

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

July 13, 2015

Members of the Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Geoff Wells

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Nancy Gondella, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Residents and Visitors present: Richard Wilcox, resident

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

Additions/deletions to the Agenda Motion by L. Courcelle to add to the agenda Mendon Recreation, McLaughlin Falls Road Update, Sale of Truck #3 to the agenda. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed and signed.

2014-2015 Financials N. Gondella provided a review of the 2014-2015 year end financials.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of June 8, 2015 and June 22, 2015. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Business

Selectboard Vacancy Dick Wilcox expressed interest to fill the vacant seat on the Selectboard. The Selectboard had a brief discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the Selectboard. Motion by L. Courcelle to appoint Dick Wilcox to the Selectboard until the next election. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. D. Wilcox will become an active member of the board as soon as he has taken the oath of office administered by the Town Clerk.

Set 2015-2016 Tax Rates Motion by L. Courcelle to set the 2015-2016 tax rates:

Homestead = \$1.8298	Non-Residential = \$2.0097
(\$0.5243+\$1.3045+\$0.0010)	(\$0.5243+\$1.4844+\$0.0010)

Municipal Tax Rate: \$0.5243

2015-2016 Amount to be raised by taxes	\$927,232
2015-2016 Municipal Grand List	\$1,768,512

Education Tax Rate:

Homestead = \$1.3045
Non-Residential = \$1.4844

Local Agreement Tax: \$.0010
 Eligible properties (6)
 Voter approved Property Assessment Exemption \$30,000 = 180,000/100
 Total Exemption \$1,800
 2015-2016 Municipal Grand List \$1,768,512

Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

2015-2016 Summary:

Municipal Tax Rate= \$.0106 decrease or 2.0% decrease

Education Tax Rate:

Homestead = \$1.3045 a \$.1117 increase or 9.3% increase

Non-Residential = \$1.4844 a \$.0433 increase or 3.0% increase

Total Homestead = \$.1010 increase or 5.8% increase

Total Non-Residential = \$.0326 increase or 1.6% increase

Computer Replacement Schedule N. Gondella presented a computer equipment inventory and discussed the replacement schedule. Recent purchases replaced the computers used by the Highway and Zoning Departments. This information will be used to help budget funds from the New Office Equipment Fund.

Jim Jeffords Forest S. Tully reported that the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation is looking for a letter of support for the transfer of private land to the State of Vermont to create the Jim Jeffords State Forest. The Jim Jeffords State Forest would connect the Aiken State Forest to the Coolidge State Forest. G. Wells has discussed Mendon's goal with Mark Goodwin, Shrewsbury Town Clerk, to ensure emergency access from the town of Mendon to the town of Shrewsbury through the private land that the State of Vermont wishes to acquire. Additional concerns to Mendon include increased traffic on the legal trail currently used as the primary access to this section of town after TS Irene destroyed the Notch Road and proposed parking. The town spent \$90,000 with help from FEMA to provide emergency access on the legal trail after TS Irene destroyed the Notch Road. The town spent an additional \$30,000 to allow for safer access on the trail after it was determined not to be cost effective to repair the Notch Road. Increased traffic will impact this roadway.

Salt Shed The town is researching appropriate salt shed structures by contacting municipalities that have recently constructed salt sheds. B. Howard is conducting this research and S. Tully requested he provide information for this meeting. He did not provide an update prior to the meeting. B. Ellis will work with P. Douglas to discuss alternative structures and best use design for all structures at the Town Garage property.

Animal Control: Burns Violation #2 The second violation was sent Ms. Burns did not send in a request to appeal. To date Ms. Burns has not paid either fine associated with the violations.

Truck #3 For Sale The 2007 Ford F-550 XLT 6.0L V8 Diesel, 5 speed automatic transmission, 4.88 limited slip differential, air conditioning, AM/FM/CD radio, 9'6" Fisher Extreme V stainless plow, Tenco side dump body with driver side conveyer & spinner, oil coated annually

77,000 miles (approximately), 5512 Hours, \$25,000, AS IS with no warranties expressed or implied, Contact Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, 802-773-4402.

Proposed Mendon Town Green Chris Blanchard, an attorney that resides in Mendon has agreed to assist the town to determine if the Route 4 property can be used for the Mendon Town Green. Mr. Blanchard has been authorized by the Selectboard to contact the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation on Mendon's behalf.

Mendon Recreation Field L. Courcelle reported that he mowed the ballfield with his lawn mower this past week. P. Douglas had volunteered to mow and was unavailable to mow the past few weeks. The recreation lawn mower needs to be serviced. L. Courcelle and B. Ellis will get it serviced at Walker Mountain. There is a new lock on the shed that Dave Glead from the Barstow Youth Club put on. S. Tully will contact M. McLaughlin to determine who has keys to the shed.

Tax Abatement Request Town attorney Chris Corsones contacted the Selectboard for direction regarding a request he received from Attorney Norman Cohen concerning a request for tax abatement for the commercial property owned by Ross Almo on Route 4. S. Tully responded to C. Corsones that the Almo's would need to submit a request for tax abatement to the Board of Abatement in which the Selectboard are only members of. The request should be sent to the Town Clerk and request a hearing before the Board of Abatement stating reasons why the taxes should be abated.

Evaluations/Salary Motion by L. Courcelle to enter Executive Session at 8:15 PM to discuss personnel with the Selectboard, S. Tully and N. Gondella present. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The chair declared the board out of executive session at 8:40 PM. The Selectboard provided N. Gondella with direction for the employees hourly rates effective 7/1/15.

There being no further business, L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:42 PM. The motion carried.

Date approved _____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully- Clerk

Geoff Wells