

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

January 8, 2024

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

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer

Visitors present: Jennifer Bagley, David Brooks, Dennis Charles, Brian and Carol Gates, Donna Standy, Shelley Susina

V. Taylor called to order at 5:35 PM at the Town Office.

The pledge of allegiance.

Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda with moving the Certificate of Highway Mileage to the item (d) on the agenda and moving Carving Studio bench Project to item (a) on the agenda.

Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for 14,992.86 and \$24,281.25 and payrolls for \$14,632.66 and \$14,665.16. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

The approval of the minutes were tabled.

Announcements: There is a high wind warning for tomorrow night, please take necessary cautions.

Public Comment: Carol Gates made public comment regarding articles in the Rutland Herald that stated the Town was under advisement of town counsel and requested information on who the towns counsel was. She continued by questioning why the Code of Ethics was replaced in June 2021 with a Conflict of Interest and Purchasing Policy. Ms. Gates also complained about money being spent on security at the Town Office. Brian Gates made public comment also requesting who the town council was. The town responded that the town counsel was attorney Matt Bloomer. Mr. Gates continued public comment complaining about the town holding a hearing without payment from the appellants. Donna Stanley made public comment opposing

funds being spent from the highway fund for security and wanting access to the Town Office in general. Ms. Stanely continued to express concern over the safety of Route 4.

Business

Carving Studio Bench Project Shelley Susina and Jennifer Bagley attended the meeting from the Mendon Historical Society in support of the Carving Studio Bench Project. Mendon Historical Society is requesting placement of a bench by the information panels at the Town Office. The Mendon Historical Society is sponsoring this program and there is no cost to the Town of Mendon. There was a lengthy discussion about the placement and dedication of the bench. Motion by V, Taylor to approve the placement of the bench at the Town Office near the informational panels with input to its location by the Mendon Road Commissioner in regards to maintenance of the property. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. V. Taylor and S. Bridge approved the motion. L. Brooks opposed the motion.

FY24 Budget L. Brooks discussed the cost of living increase for Vermont versus the national cost of living increase. The difference is approximately 1%. The Rutland County budget was submitted with a 6% decrease in the budget. The Rutland County Tax amount will be calculated with the equalized education grand list. L. Brooks also discussed the appropriation request for The Bus and the Rutland Free Library. L. Brooks opposed a 4% increase the Rutland Free Library submitted. S. Bridge spoke in support of the library. The Selectboard requested a copy of the Rutland Free Library Budget.

Articles for Town Meeting S. Tully reported there will be no special articles for Town Meeting. The warning will include the budget article and appropriation requests. Town Meeting will be held on March 4, 2024. The location of the meeting remains to be determined with suggestions of the VTRANS building on Valley View the Town Garage on Park Lane.

Certificate of Highway Mileage S. Tully presented the Certificate of Highway Mileage with changes made by remeasurement of the State of Vermont. Motion by V. Taylor to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage. The motion was seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM. Motion seconded by L. Brooks. The motion passed.

Date Approved _____

Val Taylor

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Lisa Brooks