 AM to allow for a quorum of the Selectboard to be present.

L. Courcelle reported the Otter Creek Communications Union District is not performing any of the broadband expansion currently being performed by Consolidated Communications in many towns in Rutland County.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll in the amount of \$10,747.69 for the period ending 10/16/21 and orders for 10/25/21 for \$45.28 and \$1,239,722.11. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Grants in Aid Final Documentation FY21 S. Tully reported the final documentation of the Grants in Aid FY21 will be submitted by October 31, 2021. The final invoices are included in the 10/25/21 orders. The grant amount is \$7,800. Total project cost is over \$25K.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 10/12/21. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment None

Business

Road Reclassification The Mendon Selectboard conducted a site visit of the Falls Road and Notch Road with Doug Casella, Casella Construction. The Notch Road washout from Tropical Storm Irene has continued to deteriorate the former roadway. The town's right of way is completely impassible even on foot. The town will be installing additional signage warning hikers to utilize the trails at Tamarack Notch and not the town's right of way. D. Casella explained what the project would entail to reconstruct the Notch Road. The Selectboard discussed this option and determined the Falls Road to be a better continued access for the town. D. Casella provided an explanation on the construction repairs required for the Falls Road which includes culvert replacement, slope stabilization, ditching and grade mitigation. D. Casella complimented the town on the maintenance of the road as it is in great condition. The town along with VAST Trails and private residents with permission from the town maintain the road as classified as a legal trail. The town is considering options for reclassifying the Falls Road also known as TH #16. S. Tully will set up a virtual meeting with the town's engineer, Dave Conger, Dubois & King to provide information regarding the history of working with FEMA after T.S. Irene on the Notch Road and Falls Road. D. Conger will also be asked what upgrades need to be made to reclassify all or part of the Falls Road as a Class 3 Town Highway. The Selectboard will discuss this information at their next meeting.

Mendon on the Move: Transportation Alternative Grant F. Bagley reported that the RRPC has received the letter from the Selectboard committing to applying for a Transportation Alternative Grant and up to \$9,000 in matching grant funds if the application is successful. The Mendon on the Move Route 4 subcommittee regarding safety met last week to finalize the talking points of the grant. F. Bagley met with Devon Neary, RRPC to discuss the best approach for applying for grant funds. These include how to enhance safety of Route 4 and how to use Route 4 to create an identity and sense of place in the context of community improvement and based on feedback from town officials and the VCRD community visit. Other issues that would be addressed in the study is the importance of public transit and businesses between Killington and Rutland, major trail systems cross Route 4 in Mendon (VAST, Appalachian & Long Trail and the Catamount Ski Trail), potential for signing recreation assets from Route 4 and creating something attractive to the parking area of the former Beaver Pond as an enhancement to the Rutland Region. Mendon will request letters of support from the VCRD and Mendon on the Move.

Regional Emergency Management Committee The Town of Mendon must appoint two representatives to the Regional Emergency Management Committee. The first representative is each town's Emergency Management Director, Phil Douglas. The second representative is suggested to be part of the town's fire or police. Mendon contracts these services. The town is looking for anyone interested in getting involved with Mendon's emergency management team.

2022-2023 Budget S. Tully reported that all department heads were encouraged to present budget recommendations tonight. B. Ellis and S. Tully presented the Highway budget recommending increases in fuel due to price increase. Vehicle maintenance and garage utilities require additional evaluation before a recommendation can be made. Winter and summer salaries are currently being evaluated by the Selectboard as significant increases are anticipated due the staffing shortage as well as the high demand for employees that have commercial driver's licenses. It was recommended all other line items of the highway budget be level funded. S. Tully presented the salary spreadsheet with calculation of bringing commercial licensed drivers to \$24.00 per hour and its effects on the budget of salaries. VLCT is soliciting information on whether municipalities are considering retention incentives. S. Tully will report these findings as soon as they are received.

Redistricting and pros and cons as it relates to the Mendon Selectboard The Selectboard discussed the proposed reapportionment districts proposed by the Legislative Apportionment Board. The goal is to have each district represent 4287 residents. The proposed plan splits Mendon into two Districts. The Rut-12 district has a population of 4629 people comprised of a portion of Rutland Town, a portion of Mendon and all of Chittenden. The Rut-13 district has a population of 4125 with Pittsfield, Killington, Stockbridge, Bridgewater with a small portion of Mendon. The Selectboard could not see any value in splitting Mendon's population into two districts. Rep. James Harrison will meet with the Mendon Board of Civil Authority Tuesday October 26th to discuss the reapportionment districts and prepare feedback to the Legislative Apportionment Board.

COVID-19 Safety Precautions On 9/27/21, S. Tully, Mendon Health Officer presented data on the sharp rise of COVID-19 cases in Rutland County and recommended multiple safety procedures be implemented in Mendon. The Selectboard implemented a mask requirement regardless of vaccination status for all town buildings and vehicles where 6 foot social distancing cannot be achieved. The Board agreed to review the status of COVID-19 at each meeting to determine the need for the mask requirement. S. Tully provided a recap and current status of COVID-19 cases in Rutland County. From 9/9 to 9/27 the 14 day total of cases rose from 202 to 386. Today's report is 276, a reduction from 310 reported just three days ago on 10/21. S. Tully added that cases in Chittenden are on an incline with 30% of their total cases since the start of the pandemic being reported in the past three weeks putting them in the highest transmission category >80 cases per 10,000 people. Mendon's numbers are reported as unreliable as some of Mendon's cases could be reported in Rutland Town or Rutland City as the 05701 zip code is shared. The Selectboard discussed the threshold in which the requirement of wearing masks would be lifted. Issue tabled until the next meeting to further evaluate the level of COVID-19 cases in Rutland County.

Cemetery Space The Selectboard was informed there is no available lots for sale in Mendon cemeteries and discussed adjacent property for expansion if this is desired. No action taken.

Personnel Policy S. Tully brought to the Selectboard's attention that she won an iPad while attending the VLCT Town Fair seminars. The Selectboard determined that S. Tully is able to keep the iPad that she won and does not conflict with the Personnel Policy.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 8:00 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

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