

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

May 9, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor, Bryan Sell

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

Visitors present: Lisa Brooks, Bryan Gates, Justin Lindholm

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion about the next meeting 5/23/22. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

The Town of Mendon received a thank you letter from Pat Lancore thanking the highway department for doing a great job year round on our roads.

State of Vermont Inclusion Week May 8th – May 14th. Mendon's Declaration of Inclusion adopted September 13, 2021 was read "The Town of Mendon condemns racism and discrimination in all of its forms and commits to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community. Our town strives to provide safety, security and protection to all of its citizens. The Town of Mendon has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions."

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee Meeting, Mendon Town Office, May 10, 2022 at 2:30 PM. There will be two public outreach meetings during the LHMP update process. Dates are still to be determined.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for 5/9/22 \$13,458.22 and \$534.00 payroll for 5/3/22 in the amount of \$10,208.67. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 4/25/22. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment

J. Lindholm talked about the maintenance of the front bank at the Town Office. For years, J. Lindholm has volunteered to brush cut the front bank once a year. He discussed this should be done in the spring before things leaf out as not to disturb ferns and perennials. J. Lindholm also discussed the beavers off Old Turnpike Road and suggested solutions that included a beaver baffle, perforated pipe, at least 5' off the bottom to not get clogged with sediment and 30' long to stick way out through the culvert. He also suggested using large stone in the roadbed to protect against washout. B. Ellis updated the Selectboard that 2 beavers have been trapped.

B. Gates arrived to the meeting at 5:25 PM and L. Courcelle invited him to address the Board as it was still Public Comment. B. Gates submitted a written document to the Chair of the Selectboard. He demanded the minutes were for the Executive Session that occurred during the March 26, 2020 Selectboard Meeting. He claimed this meeting was all about him and so was the "Gun Ordinance". B. Gates shouting at the Board demanding to see Executive Session minutes for all meetings the Board went into Executive Session to discuss "personnel". He demanded to know who the "personnel" was because he claims those meetings were about him too. The Chair repeatedly asked B. Gates to calm down. B. Gates refused and continued yelling about the failed septic system next to his property. The Board responded that the Health Inspection was complete and the report was filed. B. Gates questioned the validity of the report and the qualifications of the Health Officer and Selectboard members that accompanied the Health Officer as witnesses to the inspections. B. Gates continued yelling at the Board. The Chair declared the Public Comment Period was over at 5:40 PM and that they afforded B. Gates ample time to address the Board.

Business

Dog License Update N. Gondella reported an additional 40 dogs have been registered as a result of the notice that went sent to owners that registered their dog last year. Currently there are 130 dogs registered.

B. Gates interrupted the discussion multiple times and the Chair warned him multiple times to not disrupt the meeting. B. Sell reported B. Gates is distracting the discussion with rude hand gestures. B. Gates continued to disrupt the conversation, yelling loudly and denying he was displaying his middle finger at the Board. B. Sell requested law enforcement describing he felt

threatened by B. Gates actions and inability to control himself after repeated requests from the Chair to not disrupt the meeting.

S. Tully reported to the Board that the Vermont State Police have been dispatched at 5:45 PM. B. Gates did not continue to disrupt the meeting after the announcement the authorities have been dispatched.

The Board continued the dog license discussion. The Selectboard approved a post card mailing which would include information about the fines that could be imposed for not registering your dog. N. Gondella will also continue to post notices on social media and the town website.

August Primary N. Gondella reported the Secretary of State's Office will be paying to program the new tabulators for the August Primary and General Election in November. N. Gondella will likely request the Town use the tabulators for March Town Meeting which would cost approximately \$600 to program. She supports consistency with the elections.

Office Maintenance N. Gondella requested \$800 be spent to install saloon style doors separating the office space from the public space.

6:10 PM State Police arrived. The meeting adjourned until after interviews with the State Police. B. Gates was taken outside to be interviewed. L. Courcelle was taken into the office area to be interviewed returned 6:20 PM. V. Taylor requested to meet with the State Police and she returned at 6:25 PM. B. Gates did not return to the conference room. The meeting was reconvened at 6:28 PM.

The Office Maintenance discussion continued. Motion by L. Courcelle to spend \$800 to manufacture and install saloon style doors in the Town Office to be paid for out of ARPA funds. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. Office cleaning has been handled by employees throughout the pandemic.

Office Cleaning Office cleaning has been handled by employees throughout the pandemic. The Selectboard approved hiring a part time employee to clean the office, but that idea did not materialize. After a brief discussion of options, the Selectboard requested N. Gondella get quotes for cleaning companies to clean the office every two weeks. In addition to get quotes for washing the windows inside and out.

Highway Improvement Fund & Infrastructure Projects S. Tully reported the Town did not receive a Class 2 Roadway Grant for \$200,000 to reclaim and resurface the Notch Road. S. Tully presented an updated timeline for expenses from the Highway Improvement Fund. The scope of work to reclaim and resurface the Notch Road will not change if the town postponed the project this year. Motion by L. Courcelle to not proceed with paving the Notch Road this summer and reapply for the Class 2 Roadway Grant next year. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Sign Replacement Policy S. Tully discussed the sign replacement policy in Mendon. In accordance with the Street Naming and Numbering Ordinance the Town will replace private road street signs by ordering the signs and supplies and passing the cost to the property owners of the road. Currently, the Town has ordered signs for Spencer Meadows PVT and Top Ridge PVT.

ARPA L. Courcelle continues to monitor the various considerations for eligible uses of ARPA Funds. VLCT is continuing to advise municipalities to move slowly when making decisions how to use these funds. So far, Mendon has purchased folding chairs and a gate for use at the Town Office.

Comp Hours S. Tully recapped the history of comp hours for the board. Current policy requires approval by at least one Selectboard member prior to accumulating comp hours. S. Tully provided several examples how the policy doesn't work with her job duties and statutory responsibilities. S. Tully requested the authorization to accumulate up to 32 hours of comp hours that would be accompanied with an explanation of increased hours and a plan to expend the hours. The Selectboard directed S. Tully that the hours must remain within budget. S. Tully also provided a schedule of time off for the remainder of FY22 and for FY23 at 32 hours per week and 8 hours per day. Time off is accrued at the average scheduled work day. Motion by B. Sell to allow S. Tully to accumulate up to but not exceeding 32 hours of comp time. A summary of hours spent and a plan to take the comp time shall be submitted to the Selectboard. Starting FY23, accrued time off will be 8 hours per day and 4 days per week for the Town Administrator. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

B. Sell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Val Taylor

Bryan Sell

DRAFT