

## Selectboard

## Town of Mendon

December 9, 2024

Members of Selectboard present: Megan Smith, Seth Bridge

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator

Rutland County Sheriff Deputy is present.

Visitors present: Fred and Jennifer Bagley, Sarah Buxton, Dennis Charles, Brian and Carol Gates, Oliver Olsen, Ann and Steve Singiser.

M. Smith called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: No additions or deletions to the agenda.

### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed.

Motion by M. Smith to approve orders for \$74,529.03. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by M. Smith to approve the minutes for 12/6/24. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*FY24 Audit* S. Tully reported the FY24 audit has not been finalized. Jesse, Bridge, Treasurer, will distribute as soon as the audit is received.

Motion by M. Smith to approve and sign the amendment for the BRIC grant for the Local

Hazard Mitigation Plan update to extend the reporting period deadline. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by M. Smith to approve payroll of \$15,571.52. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcements: None

Public Comment:

Caol Gates sent a letter to Interim Zoning Administrator regarding a violation. It came to their attention in 2023 in Environmental Court that the driveway culvert at 33 Terra Lane had failed causing stormwater to go under Terra Lane and onto their property at 100 Terra Lane. She stated that Road Commissioner Chris Baird ordered the property owner Mr. Stake to make the repairs but instead the Town completed the repairs. Mrs. Gates requested a copy of the invoice of what it cost the Town. She requested a copy of the contract with Mr. Stakes and a detailed explanation sent to her.

Brian Gates addressed the Selectboard regarding the same culvert that was repaired [driveway culvert]. The Town violated their own ordinance diverting stormwater onto his property. The culvert [cross culvert on Terra Lane] is right in the middle of his lot as it has been for the last 20 years. He stated that he does not see where anywhere else in town where a culvert puts water directly on someone else's property. He stated the water from the culvert is destroying his property. A clear violation of 4027. No one does anything about it. I also put in two complaints on July 9<sup>th</sup> that still have not been answered and we put in a permit on 100 Terra Lane which still has not been posted so after 30 days its approved. Mr. Gates asked why it is not posted on the website that he has a permit. S. Bridge stated that was a Zoning question. Mr. Gates demanded to start his 2 minutes again and continued to demand answers from the Selectboard and to have the Interim Zoning Administrator call him. M. Smith stated his 2 minutes were completed. S. Bridge clarified with Mr. Gates that the culvert he is complaining about that was just replaced was a driveway culvert. Mr. Gates agreed and stated that culvert directs water to a cross culvert that puts water on his property. M. Smith directed Mr. Gates to call the town employees to discuss the issue with them outside of this meeting.

M. Smith ended public comment.

Business:

*Animal Control Ordinance* M. Smith stated the State has increased the amount for permitting dog licenses. The Animal Control Ordinance was last adopted in 1995, and the town intends on taking a comprehensive look at the ordinance with Rod MacCuaig, Animal Control Officer and follow procedure to update the ordinance. M. Smith explained that the fees will be collected at the new rates and reimburse people if the ordinance did not pass.

*Selectboard appointment* Motion by M. Smith to appoint Sarah Buxton to the Selectboard to serve until March 2025. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The Selectboard welcomed S. Buxton and asked her to stop in the office to complete the paperwork and take the oath of office.

*ARPA Funds* M. Smith recapped that the town must be under contract by the end of December 2024 on what projects ARPA is funding. There were a few projects obligated that we will not meet this contractual deadline. Therefore, the Town has reprioritized the projects. Motion by M. Smith to revoke the obligated funds for Highway Improvement for \$50,000 and the Town Garage water system for \$1,400. The Town is going to obligate funds for Speed feedback signs for \$10,000, the F600 Truck with the dump body for \$122,000, digitization of town records for \$16,906 and vault upgrades for \$15,000. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*2025-2026 Budget Discussion* M. Smith reported that the budget work is ongoing and is about 85% complete. The Selectboard is still gathering information from department heads. S. Tully clarified that we are looking for additional information for the Public Safety Budget as well as the reserve funds.

*2025 Town Meeting* M. Smith stated that the Selectboard will be reaching out to the new federal forest office building to see if they would host the Town Meeting. The Town has also utilized

the VTRANS Building in the past. The new Open Meeting Law requires the Town to record the meeting which the town will do with the OWL system.

M. Smith moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 5:50 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Megan Smith

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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Seth Bridge