

# Town of Mendon

## Selectboard

December 9, 2019

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells, Scott Bradley

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Phil Douglas, Constable, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner

Visitors present: Preston Rich, Chittenden Selectboard

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: R. Wilcox moved to accept the agenda with the addition of the Holiday Appreciation Dinner. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed and signed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard approved the motion. Motion by G. Wells to approve the minutes of November 25, 2019. Motion seconded by R. Wilcox. The Selectboard approved the motion.

### Business

*Barstow Generator* Preston Rich from the Chittenden Selectboard asked if Mendon would help contribute to the cost of safety upgrades for the generator located at Barstow. The generator was installed in 2016 with funds from a FEMA grant and private donations in order for the school to be used as an emergency shelter. The Town of Chittenden has been paying the maintenance and expenses on the generator for the past 3 years. Mr. Rich reported the annual maintenance has been \$860 per year and the internet has been an additional \$30 per month. The electrical upgrades for safety purposes is \$3,000. The Chittenden Selectboard is asking the Mendon Selectboard to pay half of this bill totaling \$1,500. The Mendon Selectboard requested the Barstow Unified Union School District also contribute to the cost of the generator. Mr. Rich will bring this request to the Chittenden Board at their meeting this evening.

*Small Farm Exemptions for Growing and Processing Hemp* The Selectboard will send a letter to Jim Harrison requesting he support an amendment to current law that would eliminate the small lot exemption for growing and processing hemp in residential zoning districts due to the pungent odor of growing and processing hemp. The Mendon Selectboard would also like the legislature to look into the contamination of public and private septic systems as well as groundwater from the byproduct of processed hemp. The Selectboard will also send a copy of the letter to other towns in Rep. Harrison's district.

*Social Media Policy* Jesse Bridge submitted a Social Media Policy that was created using

VLCT's model policy and recommended the Selectboard adopt the policy. R. Wilcox moved to adopt the Mendon Social Media Policy. The motion was seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. J. Bridge will create a Town of Mendon, VT Facebook page and encourage all interested parties to "like" the page in order to receive notification of current local government information.

*Budget 2020-2021* The Rutland County Sheriff submitted an increase of 14% to the contract. This would increase the law enforcement staff line item by \$9,811. The Computer Services line item increased by \$3,540 because NEMRC increased their fees.

*AT&T Wireless Communications Facility* The Mendon Planning Commission received notification of an AT&T tower to be installed within the Ridgeline protection overlay district. Motion by S. Bradley to authorize R. Wilcox to hire representation to interpret the statute and how this application conforms with Mendon's Telecommunication Bylaws and Ridgeline Protection District. Motion seconded by G. Wells. The motion carried.

*Rutland County Sheriff Contract* The Town has received \$7,000 in revenue from the law enforcement. This is far less than budgeted. The Rutland County Sheriff submitted a 14% contract increase or \$9,811. The Selectboard will direct Treasurer, Nancy Gondella to try and find out what is going on with the revenue from the State of Vermont.

*Roadside Mower* The Town of Rutland submitted a Memo of Understanding regarding the purchase, use and maintenance of a Roadside Mower intended to be a joint purchase with Rutland Town and Mendon. The Selectboard will review and make comments. Mendon's budget for this purchase is approximately \$25,000 to be paid for out of the New Equipment Reserve Fund.

There being no further business, G. Wells moved to adjourn at 7:10 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. Motion carried.

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

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Richard Wilcox

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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Geoff Wells