

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

October 24, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer

Visitors present: Seth Bridge, Dennis Charles, Brian Gates, Justin Lindholm, RCS Deputy Ricketts

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office. Peg TV is recording.

Agenda: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda with the addition of Ford F150 tires. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Announcement

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be presented at the Planning Commission Meeting on 11/7/22 and a public comment period will extend to 11/28/22.

The Selectboard is accepting letters of interest to serve as a member until March 2023

Mendon is a member town of the Otter Creek Communication Union District (OCCUD) but there is no cost to Mendon. The OCCUD serves 18 towns in the Rutland region and we are working to provide a fiber optic internet connection of at least 100Mbps (download and upload) to each and every on-grid premise that is classified by the state as being Underserved (below 25/3 to 4/1) or Unserved (less than 4/1). We issued a request for proposals earlier this year and have been working with the respondents to come to an agreement. We are following the model that Southern Vermont CUD has successfully used to win construction grant funding for their towns because our regions have very similar preexisting internet infrastructure than other regions. We are working hard to reach an agreement with potential partners by the end of the year, at which point we plan to apply for grant funding from the Vermont Community Broadband Board. After we are funded, we'll be working with our partner on the engineering, procurement, and construction of the fiber optic network. The overarching goals of OCCUD are Universal Service (providing access to internet service of 100/100 to all under- & unserved), capital efficiency, low cost to subscribers and doing all this as quickly as practicable. The website is www.OCCUD.org.

Mendon Route 4 Scoping Study kick-off meeting is scheduled for 11/10/22 at 9:00 am. The committee will review the project scope and be part design consultant procurement process.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for 10/24/22 for \$1,296,641.20 and payroll for 10/17/22 of \$11,239.78. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion. The orders include a payment for Barstow Unified Union District of \$1,280,275.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the minutes of 10/11/22. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Public Comment

Seth Bridge attended the meeting to express interest in filling the Selectboard vacancy. S. Bridge stated that he wanted to offer his interest in filling the position until March 2023. He expressed he doesn't have a lot of knowledge of the position, but is willing to learn and be another set of eyes, ears and a body to hear everyone's opinions.

Business

Health Insurance 2023 S. Tully presented 2023 health insurance rates for 2023 and overall costs for the town based on employee eligibility for the plan type.

Motion by L. Courcelle to set the 2023 health insurance plan funding at:

| 2023 Funding Levels | | BUYOUT |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| SINGLE | 10,801 | 4,320 |
| TWO PERSON | 21,601 | 8,641 |
| PARENT/CHILD | 20,845 | 8,338 |
| FAMILY | 30,350 | 12,140 |

Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Elbow Road Water Bars J. Lindholm reported that the water bars on Elbow Road are severe and it is rough to travel the road. There is evidence of damage to vehicles because a bumper was left in the roadway. He suggested repairing the water bars with a bulldozer to take off the top of the water bars. The road is passable by 4 wheel drive vehicles only. Many GPS's show that you can travel from Pittsfield to Chittenden as a short cut and you can't. S. Tully recapped how the issue was created. The State of Vermont was working on their right of way installing water bars through the State Forest and mistakenly continued onto the town's right of way on Elbow Road. L. Courcelle questioned whether the State intends to mitigate the water bars on their property. S. Tully stated that the State of Vermont was following their regulations in maintaining roads for the State Forest when the improvements were made. The Selectboard decided not to take any action because it does not make sense to remove the water bars on the town road if the water bars remain on the State Forest.

Brian Gates joined the meeting during the Elbow Road discussion claiming the agenda was not posted online and there was no link to the meeting. S. Tully stated the agenda is posted at www.mendonvt.gov.

ARPA Timeline and Project List L. Courcelle reported the Selectboard is in the process of prioritizing the list of projects. The town has spent \$3,000 of the \$302,214 ARPA funds received. L. Courcelle discussed his priority projects; digitization of land records \$50K, vault upgrades \$15K, cyber security upgrades unknown cost, office generator cost unknown with grant opportunity, play structure \$25-50K, garage water system repairs \$1,400, addition to the salt shed cost unknown. There were multiple references to grant opportunities to pursue. The town must make allocations for the funds by December 2024 and must be spent by the end of 2026. V. Taylor wanted discussed the garage generator as something that should be looked into. S. Tully reported the Selectboard in Chittenden wanted to know what the Mendon Selectboard was thinking about the Barstow playground project as a \$50K request went to both towns. L. Courcelle also mentioned the Eastridge Acres request for back up generators for their water system. The goal is to prioritize the list and get updated costs so the Board can see if there are any funds left over to support additional projects.

2023-2024 Budget S. Tully provided a detailed overview of budget input submitted by Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Lema Carter, Director of Emergency Management, Liam Fracht-Monroe, Recreation Committee, and Susannah Loffredo, Zoning Administrator. Salaries and Reserve Funds will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ford F150 Tires L. Courcelle received a request from B. Ellis to donate the tires to Wheels for Warmth. Tires are collected at Casella Construction in Mendon, checked by DOT representatives and sold to the public. The proceeds are used to support heating costs for individuals in need.

B. Gates continued to claim that the agenda was not on the website. S. Tully confirmed the agenda was posted at www.mendonvt.gov/boards-commissions/selectboard/selectboard-agendas-minutes/minutesagendas

L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Val Taylor