

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

April 11, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor, Bryan Sell

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer, Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk and Treasurer

Visitors present: Ed Bove- Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Patty Lancaster and Teri Corsones, Mendon on the Move, Brian Gates

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

Agenda: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda with the addition of Emergency Management Dispatching Services and to delete the consideration for approval of the liquor license for Flannels bar and Grill. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcement

State of Vermont Inclusion Week May 8th – May 14th

Mendon's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Town Office, 2:30 PM. This meeting is expected to be a hybrid meeting with some members participating remotely.

RRPC Community Committee with review Mendon's Enhanced Energy Plan. This meeting is scheduled to be an in person meeting on April 19, 2022 at 7 PM at the RRPC. The Community Committee will review for an affirmative determination of energy compliance. The regional approval of the Town Plan from 2020 will remain as this was an amendment, not a total readoption and the 8 year effective date will remain the same with an expiration date of 2028.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for 4/11/22 in the amount of \$1,253,243.66 and 1,800.00 and payroll for 3/22/22 for \$9,624.12. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

2022-2023 Goals and Objectives The Selectboard reviewed the 2022-2023 Goals and Objectives and S. Tully provided an update regarding some project status.

Clerk/Treasurer Report N. Gondella reported the Governor signed into the new districts from Reapportionment. Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield comprise the new district. There will be new tabulators for elections and training is May 5th that N. Gondella and J. Bridge will attend. Mendon will be participating in the Vermont Homeowner's Assistance Program. Dog Licenses were due April 1st and currently there are 83 dogs registered. Last year, Mendon sent out two extra postcards reminding residents it is a law that they must register their dog. The Selectboard agreed to send a notice reminding all owners that we registered last year to re-register their dogs. The Selectboard also approved a post card mailing to register your dog. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is offering the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP) to provide help for homeowners who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19. This can include assistance with property taxes. The town has received payment from this program for one property in Mendon so far.

Update YTD financials N. Gondella provided year to date financials for the Selectboard to review and summarized expected surpluses and deficits.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 3/28/22. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Liquor Control Board

Motion by L. Courcelle to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting until after the Liquor Control Board Meeting and to call the Liquor Control Board Meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by L. Courcelle approve Liquor licenses for Suisse Chalet d/b/a Countryman's Pleasure at 63 Townline Road and Mountain View Hospitality d/b/a The Vermont Inn at 78 Cream Hill Road. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by L. Courcelle to adjourn the Liquor Control Board Meeting at 5:40 PM and called the Selectboard Meeting to order again. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment None

Business

ARPA Motion by B. Sell to elect to take the Standard Allowance for the funds distributed from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF, aka ARPA) which will total \$302,214.22. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Declaration of Inclusion Implementation - Inclusion Week Events – May 8th – May 14th S. Tully provided an outline for implementation of the Declaration of Inclusion submitted by Al Wakefield. The Selectboard reviewed the outline and identified tasks to be implemented by Inclusion Week May 8th-May 14th.

Mendon on the Move: Village Center Designation P. Lancaster and T. Corsones presented an application for Village Center Designation and requested approval from the Selectboard to submit to the Downtown Board. E. Bove, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, was present and answered questions regarding the approval process. The town would benefit by having a Village Center Designation by receiving credit on grant applications. Property owners in the Village Center Designation may be eligible for state programs to enhance their properties. The Village Center Designation is not a regulatory tool. If approved the designation would be effective for 8 years. Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the submission of the Village Center Designation application to the Downtown Board for approval. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Infrastructure Projects S. Tully provided an overview of the status of infrastructure projects and grant applications.

Brian Gates arrived approximately 6:50 PM

The Town of Mendon was awarded the Transportation Alternative Grant for a scoping study of Route 4 safety. L. Courcelle moved to sign the Transportation Alternative Grant paperwork. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

B. Gates spoke out multiple times rendering his opposition of the Selectboards discussion or voicing his own opinions.

Landscaping to Support Ukraine S. Tully provided information on a non-profit organization named Vermont Plants Sunflowers for Ukraine. The organization is requesting each municipality in VT plant sunflowers to support Ukraine. More information can be found at www.vtsunflowers4ukraine.org. S. Tully suggested \$100 from the landscaping fund be used to plant sunflowers and an advertisement will be posted on social media looking for volunteers to help and small signs be placed identifying the cause for planting sunflowers. Mr. Gates spoke out of order asking if the town was going to support Russia with \$100. Motion by L. Courcelle to spend \$100 from the landscaping budget to plant sunflowers to support Ukraine. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

L. Courcelle addressed B. Gates stating Public Comment was earlier on the agenda and that is when he has an opportunity to address the Selectboard. B. Gates demanded minutes from last year's 9.5 hours of Executive Sessions be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The town has responded Mr. and Mrs. Gates public information requests. B. Gates disagreed loudly raising his voice and talking over the Chair trying to bring order to the meeting. B. Gates was asked to leave the meeting as the next subject the Board will entertain a motion to go into Executive Session. B. Gates stormed out of the building.

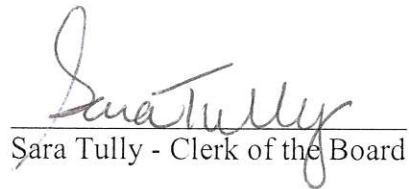
Reappraisal Update Motion by L. Courcelle to enter Executive Session at 7:26 PM in accordance with 1 V.S.A. 313 (1)(f) with the Selectboard and S. Tully present. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

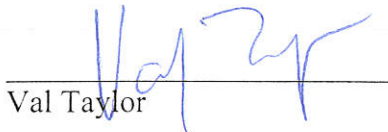
Emergency Management Dispatching Services S. Tully provided an update regarding the State's discussion of eliminating dispatching services for the Town of Mendon. The Town of Rutland distributed a letter stating a regional meeting was conducted to support a regional dispatching center. The Town of Mendon was not invited to participate in a regional meeting although Mendon is a community impacted by the elimination of the state providing dispatch services. S. Tully was asked to find out more information from Rutland Town.

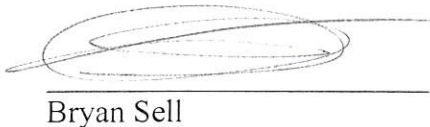
B. Sell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved 04/25/2022


Larry Courcelle


Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board


Val Taylor


Bryan Sell