

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

May 13, 2024

Members of Selectboard present: Val Taylor, Seth Bridge, Megan Smith

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

Visitors present: Lisa Brooks, Brian and Carol Gates, Rep. Jim Harrison

V. Taylor called to order at 5:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda:

Motion by V. Taylor to approve the agenda by adding a legislative wrap up by rep. Jim Harrison to the agenda. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve orders for 5/13/24 for \$208,519.47 and payroll for 4/30/24 for \$11,265.23. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by V. Taylor to approve 4/1/24 and 4/22/24 minutes. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Employment Opportunities: Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator

Welcome Joy Hatfield hired as Mendon's Bookkeeper/Assistant Clerk.

Open Meeting Law Seminar, June 26th 5:30-7 PM in person at the RRPC and virtual option available. All public officials are encouraged to attend.

Public Comment: None

Business

Legislative Wrap Up by Rep. Jim Harrison The legislative session adjourned Saturday at 2 am on May 11th with multiple bills going to the Governor for approval. It is expected the Governor may veto some of the bills and the legislature will reconvene on June 17th. The Yield bill that is the education finance bill included a 13.8% increase statewide down from over an 18% increase. This bill includes a new tax on cloud software, increasing the rooms and meals tax on short term

rentals by 3% , and the use of surplus money. The bill also established a commission to look at the cost of education and financing over an 18-month timeframe. S. 55 is about Public Meetings. Changes in the Open Meeting Law will require an in-person option for meetings with exceptions for public safety threats. All meeting will be required to be recorded and kept for 30 days. The bill requires training by public officials, boards, and commissions. H. 687, the Act 250, and housing bill passed. A miscellaneous Cannabis bill amendments passed to establish setbacks for cannabis cultivation districts 25' setback in districts and 50' outside districts. J. Harrison discussed the request for lowering the speed limit on Route 4 must go to Secretary Joe Flynn. J. Harrison supports automated plate readers to help deter speeding and alleviate the demand on policing. There is a study being conducted on County Government versus Vermont's established Municipal Government. J. Harrison also discussed the Miscellaneous Tax Bill that allows for any community to establish the 1% local tax with town vote approval. S. Tully stated the voters of the Barstow Unified Union District have defeated the budget twice. She believes this is a clear message for Montpelier to overhaul the education tax formula and not an issue with the Barstow Unified Union District budget presented as a level service budget. J. Harrison stated that he supports the reduction of the cost of education by consolidating small schools.

Hazard Mitigation Grant S. Tully discussed the Hazard Mitigation Grant. She intends to apply for the upsizing of a culvert at the intersection of Wheelerville Road and the Falls Road which has washed out Wheelerville Road and the abutments of Bridge 15 during three high water events since 2011. The project cost is estimated at approximately \$100K-\$125K. The application is due June 21.

Law Enforcement S. Tully recommended a meeting to discuss the day-to-day operations of law enforcement in Mendon with Constable Lema Carter. M. Smith and S. Bridge are interested in meeting with Constable Carter. S. Tully requested members of the Board send her a list of questions/subjects to discuss to determine if a Selectboard Meeting needs to be warned.

Employee Evaluations

V. Taylor moved to enter Executive Session in accordance with Title 1 V.S.A. 313 (a) (3) at 6:09 PM for the purpose discussing employee evaluations with the Selectboard and Sara Tully present. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The motion was approved unanimously. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 7:07 PM.

V. Taylor moved to increase highway salaries for FY 24 by \$3,500 and FY 25 by \$10,400 effective at the employee's 90-day review and based on evaluations of the highway employees. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Taylor moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:09 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge.
The motion passed unanimously.

Date Approved _____

Val Taylor

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Megan Smith