

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

April 1, 2024

Members of Selectboard present: Val Taylor, Seth Bridge, Megan Smith

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Jesse Bridge, Clerk/Treasurer

Visitors present: Fred Bagley, Lisa and David Brooks, Brian and Carol Gates, Cort Jones, Ann Singiser

V. Taylor called to order at 5:00 PM.

Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda with deleting approval of 3/11 & 3/25 minutes from the agenda. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

2024-2025 Goals and Objectives were reviewed for development.

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for 3/25/24 for \$22,691.33 and 4/1/24 for \$68,713.86 and payroll for 3/18/24 for \$17,895.17 and 4/1/24 for \$17,893.20. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: Employment Opportunities: Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator

Selectboard Meeting Reschedule – the next Selectboard Meeting will be held on April 22nd at 5:30 PM

Public Comment: None

Business

Appointment of officers

V. Taylor moved to appoint Lema Carter Constable for two years ending 3/31/26. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed.

V. Taylor moved to clarify the term ending for the appointments of Jesse Bridge as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer effective until 3/31/26. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed.

V. Taylor moved to appoint:

Sara Hebert Tully, Road Commissioner Admin. for a term ending 3/31/25

Mary Ann Gaherty-Reich, Town Service Officer for a term ending 4/14/24

Dick Howe Planning Commission for a term ending 3/31/28
to clarify term ending for Dennis O'Connell, Planning Commission until 3/31/26 and Sarah Buxton, Planning Commission until 3/31/25
Justin Lindholm, Energy Committee for a term ending 3/31/28
Jack Kennelly, Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term ending 3/31/27
Jesse Bridge, Town Recreation Committee for a term ending 3/31/28
Jim Reddy Town Recreation Committee for a term ending 3/31/28
Val Taylor, Cemetery Commission for a term ending 3/31/25
Chris Baird, Cemetery Commission for a term ending 3/31/25
Dennis Charles, Cemetery Commission for a term ending 3/31/25
Larry Courcelle, Rutland Regional Planning Commission for a term ending 3/31/27
Lema Carter Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Val Taylor Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Seth Bridge, Route 4 Steering Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Larry Courcelle, Route 4 Steering Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Fred Bagley, Route 4 Steering Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Patti Lancaster, Route 4 Steering Committee for a term ending 3/31/25
Sara Tully, Route 4 Steering Committee for a term ending 3/31/25

Motion seconded by M. Smith. Discussion on the motion was conducted. S. Bridge questioned the procedure if someone disagreed with the appointment to the specific position and who makes the appointments. S. Tully clarified the motion can be amended and the Selectboard makes the motions, amendments and votes to approve the motions. Brian and Carol Gates requested Jack Kennelly not be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. They claimed that Mr. Kennelly lied and violated their constitutional rights and that they asked for his removal from the ZBA prior to their hearing. They continued stating that Mr. Kennelly stated that the ZBA had received an appeal that was submitted timely and complete which was inaccurate because the Town had not received payment for the appeal. No further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report The discussion as J. Bridge was detained assisting with technical difficulties at the Planning Commission Meeting.

Telephone Gap Project S. Tully provided a history and overview of the project. The Telephone Gap Project encompasses 72,000 acres of land between nine towns, one of which is Mendon. It is a forest and environmental rejuvenation project that spells out action plans for wildlife habitat, increased habitat diversity, soil restoration & watershed conditions, sustainable network of roads and trails, increased recreational opportunities and timber harvesting to provide wood products for local and regional economy while enhancing the forest health and diversity. The US Forest Service has issued their preliminary environmental assessment and is taking public comments. The public comment period ends April 8th. There is a map of Mendon that identifies new trails around the new forest building and a decommissioning of a trail that goes up through Blue Ridge Mountain. It also identifies new ski trails that will connect Mendon and Chittenden as well as identifies vista improvements in Mendon on hiking trails. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192>

Rutland Regional Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement The Selectboard reviewed. Motion by M. Smith to approve the Rutland Regional Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved.

Local Emergency Management Plan S. Tully provided an overview of the Local Emergency Management Plan. There were no questions. The LEMP is being prepared for adoption at the next meeting by Lema Carter, Emergency Management Director.

AOT Annual Financial Plan Motion by V. Taylor to adopt the Annual Financial Plan and certify that the Town spends at least \$300.00 per mile to maintain roads. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grants in Aid FY25 Letter of Intent M. Smith moved to authorize V. Taylor to submit the Letter of Intent to participate in the FY25 Grants in Aid Program. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 5:51 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Date Approved _____

Val Taylor

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Megan Smith