

# Town of Mendon

Selectboard

September 26, 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: Karl Acker, Mike and Judi Charron

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

*Additions/deletions to the Agenda:* N. Gondella asked to add a tax sale letter, Bill Ellis asked to add a school bus issue and L. Courcelle made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcements: L. Courcelle spoke about REDC's discussion at the RPC meeting on the changing demographics; seniors getting a tax reduction and the need to attract youth and jobs. A planner from the RPC will write a municipal planning grant application for Mendon's Planning Commission.

L. Courcelle announced that he will not run for the Selectboard and that now there is time for the search. N. Gondella thanked him for his service and it was repeated by others.

S Schreibman presented the Agreement for Entry on Larson land on Wheelerville for town signature to replace culvert 07-47.

DuBois & King is having an open house at their new Brandon office October 5.

## Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* approved and signed.

## Business:

*Dog Issues:* Mike and Judi Charron and Karl Aker have a complaint about the Godair's dogs that bark incessantly and are aggressive. They feel limited in use of their back yard. The dogs stay in their own yard, have bark collars but there are dog fights among the 3 dogs and they have reported twice to the animal control officer. A video of an incident was shown and L. Courcelle said that the Selectboard would discuss it and see what steps they can take. G. Wells asked for the Animal Control Officer's report and elaborated that there is a process that the Selectboard must follow. If abuse is an issue, he suggested that they contact an animal abuse organization to report this. R. Wilcox noted that stopping an owner from hitting its dog is not within the purview of the Selectboard's authority.

The Selectboard will be sent the Animal Control Ordinance, Rod's report (s) and a draft letter to the owners regarding the complaint.

*Sheriff's Contract:* P. Douglas reported that there is no contract yet however they are working for the town and may be interested in buying the car. This will be addressed at the next meeting. R. Wilcox shared his calculations for a full time sheriff for the balance of 2016-2017. His figures indicate a \$600 net operating loss from the budget for the year. N. Gondella explained that 80% of the funds from enforcement go into the general fund and 20% into the reserve fund for future vehicles and those percentages could change. P. Douglas added that there is \$90,000 in reserve and suggested that the town purchase a new SUV for approximately \$40,000. N. Gondella asked if the Sheriff's Department had been asked to pursue a grant to cover some of their expenses like they have done for other towns.

*MERT Trailer:* G. Wells suggested that the price be lowered from \$6,000 if no one has shown any interest in this. Advertising sites were discussed and it was suggested that it be listed for \$4000 on Craigslist and solicit offers.

*Adi's Building/Old Town Office:* R. Wilcox is on the committee and reported that they are meeting Thursday and then he will give a report. An architect has examined the building.

*False Alarm Ordinance:* S. Schreiber reported that VLCT advised that placing a lien on property for not paying a fee, which is included in the ordinance, is not something that the town is permitted to do by statute. The Selectboard asked her to rewrite the ordinance after researching other towns' similar ordinances.

*FEMA Update:* N Gondella reported that the first completed PW has been sent and 2 PWs will go out this week with others to follow shortly thereafter.

*Salt Shed:* P. Douglas reported that all the material is here and it will start to be put together 9/27/16.

*Better Roads Contract with RPC:* Mendon received the grant for the culvert and road surface inventory and capital improvement plan. The RPC will conduct the work with the assistance of the Road Commissioner as the local match. L. Courcelle made a motion to sign the contract with RRPC for an amount not to exceed \$7,168. It was seconded by G. Wells and passed

unanimously.

N. Gondella received the final bill from Enman Engineering for 07-48.

*Painting Quotes:* The Selectboard reviewed the spreadsheet with 4 contractors' quotes and G. Wells wondered if they should wait until better weather. R. Wilcox suggested that Gibeault be contacted and asked if his quote includes scraping, sanding and priming and also see if he can purchase workman's compensation for himself and add it to the quote. The Selectboard decided to postpone the work until Spring 2017.

*6196 US4 :* S. Schreibman reported that she received a letter from Joe McDevitt regarding the property at 6196 US4 and that S. Tully had photos of the deteriorating slope endangering the house. Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission has funding from HUD for buyouts due to Irene and she has made them aware of this site. ANR will visit the site this week and determine if it is eligible. R Wilcox asked about demolition costs and she will follow up to see if the funding covers this also.

*Holiday Party:* N. Gondella said that restaurants will be contacted, including Sugar and Spice, for the first week of December. The budget includes approximately \$2000 for this.

*Road Crew Staff- Plow Driver:* B. Ellis stated that G. Webster is planning on coming back and N. Gondella reported that there are 38 days remaining this year to work part-time. G. Wells asked that the employment as plow driver be confirmed.

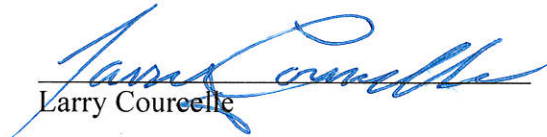
*Tax Sale:* N. Gondella said that 2 are scheduled and C. Corsones would like to bid the minimum for the town however if no one else bids, then the town owns these. She would prefer he be asked to create the minimum bid for the town. She said that total delinquency is approximately \$35,000.

*School Bus Issue:* B. Ellis said that Northeast Supervisory Union called regarding a student on Journey's End and asked if the town could maintain the driveway that the large school bus would use to turn around. The homeowner agreed. It was suggested that this request be in writing to the town and more information is needed.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 09/12/16. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

There being no further business, L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved Oct. 10, 2016

  
Larry Courcelle

  
Susan Schreiberman, Interim Selectboard Clerk

  
Geoff Wells

  
Richard Wilcox