

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

December 7, 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, Susannah Loffredo, Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative

Visitors present: Fred Bagley, David Brooks

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 8:36 AM at the Town Office.

Agenda:

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda with the addition of RCSWD update. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

Selectboard Rules of Procedure are available for view.

ARPA Funds Community Outreach January 20, 2021 at 5 PM at the Town Office. The Selectboard is seeking project ideas eligible for the use of ARPA Funds.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve payroll for \$10,780.50. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Errors and Omissions to the April 1, 2021 Grand List: Spencer Potter, Tax Assessor submitted the following as an error and omission. A dwelling was erroneously omitted from the assessment.

#090036100 Gagner Michael & Dale SPAN 384-119-12831

Old assessment \$16,800 - New assessment \$285,700

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the errors and omission for Parcel ID#090036100 owned by Michael & Dale Gagner SPAN #384-119-12831 to change the assessment from \$16,800 to \$285,700 to accurately reflect the value of the property with a dwelling. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

The Selectboard Meeting on December 13th will start at 5:30 PM and will be dedicated to a budget meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 11/9/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed.

Public Comment F. Bagley thanked the Selectboard for submitting the Transportation Alternative Grant and thanked S. Tully for working with D. Neary at RRPC to review and submit the application last week. The Selectboard thanked F. Bagley and Mendon on the Move for their work on the application. The town hopes to hear an award of the grant in February 2022.

Business

COVID-19 Safety Procedures S. Tully informed the Selectboard the legislature passes S1 allowing municipalities to impose a temporary public mask mandate. Current COVID-19 cases in Rutland County are at one of the highest levels of the pandemic with Rutland County Reporting 805 cases in the past 14 days. News sources report Rutland Regional Medical Center, UVM and Dartmouth have reached medical capacity in recent days. The Selectboard discussed a town wide mask mandate and the challenges of enforcement placing the burden of enforcement on businesses. The Selectboard also discussed not knowing how mask mandates effect individual business operations and whether exceptions would need to be made. F. Bagley spoke in support of a mask mandate as a retire physician. D. Brooks spoke out in opposition of the mandate. The Board clarified the policy in place now requires masks be worn in the Town Office, Town Garage and town-owned vehicles regardless of vaccination status if social distancing can't be observed. Motion by L. Courcelle to require masks be worn in the Town Office, Town Garage and town-owned vehicles regardless of vaccination status if social distancing can't be observed. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. F. Bagley proposed the town organize and provide universal signage be provided to all businesses with strong recommendations to wear masks and social distance regardless of vaccination status. The proposal would send the message that COVID-19 prevention is important to our community and so is the operation of our businesses, schools and healthcare. He suggested the Mendon on the Move Route 4 Committee could be asked to help contact the businesses. The directed S. Tully to reach out to Mendon in the Move.

RCSWD Update S. Loffredo, Mendon's representative for the Rutland County Solid Waste District provided an update for the Selectboard. The District has a number of capital improvement projects to replace aging equipment and a wetland protection project to mitigate runoff from entering wetlands. RCSWD has a surplus they are considering what to do with. One option is to return the surplus to the towns in Rutland County. Other options would be to keep the surplus for RCSWD projects. S. Loffredo asked the Selectboard for direction on how she should vote if it comes to vote. The Selectboard determined the RCSWD does not ask the town for an annual assessment and that the surplus is a result of the management of funds they receive. They supported RCSWD retaining the surplus for the needs of RCSWD. S. Loffredo also discussed ARPA Funds and if any of these funds could support projects at the District to keep that as an option. The Selectboard announced the Community Outreach Meeting on January 30th to discuss possible projects for the use of the ARPA Funds.

Tax Sale – December 21st- Giese Parcel ID 030151000- The Selectboard received a request by attorney to make opening bid for the tax sale on December 21st. The Selectboard declined to make the opening bid but agree to pay the attorney conducting the tax sale if the property is not sold at tax sale. The town expects that all costs for the tax sale will be carried forward with the total amount due for the property.

Job descriptions S. Tully presented update job descriptions for Zoning Administrator, Constable and Director of Public Safety. They were reviewed in detail. The Planning Commission was provided a copy of the Zoning Administrator Job Description on Monday 12/6/21. The Selectboard is soliciting comments from the Planning Commission and Acting Zoning Administrator regarding this job description.

Elected & Appointed Official Vacancies & Employment Openings R. Wilcox announced decided not to run for re-election to the Selectboard. S. Tully provided a list of anticipated and current vacant offices and positions. These include Selectboard, Constable, Director of Public Safety, 2 Planning Commission members, Zoning Administrator, Zoning Board of Adjustment, RRPC Transportation Committee Alternate, and Highway and Buildings and Grounds Employee. N. Gondella reminded the Board all Justices of the Peace were up for election next year to take office in 2023. The Town of Mendon municipal operations can not function without relying on the community to fill these positions. S. Tully recommended an outreach strategy to solicit new volunteers.

Budget 2022-2023 Issue tabled

Road Reclassification -Class 3 maintenance, Falls Road Issue tabled

2021-2022 Goals and Objectives Review Issue tabled

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 11:15 AM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Larry Courcelle

Val Taylor