

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

June 26, 2023

Members of Selectboard present: Val Taylor, Seth Bridge, Lisa Brooks

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

Visitors present: Rep. Jim Harrison, Dennis Charles

PEG TV was recording.

V. Taylor called to order at 5:35 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda with the tabling of the 6/21/23 minutes. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders in the amount for 6/26/23 for \$18,452.46 and payroll for 12,390.33.

Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the minutes of 6/12/23. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

Announcements

S. Tully reported the US Route 4 Corridor Scoping Study Local Concerns Meeting held June 21, 2023 at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission went very well and thank everyone who participated. VHB's presentation is posted on the website. Additional comments can be sent to Sara Tully at mendonadmin@comcast.net

Public Comment: None

Business

Rep. Jim Harrison provided a recap of the one day legislative session last week. Five vetoed bills were pushed through by overriding Gubernatorial vetoes and two were sent back to committee as they lacked the votes for an override. A total of seven bills were vetoed by Scott since May 12th. The eighth veto was on S.5 (Clean Heat) and that was overridden before the regular session adjourned. H.171 was amended to continue the motel voucher program through March 2024. The extension only applies to those currently receiving motel housing and establishes new guidelines for a transition to the end of the program with existing funding in the budget. H.158 also passed, which expands the bottle deposit system to water, wine and most drinks and juices. Governor Scott has issued concern over its impact on increasing recycling costs and may veto this bill. Rep. Harrison provided an overview of the vetoes the legislature overrode which was also summarized in his "One Day" legislative recap email to which he wrote:

"Recap of the vetoes the legislature overrode and enacted into law:

- H.494, the FY24 State Budget – Scott raised concern about the 13% overall increase in spending and the 20% increase in motor vehicle fees.
- H.217, expansion of childcare assistance – Scott objected to the new payroll tax on employers and employees of approximately \$100 million annually beginning July 2024. The Governor’s plan increased childcare support without new taxes and would have put Vermont tied for the top among states in assistance. Lawmakers and the advocacy group, Lets Grow Kids, wanted to go much further and needed a new tax to do so.
- H.305, Office of Professional Regulation – The Governor objected to the \$7 million increase in various professional and trade license fees. Lawmakers and the Secretary of State’s office believed increases were necessary to keep up with the costs of maintaining license programs.
- H.386, Brattleboro charter allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local elections and hold local offices. The Governor prefers statewide standards to who can vote and expressed concern over allowing 16-year-olds the ability to sign contracts for the town if they serve on the selectboard.
- H.509, Burlington charter allowing non-citizen residents to vote in local elections. Scott prefers statewide standards for voting qualifications.

Two bills apparently did not have enough votes in the Senate to override the Governor’s vetoes and were sent back to their respective committees for consideration next session. One was S.39, the legislative pay and benefit increase and the other was S.6, which added new restrictions to law enforcement interrogations for persons under 22.”

The July 31 revenue update from the State economists is of particular interest as forecasts have been below expectations.

The Selectboard thanked Rep. Harrison for attending the meeting and providing a thorough update.

Recreation Playground Project The Selectboard reviewed the amended playground quote from Miracle that removed purchasing mulch. Motion by V. Taylor to approve the amended Miracle quote for \$59,038.17 to purchase and install a playset. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

Rutland County Sheriff Contract FY24 V. Taylor and S. Tully met with Sheriff Fox to discuss the details of the contract. An overview was provided to the Selectboard. Motion by V. Taylor to approve the Rutland County Sheriff Contract for FY24 as presented. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Town Office Generator Contract Motion by V. Taylor to accept Rob Stubbins to purchase and install a generator at the Town Office. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed. The Selectboard signed the quote to purchase the generator.

Public Information Requests L. Brooks received a public information request that was sent to legal counsel for review. L. Brooks will respond to the request.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Date Approved _____

Val Taylor

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Lisa Brooks