

## Town of Mendon

### Selectboard

July 24, 2023

Members of Selectboard present: Val Taylor, Seth Bridge, Lisa Brooks

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

Visitors present: Ann Singiser, Dennis Charles, Rutland County Deputy Sheriff Delance

PEG TV was recording.

V. Taylor called to order at 5:37 PM at the Town Office.

The pledge of allegiance.

#### Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

#### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for 7/24/23 for \$30,788.41 and payroll for 7/24/23 for \$11,501.72

Motion by V. Taylor to approve 7/13/23 minutes. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Motion by S. Bridge to approve the minutes for 6/21/23 Special Meeting for US Route 4 Local Concerns Meeting. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Announcements None

Public Comment: None

#### Business

*Set the 2023-2024 Tax Rate* N. Gondella confirmed the FY23 surplus is \$172,000. \$96,000 of the surplus is unspent highway funds. She recommended retaining \$76,000 of the highway funds and rolling \$96,000 forward to reduce the amount raised in taxes for FY24. This would result in a municipal tax rate of \$.4327 and the Homestead rate at \$1.6340, an increase of 2% and the

Non-residential rate at \$1.8139 an increase of 9.5%. She stated her recommendation is based on the state of the economy. S. Tully made a slightly different recommendation retaining \$96,000 of the unspent highway funds and rolling \$76,000 forward to reduce the amount raised in taxes for FY24. This would result in a municipal tax rate of \$.4409 and the Homestead rate at \$1.6422, an increase of 2.3% and the Non-residential rate at \$1.8221 an increase of 9.8%. She stated her recommendation is based on bringing our roads in compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit and the cost to replace the highway personnel. L. Brooks asked if the surplus funds can be used to hire a vendor to maintain our roads in the transition of the highway personnel. S. Tully confirmed the funds can be spent on maintaining highways. S. Bridge said it will be difficult to find a greater pool of candidates to hire and also difficult to hire a vendor to maintain municipal roads. V. Taylor asked if ARPA funds can be used to upgrade highways. S. Tully confirmed ARPA funds can be used on any municipal service. L. Brooks moved to roll \$96,000 in surplus funds into the FY24 tax rate. The motion did not receive a second. V. Taylor moved to roll \$76,000 in surplus funds into the FY24 tax rate. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed. Motion by V. Taylor to set the municipal tax rate at \$.4328. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

### ***2023/2024 Tax Rate:***

***Homestead = \$1.6341***  
*(\$.4328+\$1.2005+\$0.0008)*

***Non-Residential = \$1.8140***  
*(\$.4328+\$1.3804+\$0.0008)*

***Municipal Tax Rate: \$.4328***

***2023-2024 Amount to be raised by taxes \$1,044,157 (carry over \$ 96,000)***

***2023-2024 Municipal Grand List \$2,413,107***

***Education Tax Rate:***

***Homestead = \$1.2005***

***Non-Residential = \$1.3804***

***2023-2024 Summary:***

***Municipal Tax Rate= \$.0584 increase or 15.5% increase***

***Education Tax Rate:***

***Homestead = \$1.2005 a \$.03 decrease or 2.5% decrease***

***Non-Residential = \$1.3804 a \$.0954 increase or 7.4% increase***

***Total Homestead = \$.0284 increase or 1.8% increase***

***Total Non-Residential = \$.1538 increase or 9.3% increase***

***Local Agreement Tax: \$.0008***

*Mendon Historical Society TS Irene Display* A. Singiser requested to display pictures of the aftermath and recovery in Mendon from Tropical Storm Irene. The Mendon Historical Society and the Vermont Folklife Center facilitated story circles and recordings of 40 people and their experiences. From these recordings the Mendon Historical Society wrote a book capturing the history of this flooding event in Mendon. The Vermont Folklife Center created a big display of

pictures that they used as an exhibit, and they have donated them to the Mendon Historical Society. The request is to hang the display in the conference room at the Town Office to be installed in August and be on display for a few months. The Selectboard approved the request.

*Flooding Event* S. Tully reported that Mendon continued to not receive significant damage from the ongoing storms of this month. Communities in Vermont continue to experience flood damage. The State Emergency Operation Center is active and provides Situational Awareness Meetings daily. S. Tully encourages the Selectboard and staff to attend a FEMA Applicant Briefing that will be scheduled to start next week. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the FEMA process.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Val Taylor

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Bridge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Brooks