

Town of Mendon

July 25, 2022

Selectboard

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: Brian Gates

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM at the Town Office.

Agenda: Motion by L. Courcelle to approve the agenda with the addition of 170 Terra Lane driveway issue and Eastridge Circle. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. S. Tully requested these subjects be added at the beginning of the agenda. The Selectboard approved.

Announcement

Bauer_Neisner has left the RRPC, Steffanie Bourque will remain the town's contact for emergency management.

7/26/22 RRPC sponsored training on hot weather emergency planning.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is at the midway point.

Added Agenda Items

170 Terra Lane S. Tully reported that in recent rain storms the driveway of 170 Terra Lane had washed into the roadway, plugged the catch basin, washed across the Gates' driveway at 166 Terra Lane and is filling the ditch with gravel. B. Ellis reported the driveway has been an issue in the past and maintenance is an ongoing issue. B. Ellis and S. Tully drafted a letter to the property owners requiring immediate maintenance of their driveway to eliminate the issue. The Selectboard reviewed and approved the letter. B. Gates asked when B. Ellis was going to clean up the road. B. Ellis will address what is needed to protect the road.

B. Sell left the meeting to obtain a GoPro to tape the meeting on his own accord for his personal use. B. Gates followed B. Sell out of the meeting. B. Sell returned to the meeting followed by B. Gates. An argument ensued between B. Sell and B. Gates. B. Sell claiming B. Gates went outside to intimidate his wife who delivered the GoPro and B. Gates claiming he left the meeting to get some air. The Chair declared the argument out of order and gained control of the meeting. B. Gates continued to disrupt the meeting moving his seat location multiple times including infringing upon the space of Sara Tully, Clerk of the Selectboard Meeting, the only member of the meeting seated at a separate table, socially distant and wearing a mask. S. Tully moved her seat away from B. Gates multiple times while still trying to take minutes of the meeting. B. Gates continued to disrupt the meeting yelling at the Selectboard about his driveway, demanding when the town is going to clean up the road,

interrupting the discussion about the Access Permit on Eastridge Circle, accusing the town of redirecting water, demanding why the town doesn't videotape all their meetings and claiming it is a violation of state statute, demanding why the property owners of the Access Permit on Eastridge Circle aren't being served a violation. The Chair repeatedly instructed B. Gates to be quiet.

Eastridge Circle B. Ellis reported the property owners replaced a culvert and paved the driveway without obtaining an approved Access Permit. In May, B. Ellis was contacted about the driveway culvert replacement and he discussed the need for the culvert to be installed lower in the ditch line to promote drainage through the development. S. Tully provided a brief description of the water issues on this side of the neighborhood due to inadequate drainage across flat topography. B. Ellis and S. Tully drafted a letter to the property owners requiring an approved Access Permit and remedial action. The Selectboard approved the letter. B. Ellis will contact the property owner.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by L. Courcelle to approve orders for 7/25/22 \$10,323.34 and \$2,434.00 and payroll for 7/23/22 for \$10,728.46. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 6/27/22 as presented. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. L. Courcelle and V. Taylor approved the motion. L. Courcelle moved to approve the minutes of 7/11/22 as presented. Motion seconded by B. Sell. L. Courcelle and B. Sell approved the motion.

Public Comment

The Chair asked B. Gates if he had anything to say under public comment. B. Gates claimed B. Sell verbally assaulted him twice in the previous conversation. B. Sell asked B. Gates why he left the meeting to go outside and he responded to get some air. B. Sell claimed he followed his wife into the parking lot and stared her down while she went to her car. B. Gates denied this and asked why the Town of Mendon was not taping this meeting. B. Gates accused his neighbor (referring to Lisa Swett's property) of an old failed well depositing water onto his property. The Selectboard informed B. Gates that wells are regulated by the State, not the Town of Mendon. B. Gates demanded contact information for the State. The Selectboard did not have this information readily available to him and instructed him to contact the Agency of Natural Resources. V. Taylor repeatedly asked B. Gates to sit down and to "stop". B. Sell warned B. Gates that using a third party to harass someone that has a protective order against him is a violation of the protective order. B. Gates left the meeting after Public Comment.

Business

2022-2023 Tax Rate N. Gondella provided an overview of the FY22 year-end financials that results in a \$255,000 surplus. L. Courcelle, N. Gondella and S. Tully proposed rolling \$140,000 of the surplus to offset taxes, retaining \$97,000 in unspent highway funds to deposit in the Highway Improvement Fund and to consider asking the voters at Town Meeting in March to deposit the remaining \$18,000 in the Mendon Economic Development Fund. The Selectboard approved the proposal.

Motion made by L. Courcelle to set the 2022-2023 Tax Rates at:

2022/2023 Tax Rate:

Homestead = \$1.6057
($$.3744 + \$1.2305 + $.0008$)

Non-Residential = \$1.6602
($$.3744 + \$1.2850 + $.0008$)

Municipal Tax Rate: \$.3744

2022-2023 Amount to be raised by taxes \$900,653 (rollover \$48,000 FY21, \$140,000 FY22)

2022-2023 Municipal Grand List \$2,405,726

Education Tax Rate:

Homestead = \$1.2305

Non-Residential = \$1.2850

2022-2023 Summary:

Municipal Tax Rate = \$.0229 decrease or 6% decrease

Education Tax Rate:

Homestead = \$1.2305 a \$.0727 increase or 6.3% increase

Non-Residential = \$1.2850 a \$.0609 increase or 5% increase

Total Homestead = \$.068 increase or 4.4% increase

Total Non-Residential = \$.0562 increase or 3.5% increase

Local Agreement Tax: \$.0008

Eligible properties (5)

Total Exemption \$1,845

2022-2023 Municipal Grand List \$2,405,726

and to retain \$97,000 of unspent highway funds to deposit in the Highway Improvement Fund. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Paving Issue B. Ellis reported that T. Fuller has not had a chance to look at the issue. V. Taylor provided pictures after a recent strong rainstorm. B. Ellis reported water from the road went into two driveways. Issue tabled until the next meeting.

Access Permit Woodward Road The conditions that B. Ellis put on the Access Permit for Mark price were discussed. The removal and value of multiple large trees in the right of way were discussed. The Selectboard instructed B. Ellis to get more information regarding the value of the trees, if any. The Access Permit was approved and clearing of the town's right of way to the Price property will start in the next few weeks.

Constable Training L. Carter requested \$720 to attend a tactical training. He requested \$500 from the Constable Training Budget and \$120 from the Continuing Education Budget. The selectboard approved the request.

Infrastructure Update S. Tully provided an overview on all infrastructure projects.

Traffic Ordinance Review and Adoption The Selectboard completed the review of the Traffic ordinance. Motion by L. Courcelle to adopt the Traffic Ordinance. Motion seconded by B. Sell. The Selectboard

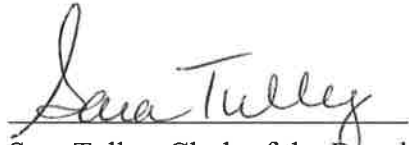
unanimously approved the motion. S. Tully will publish notice in the newspaper and post in 5 places in town. Voters may petition for the ordinance to go to town vote by filing a petition signed by 5% of the voters with the Town Clerk on or before September 8, 2022. The ordinance will go into effect 60 days from the adoption on September 23, 2022. A full text of the Traffic Ordinance can be viewed at the Town Office at 2282 US Route 4, Mendon VT or at www.mendonvt.org.

Zoning Administrator Review S. Tully reported the 90 day review for Susannah Loffredo, Zoning Administrator was completed with input from the Selectboard, Planning Commission and office staff. Motion by L. Courcelle to increase the hourly rate of the Zoning Administrator to \$18.90/hr. effective July 1, 2022. Motion seconded by B. Sell The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

B. Sell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved Aug 8, 2022


Larry Courcelle


Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Val Taylor


Bryan Sell