

# Town of Mendon

Selectboard

June 12, 2017

Members of the Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Phil Douglas, Constable/Planning Commission, Justin Lindholm, Planning Commission, Neil Langer, Planning Commission

Residents and Visitors present: Jim Harrison, State Representative, Cort Jones, resident, Bernard McGee, CPC, Gary Congdon, Chittenden Selectboard, Nancy Boyton, Chittenden Selectboard, Robert Beara, Chittenden Selectboard, Jan Sotirakis, Chittenden Emergency Management Director, Steve Singiser, Old Town Hall Committee, Ann Singiser, Old Town Hall Committee, Fred Bagley Old Town Hall Committee, Jennifer Bagley, Old Town Hall Committee, Kate Wanner, Trust for Public Lands.

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

*Additions/deletions to the Agenda:* Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the agenda with the addition of the Jim Harrison, State Representative, Barstow Shelter, Rutland County Sheriff Activity Report and Rutland Fire Department Invoice to the agenda. Seconded by G. Wells. The motion passed unanimously.

## Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* approved and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by R. Wilcox to approve the minutes of 5/22/17. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Business:

*Jim Harrison, State Representative*, attended the Selectboard Meeting to introduce himself to the Town. Rep. Harrison was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy left by Rep. Job Tate. The Selectboard expressed that economic development in Mendon was a top priority. The Selectboard also expressed thanks for the passage of H.42, a bill that allows towns to vote to appoint a Town Clerk and Town Treasurer without going through the cumbersome process of a Governmental Charter.

*Winter Sand* Cort Jones brought a sample of the material Mendon uses as winter sand. He

argued that the coarse material resembles gravel more than sand. Mr. Jones also discussed the hardship of cleaning the material off the roadway, lawns and ditches and that it creates a berm on the edge of the roadway. B. Ellis explained that the material is widely used by towns because of its availability and cost as well as increased traction on the roads. B. Ellis stated that it does not increase the cost of clean up for the town, but agrees it is difficult for property owner's lawns. B. Ellis explained that the berm is mostly created by leaves and is the winter sand is only a portion of it. The town considers quality of material and cost of material and transportation when determining where to purchase the material for winter sand.

*McDevitt Buyout* The property was transferred from the Town of Mendon to the State of Vermont today. Susan Schreiber, Project Manager, will submit final expenses and all final paperwork will be submitted to Two Rivers Ottaqueechee for the completion of the grant.

*H42 Appointment of Town Clerks and Treasurers* S. Tully, N. Gondella and M. Conway prepared a timeline to have a Special Town Meeting in August to see if the voters will approve to appoint the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer in accordance with the passage of H. 42 this legislative session. The Selectboard reviewed an informational memo and a warning for the Special Town Meeting that will be sent with the property tax bills.

*Highway Maintenance & Equipment Operator and Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Worker* S. Tully reported that the interview committee has concluded interviews for the position and has made an offer for employment.

*CAI Technologies Contract* The Selectboard decided on May 22, 2017 that the town would purchase mapping and GIS software for \$6,700 from CAI technologies. The Selectboard reviewed and signed the contract.

*Barstow Shelter* The Selectboard discussed support for the shelter at Barstow School. Jan Sotirakis is working with the Red Cross on an agreement and then it will be presented to the Barstow Unified Union District for approval. Mendon appropriated \$500 in supplies for the shelter which is paid out of the Public Safety Reserve Fund. The Town of Chittenden appropriated the same amount.

*Rutland County Sheriff Activity Report* P. Douglas reviewed the Rutland County Sheriff monthly activity report.

*Rutland Fire Department Invoice* P. Douglas reported the third quarter invoice was \$4,500.

*Rolston Rest* The Town of Chittenden Selectboard attended the meeting to discuss emergency access out of Chittenden through Mendon via Old Turnpike Road and Elbow Road. The Chittenden Selectboard supported access across a road created by the A Johnson Lumber Company that connects Old Turnpike and Elbow Road. J. Lindholm expressed concern that if the road was open that off road vehicles and ATV's would trash the place and dumping would become a huge problem. Currently, the roadway is gated and locked. C. Jones expressed support for the Rolston Rest project and the transfer of the land to the Green Mountain National Forest and not get bogged down with strings attached to the transfer. The Selectboard has not made a decision regarding support for the project, but they are concerned about access which is not limited to emergency access only. K. Wanner stated that a trail can be gated and locked. S. Tully will ask VLCT whether a trail can be gated and locked. The Selectboard will meet again with the Trust for Public Land and the Green Mountain National Forest on June 26, 2017.

*Old Town Hall* The Old Town Hall Committee submitted the following report to the Selectboard:

“This committee was formed by the Selectboard to provide the Selectboard with options and a direction as to the future of the old town hall.

After considerable discussion and examination I believe we have come to the following conclusions-

1. The committee recognizes and appreciates the historical value of the Old Town Hall and would like to preserve it if possible.
2. In its current state the Old Town Hall is not an asset to Mendon in its appearance. Time is preserve the building or consider it for demolition.
3. The best, most feasible, use would be as a Town Hall Annex, for cold storage of documents and records.
4. The committee has met with several contractors, and preservationists, and have investigated the possible costs and plans for restoration suitable for the goal above.
5. The cost is estimated to be \$180,000. Mendon does have approximately \$50,000 in the OTH maintenance fund, and up to \$10,000 in the historical society funds. Some funds could be anticipated to be raised by private donation, and volunteer in kind donations. Anticipate at least a \$100,000 bond to be necessary
6. The committee feels it is very important to gage the community's opinion of this project, and will recommend a town wide survey for guidance on how to proceed.”

A draft survey was presented to the Selectboard. The Selectboard agreed to review and discuss at the next meeting to determine if the survey will be sent out with the tax bills at the end of July.

*Economic Development Committee* The Selectboard will appoint an Economic Development Committee. R. Wilcox reported that the Planning Commission wishes to have representation on an Economic Development Committee. Interested candidates that wish to serve on this committee can contact the Sara Tully, Town Administrator.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Richard Wilcox

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Sara Tully, Selectboard Clerk

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Geoff Wells