

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

November 27, 2017

Members of the Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells, Scott Bradley

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable

Residents and Visitors present: Ed Parker

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 PM at the Town Office.

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda. Seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders approved and signed.

Public Comment: Ed Parker requested the town consider an ordinance that would require farm animals be confined. He explained an issue with his neighbor's chickens wandering through his yard. He requested that if people are going to be allowed to have farm animals in residential areas, they should be required to restrain them.

Announcements The Town received a Municipal Planning Grant to update the Mendon Town Plan.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of 10/23/17. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed.

Business:

Rolston Rest The Selectboard reviewed the most recent draft of the Contingent Right of Way Easement that further defined "damage" to the road. Lengthy discussion from the Selectboard reviewing the entire document. The Selectboard approved the current draft of the Contingent Right of Way Easement. The Selectboard is willing to submit a letter of support for the Rolston Rest project with the town's ability to use a road for emergency purposes that will ultimately be part of the Green Mountain National Forest. The Selectboard would like to thank Jim Harrison for advocating for the town with the State of Vermont Agency of natural Resources and Department of Forest Parks and Recreation. Rep. Harrison's efforts opened the door to further negotiation regarding emergency access across this land which will help protect public health and property in the event of an emergency.

Wildcat Road Legal Trail The town continues to manage the beavers that are causing water to wash out Wildcat Road. S. Bradley will follow up with Kent Hallow Nuisance Wildlife and Predator Control. S. Tully reported the Chittenden Dammers Snowmobile Club is concerned the road will not be able to be used this winter.

Bookkeeper & Assistant Clerk Position S. Tully presented a recommended candidate to fill the Bookkeeper & Assistant Clerk position. The Town received over 30 applicants. The position will start January 2, 2018. G. Wells asked about the training schedule. S. Tully recapped the transition plan that was previously approved. The Bookkeeper and Assistant Clerk will start training with N. Gondella in January which will allow two months of training prior to Marie Conway's retirement in March. Motion by R. Wilcox to hire a Bookkeeper/Assistant Clerk as recommended at \$16/hr. for 32 hours per week with standard benefit package starting January 2, 2018. Motion seconded by S. Bradley.

Budget 2018-2019 The Selectboard reviewed the second draft of the budget. Lengthy discussion about various line items of the budget. S. Tully reported that Appraisal Services will be level funded at \$9,000. Highway Fuel expense will be lowered to \$10,500 based on the last two years actual usage. S. Tully reported the Rutland Free Library submitted a request for a 3% increase which is approximately \$22.50 per capita. The Selectboard requested justification for the increase and how many Mendon residents have used the library annually for the past 5 years. Law Enforcement income will be increased to \$35,000. Constable training will be reduced to \$500. Law Enforcement fuel will be reduced to \$1000. S. Tully will present the timeline of the reserve funds at the next meeting.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 7:10 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully, Selectboard Clerk

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley