

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

November 14, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

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

Visitors present: Fred and Jennifer Bagley, Dennis Charles, Brian Gates, Carol Gates

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 Rolston Rest Emergency Right of Way and Rutland Town request for Fireworks. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Announcement

L. Courcelle reported that he is double booked for meetings this evening. If needed for a quorum, he may have to adjourn the Selectboard meeting for a few minutes to participate in the Otter Creek Communication Union District (OCCUD) Meeting in which Mendon is a member.

The December Selectboard Meetings will be held on December 12th and December 19th

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently accepting public comment until 11/28/22. Public comments can be submitted to Sara Tully Town Administrator at mendonadmin@comcast.net

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

The Planning Commission is accepting letters of interest and resumes for a Zoning Administrator.

The Mendon Consultant Selection Committee met 11/10/22 regarding the Route 4 Scoping Study. The next step is to secure a consultant using the VTRANS At the Ready process.

Rep. Jim Harrison requested attendance at a future Selectboard Meeting to hear any concerns or issues to bring to the next legislative session. The Town will invite Re. Harrison to the 11/28/22 meeting,

The Town received notice from the Public Utility Commission for an addition to the communication tower for Verizon to locate equipment on the existing tower located at 3140 Route 4, Mendon.

US Department of Homeland Security FEMA in partnership with United States Geological Survey conducted a discovery meeting in October 2019 for the Otter Creek Watershed. The

discovery process has concluded and flood hazards and mitigation strategies have been identified,

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for 11/14/22 of \$104,581.12 and \$265,828.94 and payroll from 11/1/2022 of \$ 10,882.67. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the minutes of 10/24/22. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

L. Courcelle adjourned the meeting at 5:13 PM to attend the Otter Creek Communication Union District Meeting and will reconvene the Selectboard Meeting momentarily. The Chair reconvene the Selectboard Meeting at 5:29 PM.

Public Comment

B. Gates requested the town come look at their lot again. He requested in April and “they didn’t do what they were supposed to do now I am asking them to come again to re-evaluate. You are not supposed to have any running water within 150 feet of a leach field but yet there is running water 20 feet from a leach field”. B. Gates provided the Department of Conservation Subchapter 6 Standards. L. Courcelle reviewed the highlighted sections. B. Gates requested the Selectboard come look at this again. L. Courcelle denied the Selectboard conducted a site visit to the property. B. Gates responded that V. Taylor, B. Sell and S. Tully came to look at it and did nothing, L. Courcelle stated he contacted the Agency of Natural Resources asking for clarification regarding groundwater and is awaiting a response, but that the Selectboard does not regulate groundwater. V. Taylor clarified she was there to look at the septic and a dye test that was conducted. S. Tully provided additional clarification that as the Town Health Officer she completed an investigation into a failed septic complaint at his neighbor’s property. A dye test was completed and she brought members of the Local Health Board which are members of the Selectboard to witness any surfacing dye or smell of a failed septic. The Selectboard was not present in a quorum they went on separate occasions as witnesses in the investigation. A full report was completed and sent and determined it was not a failed septic. IS. Tully continued by stating she was contacted by the Department of Environmental Conservation Enforcement Division Patrick Lowkes to obtain a copy of the report in which he agreed with the findings. B. Gates stated he disagrees and he did not send the Health Officer there for a failed septic, he claimed he sent the Town there because there was water running from a well underneath the leach field onto his property. S. Tully stated the Town of Mendon nor the Health Officer regulates water from one property to another. L. Courcelle reiterated, the Selectboard does not have control over this issue.

Business

Rutland Emergency Management Committee -Appointment of Representatives Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Lema carter, Emergency Management Director and Val Taylor, Selectboard to the Regional Emergency Management Committee. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed.

ARPA Timeline and Project List L. Courcelle requested the town obtain cost for various projects in order to evaluate what to spend ARPA funds on. L. Courcelle discussed the status of various projects.

2023-2024 Budget – The Selectboard discussed salaries and Reserve Funds. L. Courcelle provided a summary of budget changes to date. COLA was reported at 8.7%. The Selectboard directed S. Tully to incorporate an 8% increase and its effects on the budget for further evaluation. Currently there are no requests to increase the line items of the Reserve Funds. S. Tully restated a previous decision of the Selectboard to waive the petition requirement for appropriation requests for those organizations that were funded last year and the requested amount remains the same. Any new requests or changed funding amounts would require a petition to get on the ballot.

Rolston Rest Emergency Right of Way L. Courcelle provided a historical overview of the project that has been in negotiation for a number of years. The Town has requested a Contingent Right of way across land while in the Trust for Public Lands Ownership for emergency access. L. Courcelle moved to authorize the Chair of the Selectboard to sign the Emergency Right of Way agreement regarding the Rolston Rest Project. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Fireworks L. Courcelle reported that the Rutland Town Selectboard submitted a request to share the expenses of the 4th of July Fireworks displayed at Northwood Park. L. Courcelle recommended the Recreation Committee discuss the issue. S. Tully reported the current Fireworks budget for Mendon is \$0.

L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved _____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Val Taylor