

**Minutes of the Mendon Town Meeting**  
**Monday, March 5, 2012**  
**Mendon Mountainview Lodge**

Moderator Christopher Corsones called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM, and thanked Brian & Stacy Metivier for once again hosting our meeting.

After leading the pledge of allegiance, he turned over the meeting to James Eckhardt, State Representative for a legislative update.

He indicated the Legislature is off to a slow start, largely due to the impact of Hurricane Irene statewide. He credited Jan Sotirakis for her extraordinary efforts during the storm and discussed his House resolution he drafted in her honor.

The Governor's budget reduced \$27M to the Education Fund. The reapportionment efforts resulted in no change to our legislative district. Immunization bill that would remove philosophical exemption for parents was passed by the Senate, and now in Eckhardt's committee (Health & Welfare). He does not support the bill in its current form.

At 6:25pm, the School Board portion of the meeting commenced and adjourned at 7:15PM.

The meeting resumed at 7:16PM.

**Article 1 - Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to acquire by gift or purchase, land for municipal forest, to produce wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water supplies, provide forest recreation, and for conservation education purposes?**

Discussion began that this is a standard article. John Haley moved the question, and Cort Jones seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Article 2 - Shall the Town create a fiduciary fund for the purpose of saving, investing and disbursing monies designated for Tropical Storm Irene Expenses. Such fund designations will be determined by the voters of the Town of Mendon, and specific expenditures will be determined by the Board of Selectmen; investment income and interest earned will be retained by the fiduciary fund?**

Brief discussion about the mechanics of the fund, and that is merely temporary until the FEMA and State reimbursements are received. Also, there was discussion about non-FEMA projects such as Bridge 11, etc.

Motion to approve by Greg Smith and seconded by Justin Lindholm.

**Article 3 - To see what compensation the Town will vote for its officers, but permit the Selectmen, at their discretion, to set the hourly rate.**

Discussion ensued concerning several positions within the Administrative, Community Infrastructure and Public Safety portions of the Budget were discussed.

First, the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions were discussed. The Selectboard proposed a new position named "Office Manager and Bookkeeper," who will now perform the duties that the Selectboard believes that the Clerk/Treasurer's office used to do on behalf of their office per their review of the Vermont Statutes. The Selectboard also noted that they were acting as a result of some suggested guidance from the State Auditor's office concerning segregation of duties within offices.

Additionally, the Clerk and Treasurer would receive a stipend, with a budgeted amount that they would use to their statutory duties.

Cort Jones felt that the distinction was unnecessary, and would lead to potential problems concerning roles and duties of these now different positions within such a small office.

Ann Singiser spoke in favor of the plan, and believed that the plan is fair and balances out the roles and responsibilities of all of the parties and does not usurp the power of the Clerk & Treasurer.

Jeff Bradley echoed the concerns of Cort Jones, and did feel that the changes could easily usurp the power of the offices. He also stated that he felt the suggestions of the Auditor's office did not apply to the case in hand as we have very good internal controls.

Jeff Bradley then made a motion to reallocate the items as he submitted to the Selectboard, which would be \$40,950 for the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, \$12,000 to the Town Clerk and \$5,550 to the Town Treasurer.

Motion to approve amendment by Jeff Bradley, seconded by Jeanne Bradley. Motion failed.

Discussion followed regarding the allocation of the Road Commissioner salary into an administrative piece to it, as well as the Constable and Director of Public Safety (DPS) will receive a stipend for their duties. The DPS is an appointed position, and the Constable is an elected position.

There was no discussion concerning those positions.

**Article 4 - To see if the Town will vote the Administrative portion of the budget to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town.**

Motion to combine Articles 3 & 4 made by Tom Soriano, and seconded by Cort Jones. Motion carried.

**Article 5 - To see if the Town will vote the Community Infrastructure portion of the budget to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town.**

Larry Courcelle of the Selectboard did a brief presentation concerning the condition of the Salt Shed and its needed repairs.

Discussion concerning the Equipment Replacement (Page 20 of town report) ensued. Questions about useful lives, trade-in values and condition of Truck 1 were discussed. No new action as a result of the discussion. Tracy Adams also did a brief presentation concerning the \$45,000 in improvements at the recreation field on South Mendon Road

Motion to approve by Bert Winans, seconded by Cort Jones. Motion carried.

**Article 6 - To see if the Town will vote the Public Safety portion of the budget to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town.**

Motion to approve by John Haley, and seconded by Jane Ross.

**Article 7 - Shall the Town appropriate \$525 for BROCC- Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?**

Steve Singiser addressed the crowd. It appears that the Boys and Girls Club petition for a \$1,000 request was not submitted in time, and he hoped that the voters would consider their request. Millie Steingress and John Haley were concerned about the precedent that allowing this motion to continue. Steve believes they provide vital services to our overall community.

Motion to combine the Boys and Girls Club request with Article 7 moved by Steve Singiser and seconded by Jane Ross. Motion carried, with show of hands.

**Article 8 - Shall the Town appropriate \$230 for RSVP and The Volunteer Center?**

Motion to approve by Wanda Courcelle, and seconded by Gerhard Sihler. Motion carried.

**Article 9 - Shall the Town appropriate \$2,600 for the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?**

Motion to approve by Helen Lawrence, and seconded by Justin Lindholm. Motion carried.

**Article 10 - Shall the Town appropriate \$1,242 for Rutland Mental Health Services formerly Rutland Area Community Services?**

Motion to approve by Jane Ross, and seconded by Rheba Haley. Motion carried.

**Article 11 - Shall the Town appropriate \$1,200 for the Marble Valley Regional Transit District's ("The Bus") public transit service within the Town of Mendon upon the condition that any cessation of business during the fiscal year shall cause funding to cease accordingly?**

Rheba Haley asked whether the Bus is self-sustaining, and if they charge user fees. Their representative stated that charge Killington employee riders \$.50, \$.25 if disabled (plus they have a contract with Killington), and they receive a variety of State and Federal funding. Ann Singiser added that they were a huge help during Irene.

Motion to approve by Leo Lawrence, and seconded by Elaine Latzky. Motion carried, with show of hands.

**Article 12 - Shall the Town appropriate \$400 for The Southwestern Council on Aging?**

Motion to approve by Gerhard Sihler, and seconded by Lynn Sandage. Motion carried,

**Article 13 - To elect all necessary Town Officers.**

Chris Corsones confirmed with the Town Clerk that the pools are open from 8AM to 7PM March 6, 2012 to elect the Officers by Australian Ballot.

There are 3 candidates for the Town Clerk position: Susan Adams, Steven Cosgrove and Gail Buck, who is a write in candidate.

**Article 14 - To transact any other legal business.**

Lynn Sandage wished to speak about current geopolitical issues. The Moderator ruled that the discussion did not fall into the scope of Mendon business.

Neil Langer began a discussion about Citizens United Supreme Court decision, and the Moderator ruled to void his argument. There was a challenge to void the ruling, but the motion failed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Smith, Selectboard Chair

Christopher Corsones, Moderator

Jeffrey Bradley, Town Clerk