

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

September 27, 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: Justin Lindholm, Danielle Monroe, Fred Bagley, Megan Smith, Brian Sells, Cort Jones, Jessica Sardelli

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda:

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda with the addition of VLCT Insurance Renewal and COVID-19 Safety Precautions. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

Town Fair Education Conference is scheduled for October 4- October 8, 2021 virtually with the VLCT Annual Meeting scheduled for September 29, 2021 with virtual and in person options available.

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 9/21/21 and orders for 9/27 for \$17,747.77 and \$1,397.91. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 9/13/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment None

Business

Mendon on the Move: Report of Outdoor Recreation, Route 4 Safety, Economic Development and Beautification Committees M. Smith, F. Bagley, J. Sardelli, B. Sells and C. Jones made a presentation of the research, discussion and action steps each sub-committee has been working on since the Community Visit.

(See Attachment 1) F. Bagley requested support for the Town applying for a Municipal Planning Grant to conduct a comprehensive safety study of the Route 4 corridor in Mendon that would look at speed limits, lane configuration, bus stops, signage etc. Rutland Regional Planning Commission would assist the town in submitting the application due in November. There is a 10% match for funds with the Municipal Planning Grant. Cost estimates for the study are still being solicited. D. Wilcox cautioned that tonight's report is the first presentation from Mendon on the Move to the Selectboard and that their work is appreciated, but he is doubtful a grant application can be prepared in such a short timeframe. F. Bagley requested approval to try and work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on it. After further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to allow the Mendon on the Move Route 4 Safety Committee to work with RRPC to determine if a Municipal Planning Grant can be submitted for a comprehensive safety study on Route 4.

Road Reclassification S. Tully provided information on T. 19 §302 (3)(B) that discusses minimum standards for class 3 highways and a process to determine whether a class 3 highway should be plowed. The maintenance of the Falls Road was discussed. The damage on the Notch Road was discussed. The Selectboard requested additional information from Dubois and King. The Selectboard directed additional signage be placed on either end of the damaged section of the Notch Road.

Irene Recognition/Recap Town Picnic Remembering Irene Financial Recap L. Courcelle reported that thanks to private monetary donations as well as donation of the use of equipment and supplies from Richard Howe, Betty Ann Limpert, Hal Rosenzweig, Teri Corsones, Phil Douglas, and Green Mountain Pug Rescue as well as all the volunteers, the Town Picnic's net cost so far is \$37 plus an outstanding expense of the porta potty. The Selectboard discussed the cost of the Irene Recognition Monument honoring Doug Casella installed at Sugar and Spice Restaurant. Motion by R. Wilcox to pay for a portion of the cost of the monument and spend \$2,728.70 from the Irene Fund to Gawet Marble and Granite, Inc. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Regional Emergency Management Committees S. Tully reported the passage of H. 122 directed the Division of Emergency Management to establish Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC). REMC's will coordinate emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve their regions' ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The REMC's will follow boundaries covered by Regional Planning Commissions and shall consist of voting and nonvoting members. Each town will have two voting members, the Director of Emergency Management and one additional representative. Nonvoting members can be others that serve the community from fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, media, transportation, regional planning commissions, hospitals, department of health, Vermont Emergency Management, organizations that serve vulnerable populations and others. The Regional Emergency Management Committee Statewide Guidance was released to provide information to towns.

Road Crew Opening/Salaries S. Tully provided a recap of outreach strategies to fill the vacancy on the highway department and buildings and grounds maintenance. S. Tully recommended an increase on the offered salary to attract potential candidate. The Selectboard discussed impacts on the budget with increases in personnel wages. S. Tully will provide the Selectboard with additional financial analysis.

2022-2023 Budget Timeline S. Tully provided an overview of the 2022-2023 budget timeline that will start at the next Selectboard Meeting and conclude in December. There will only be minor adjustments of unknown numbers in January 2022.

VLCT Insurance Renewal S. Tully reported that the Town will be submitting information on the VLCT Insurance renewal for 2022. S. Tully provided a recap of the various options for listed insured values. Mendon currently insures town-owned property at Guaranteed Replacement Cost. The Selectboard will review and provide feedback on the insurance renewal to S. Tully.

COVID-19 Safety Precautions S. Tully, Mendon Town Health Officer submitted a memo regarding COVID-19 safety precautions to the Selectboard who is also the Local Board of Health. S. Tully provided information of the current spread of the Covid-19 Delta variant throughout the State and specifically Rutland County. Information from the VT Department of Health Dashboard reported the 14 day case count for Rutland County increased significantly from 203 cases on September 9th to 386 cases September 27th. S. Tully discussed new this school year the Department of Health started reporting weekly “COVID Cases in schools while Infectious”. This report has been issued for 4 consecutive weeks reporting new cases in the schools in Vermont at 41 cases, 40 cases, 78 cases and 174 cases. S. Tully reported she has reached out to Rutland Regional Medical Center regarding medical care capacity which is a concern with any increased demand on medical services while experiencing staffing shortages. S. Tully recommended the Selectboard implement multi-layered prevention strategies to protect staff and our community from the spread of COVID-19. These prevention strategies include wearing masks by employees, officials and the public in Town of Mendon buildings & vehicles when more than one person is present and social distancing cannot be achieved. All employees should be required to get the vaccine and subsequent recommended boosters or agree to routine testing. Social distancing should be required to the maximum extent possible. Hand washing, disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and ventilation of buildings should be required. S. Tully also recommended the Director of Emergency Management update the Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure the winter maintenance of our roads and required municipal services can continue without disruption in the event staff is out for weeks due to contracting COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact. The Selectboard discussed the recommendations and decided to implement wearing masks in town-owned buildings and vehicles when social distancing cannot be achieved effective October 1st. This requirement is based on the current elevated COVID-19 cases in Rutland County and it will be reviewed at each Selectboard Meeting to determine the continued need for the precaution.

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