

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

December 13, 2021

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

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

Visitors present: Megan Smith, Mendon on the Move

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM 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.

January 20th ARPA Community Outreach Meeting at 5 PM at the Town Office – the Selectboard is looking for input from the taxpayers and residents how ARPA funds should be used. Rutland Regional Planning Commission will assist the discussion and answer questions regarding the eligibility of project ideas.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by R. Wilcox to approve orders for 12/13 for \$60.64 and \$41,675.90. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

The Selectboard Meetings in December will be changed to December 7th at 8:30 AM and December 13th at 5:30 PM. The Selectboard changed the start time of meetings from 5 PM to 5:30 PM.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: R. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of 12/7/21. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The motion passed.

Public Comment None

Business

2022-2023 Budget S. Tully provided updates on the timeline of the reserve funds. Lengthy discussion regarding the Highway Equipment Replacement Fund, the Highway Improvement Fund and the Bridge and Culvert Fund. S. Tully recommended increasing the contribution to the Highway Improvement Fund by \$10,000 and rolling \$60,000 in surplus funds from FY21 unspent on highways into the Highway Improvements Fund. In addition, she recommended including an article at Town Meeting to transfer \$75,000 in surplus funds from FY21 into the Highway Improvement Fund. S. Tully will continue to seek grant opportunities to assist in offsetting the cost of eligible projects.

Mendon on the Move Budget Request M. Smith requested up to \$2,000 be considered in the 2022-2023 budget to support a grant application for a scoping study for a Community Center. The funds would be used as matching funds to a Municipal Planning Grant application. The study is expected to cost \$12,000-\$20,000 and matching funds would be 10% of the study if the grant application is successful.

Mendon on the Move submitted a poster requesting the public wear masks that they would like to distribute to all the businesses in Mendon. The Selectboard opted not to adopt a town-wide mask mandate at the last meeting. The Selectboard provided feedback regarding the poster and requested the Town of Mendon logo be removed. They authorized that the signs could be produced at the Town Office.

R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM and scheduled to reconvene on Thursday December 16, 2021 at 8:30 AM at the Town Office to continue the agenda. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Motion by R. Wilcox to reconvene the meeting December 16, 2021 at 8:31 AM. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard approved the motion.

2022-2023 Budget The discussion continued. Lengthy discussion about salary increases, retention of current employees, staffing shortages, cost of living increase, comparison with VLCT's compensation and benefit study and the market demand for CDL drivers. Multiple proposals were considered by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will incorporate a 5% increase in salaries for the 2022-2023 budget.

Articles for Town Meeting 2022 S. Tully and N. Gondella discussed different articles for Town Meeting for the Selectboard to consider. The Selectboard can ask the voters to transfer the remaining balance of the FY21 surplus into an underfunded reserve fund. If the article is not proposed or proposed but defeated the balance will be rolled into the tax rate of 2022-2023. An article to change the position of Constable from elected to appointed was discussed along with the job description of the Constable which is greatly limited in nature. In Vermont, law enforcement is conducted by certified officers only. A Constable can exercise law enforcement activities if they are certified. Constable Phil Douglas is not seeking re-elected. An article to vote the budget by Australian ballot rather than from the floor at Town Meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the town was authorized to vote the budget by Australian ballot at Town Meeting 2021. The warning will need to be prepared and approved by January 24th for Town Meeting on February 28, 2022 and polls open on Tuesday March 1st. The location of an in person Town Meeting was discussed. S. Tully will reach out to Vista Senior Living to see if a meeting room would be available. It is expected that in January

the VT legislature will consider granting municipalities an option of a remote meeting or postponing meetings further into the spring as a safety precaution to COVID-19 as was an option last year.

R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting 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