

# Town of Mendon

## Selectboard

June 27, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner

Visitors present: Chris Mattrick, John Feenick

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

Agenda: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda with the addition of the FY23 Rutland County Sheriff Contract. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

### Announcement

The Town of Mendon Village Center Designation was approved today by the Downtown Board. Village Center Designation supports the revitalization efforts of small to medium-sized historic centers. The designation brings financial incentives, training and technical assistance needed to attract new business and vitality to Vermont's smaller communities. For more information on Mendon's Village Center please visit the Town of Mendon website at [www.mendonvt.org](http://www.mendonvt.org).

### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for \$20,083.11 and \$3,800.00 payroll for 6/27/11 for \$12,019.75. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Year End Financial Review N. Gondella, Town Clerk and Treasurer provided a Year to Date financial report with a summary forecasting year end financial status. Overall the Town may see a surplus of approximately \$150,000. The majority of the surplus is because the town has one full time employee vacancy. The town is looking to hire a full time employee as a Highway Equipment Operator & Maintenance and Building and Grounds Maintenance. Other contributing factors we saw increased revenue in VT State Aid to Highways, interest and penalties charged, recording fees and road plowing services. Although revenue fell short in law enforcement fines, zoning and building permits and interest income. Other budget items that were underspent include Public Safety vehicle repair and fuel, law enforcement staff and continuing education. N. Gondella will finalize year end financials for the next meeting. The Selectboard should be thinking about options for the surplus funds. S. Tully suggested

retaining some funds to help pay for utilities and fuel due to sharp and unexpected increases in propane and diesel fuel prices.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle tabled the approval of the 6/13/22 minutes until the next meeting.

Public Comment None

Business

*Rutland County Sheriff Contract* L. Courcelle reported that he, Lema Carter, Constable, and S. Tully, Town Administrator met with Sheriff Fox to discuss the Rutland County Sheriff Contract. S. Tully presented an updated FY23 contract for the Selectboard to approve. Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the FY23 contract for the Rutland County Sheriff to provide 32 hours per week coverage at \$46.54 per hour. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion passed. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting.

*Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Comment* S. Tully reported the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee presented the current draft of the LHMP at the last Selectboard Meeting and was requesting public comments. S. Tully received comments from Jan Sotirakis, Chittenden's Emergency Management Director. First was a question whether the dam at the former Beaver Pond on Route 4 still existed. B. Ellis reported the dam was removed when the pond was drained for containing milfoil. J. Sotirakis requested Mendon consider highlighting the collaborative effort of Mendon and Chittenden in the planning and operation of the Barstow Shelter. It is unconfirmed but we believe it is the only two town shelter in the state. Lastly, Chittenden hopes Mendon is successful in obtaining a contingent right of way from the Trust for Public Land to allow for emergency access between Mendon and Chittenden and Killington.

*Telephone Gap Project* Chris Matrick, District Ranger Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Telephone Gap Project. In 2021, a landscape assessment was completed which captured the existing condition of all natural resources in the area. A desired future condition of natural resources was identified and a proposed action plan. A scoping notice and invitation for public comment will soon be publicly warned. Specifically in Mendon, a timber management plan would preserve oak stands and plant species with a better adaption of warmer climates. This is a large project with 11,000 acres of vegetation management. The recreation section identified improvements to the Canty trail opening up vista to enhance the trail and also connecting trails to the new regional Office scheduled to open in 2023. The town encourages the public to learn about the project.

*Traffic Ordinance* S. Tully provided an updated draft of the proposed amendments of the Traffic Ordinance will comments from Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner. The Selectboard discussed various stop signs and yield signs on public and private roads. B. Ellis and S. Tully will incorporate these changes for the next meeting. The Selectboard authorized posting 25 mph signs on Journeys End.

*Paving* S. Tully discussed the paving project on Sherwood Drive. The bid called for a paved swale from Helvi Hill Road to 636 Sherwood Drive. The result after paving is a slight grade off the road to a curb. S. Tully is concerned if icing in the winter and that the curb is not what the bid specifications identified as the scope of work. B. Ellis will contact the paving company.

*Lawnmower* B. Ellis provided quotes to replace the 2017 John Deere walk behind mower with a 2022 John Deere for \$6,960. The trade in value of the walk behind is \$3200. Motion by L. Courcelle to purchase a John Deere X570 with 48" deck for \$6,960 with a trade of the 2017 John Deere walk behind mower for \$3200 for a net expenditure of \$3200 to be paid out of the New Equipment replacement Fund. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

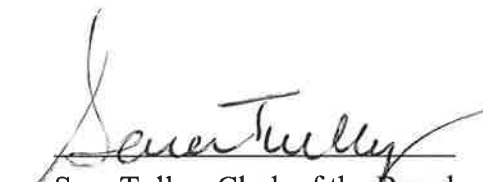
*Access Permits* S. Tully provided an overview of an Access Permit anticipated for Woodward Road. The legal trail portion of the road will be upgraded to access the property owned by Mark Price. B. Ellis will determine where the walking path is located within the 50' right of way and provide the approved location of opening up a 15-20' access to the Price Property. The legal trail will remain open to the public. The Price driveway which will access private property will be a turn off from the legal trail.

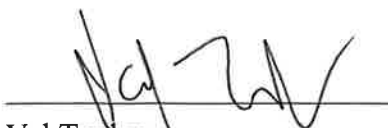
*Selectboard Meetings* V. Taylor will not be able to attend the meetings on 7/11 or 8/8. S. Tully will confirm a attendance by a quorum of the Board or will reschedule these meetings.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting 8:00 PM. Motion seconded by L. Courcelle. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved July 25, 2022

  
Larry Courcelle

  
Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

  
Val Taylor