

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

July 22, 2024

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

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

Rutland County Sheriff Deputy Rider is present.

Visitors present: Brian and Carol Gates, Justin Lindholm

V. Taylor called to order at 5:34 PM at the Town Office.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda with the addition of a driveway access permit.

Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the minutes for 6/24/24. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed members present at the meeting on 6/24/24.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the minutes for 7/9/24. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed. The motion passed members present at the meeting on 7/9/24.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for \$2,1576.55. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for \$461.75. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve payroll for \$11,782.14. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcements:

Employment Opportunities: Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator

The play structure has been installed at the Mendon Recreation Area on South Mendon Road. The Recreation Area is open from all dawn to dusk.

Public Comment:

Justin Lindholm, a member of the Mendon Planning Commission, informed the Selectboard that the property adjacent to the Town Garage property is being developed and that the access from Cedar Lane is close to the property line. It is difficult to determine in a 300-foot section where the property line is located. M. Smith will contact the property owner to request identify the property line and will request a site visit be set up with Road Commissioner, Chris Baird. B. Gates asked why we did not require a survey. S. Bridge responded that there is a survey, but the line needs to be clearly marked based on the survey. B. Gates claimed that last year the town requested that he conduct a survey for his neighbor's driveway.

B. Gates stated that he sent in a claim against a woodshed owned by Gordon Stakes that didn't have a permit but then he did have a permit but he lied on the permit. B. Gates claimed the Selectboard made him move a container on his property that was within 50 feet of the road. Gordon Stakes' building is within 50 feet of the road Mr. Gates said Zoning Administrator Steve Ellerin told him but he will not violate him. Mr. Gates demanded to know why and wanted to know why the Selectboard won't violate his neighbor's driveway that's ruining his property and the towns which is a clear violation of section 402. He accused the town of discrimination and nepotism. V. Taylor responded that the Selectboard is not the Zoning Administrator, and she would relay the information to Steve Ellerin. S. Bridge responded that the town is in the process of addressing the neighbor's driveway.

Business

FY24 Financials and Set the 2024-2025 Tax Rate S. Tully and J. Bridge evaluated the FY24 year end financials to make a recommendation to the Selectboard on how to utilize the surplus. The Town Administrator and Treasurer recommended a cash forward of \$28,691 and retain \$30,000 in excess highway funds. The Selectboard discussed the year end financials in detail.

Motion by V. Taylor to set the municipal Tax rate at \$.4823 which sets the Homestead Rate at \$1.9562 and the Non-Residential Rate at \$2.0328. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Employee evaluations and salaries – Motion by V. Taylor to enter executive session at 6:08 PM to discuss employee evaluations per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) with the Selectboard and S. Tully present. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 6:37 PM

Motion by V. Taylor to set the rate of pay for the Town Administrator at \$30.67 as a result of annual review effective July 1, 2024. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Joy Hatfield's 90-day review will be conducted by J. Bridge and M. Smith.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 6:40 PM. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed.

Date Approved _____

Val Taylor

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Megan Smith