

# Town of Mendon

Selectboard

October 24, 2016

Members of the Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Geoff Wells, Richard Wilcox

Town Officers and employees present: Susan Schreibman, Interim Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable, Nancy Gondella, Bookkeeper/Office Manager

Residents and Visitors present: Kevin Geiger, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), Sheriff Benard, Rutland County Sheriff, Ann Singiser, Mendon Historical Society

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

*Additions/deletions to the Agenda:* Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda. Seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Announcements

On 11/11 at 2pm there will be a dedication of the General Ripley Historic Marker at Sugar and Spice. Traffic control may be needed.

L. Courcelle reported about the Rutland City \$100,000 marketing study/campaign and that regional effort. REDC did not attend a Mendon Selectboard meeting.

VLCT's Action Paper on Taxation and Budgets was distributed.

The RRPC had a presentation on Act 174- Integrating Land Use and Energy. RPCs will develop energy plans and local input will be more consequential.

## Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* approved and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 10/10/16. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Business:

*6196 US4:* Kevin Geiger, Senior Planner from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission explained that funding from Community Development Block Grants and VT Housing and Conservation Board is available for buy-outs of property damaged; there have not been any buy-outs in Mendon to-date. He explained the process that the town must go through to purchase the property and that 100% of the town costs for title work, title insurance, legal closing costs, asbestos testing and removal and demolition are covered. The town must agree not to sell or develop the property but can transfer it. In this case, VTrans has indicated that they would be interested in owning it to protect US4. All work and bills must be submitted by June 30, 2017, when the funding expires. A motion was made by L. Courcelle and seconded by R. Wilcox to sign a letter from the Selectboard indicating the town's interest in participating in the buy-out. The next step is a subcontract between the town and TRORC.

*Sheriff's Contract:* Selectboard members received a letter from Sheriff Benard and a spreadsheet detailing proposals for law enforcement. Discussion continued about vehicle use, whether Mendon's car or that provided by the Sheriff's Dept., and the revenue collected from fines and its potential revenue offset. The Deputy assigned to Mendon, Chris Stevenson, would continue to serve and the Sheriff indicated that the proposed contract would go until July 2018, with a 90 day out clause due to the uncertainty of the cost of workman's compensation. L. Courcelle said that the Selectboard needs to discuss this. P. Douglas asked about dispatch service for constables and the Sheriff proposed a pilot project with computer-aided dispatch service, but was unable to give a long term commitment about dispatch services.

*Adi's:* A. Singiser spoke about the General Ripley Historic Marker dedication on 11/11/16 and that she expects it to be a big event, with Civil War enactors. It would be his 177<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was expecting cost estimates on the proposed work, primarily to stabilize the building but does not have them yet. Access to the building and the lack of a lease was discussed. A letter will be sent to Johanna when more information is available. Discussion continued on to the fading Mendon sign at the town office. S Schreibman will try to locate the sign maker.

*Tax Sale:* N. Merrill requested to bid the minimum at the upcoming tax sale for parcel #060203000. The Selectboard asked S. Schreibman to send a letter requesting that she set the minimum bid.

*Highway Department Laptop:* B. Ellis explained that this would be used for the culvert inventory, pictures, timesheet program. N Gondella indicated that the desktop in the town garage is one year old but can be used as the public computer in the town office. The cost for the laptop is approximately \$650 with the software, case, etc. and a 2 year accident protection is \$80. G. Wells asked if it would come out of the Highway Department budget and it was confirmed. L. Courcelle made a motion to approved purchase of a laptop for the Highway Dept. for up to \$780 and R. Wilcox seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

*Salt/Sand Shed:* P. Douglas reported that the salt/sand shed is complete except for the lighting. He asked the Selectboard if it was okay to move material into the building. L. Courcelle replied that it is up to B. Ellis. P. Douglas said that an additional \$2000 more is needed to line the lower 4' with pressure treated plywood so no machinery will catch the braces. There was discussion about the garage floor and prohibition on floor drains. G. Wells asked about other costs and the reply was lighting, the door and overhead door were yet to be done. L Courcelle made a motion to approve \$1750 to install blocking and plywood on the salt and sand shed. G. Wells seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. A change order to raise the opening and revising

the plans was \$1000 and L. Courcelle made a motion to approve the changes and G. Wells seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. P. Douglas said that the warranty is for 20 years on the structure that was a requirement of the RFP. L. Courcelle thanked B. Ellis for work at the recreation field.

*FEMA Update:* N. Gondella reported that 2 more projects will go out this week and they are very close to completion.

*Bridges #14 and #20:* N. Gondella researched and related the history of the project, which was completed in 2001 and the only payments made by the Town were \$126.12. The State indicated that they are ready to send it to the legal department and it was suggested that they be asked if the town can settle, make payments or both. N. Gondella will draft a letter and email it to the Selectboard for review.

*False Alarm Ordinance:* This was tabled until the next meeting. The first quarter bill from the City was received for \$7500 and P. Douglas will verify that this is correct.

*Purchasing Policy:* This was tabled until the next meeting.

*Holiday Party:* It was recommended that Countryman's Pleasure be the venue on 12/7 and it was agreed by consensus.

*Health Insurance:* N. Gondella passed out information and said that signing up occurs by December 1.

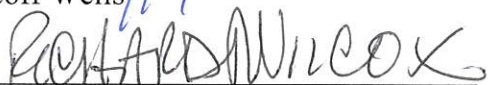
The Selectboard decided that the law enforcement issue will be top on the next agenda. Future agendas will be limited.

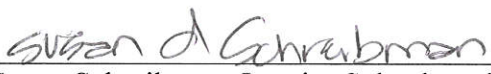
There being no further business, G. Wells moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:15 PM. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved Nov. 14, 2016

  
Larry Courcelle

  
Geoff Wells

  
Richard Wilcox

  
Susan Schreiberman, Interim Selectboard Clerk