

## Town of Mendon

### Selectboard

November 6, 2024

Members of Selectboard present: Megan Smith, Seth Bridge

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator

Rutland County Sheriff Deputy is present.

Visitors present: Brian and Carol Gates, Justin Lindholm, Rene Sanchez, Ann and Steve Singiser

M. Smith called to order at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

Pledge of Allegiance

#### Agenda:

Motion by M. Smith to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

#### Administrative Matters

*Selectmen's Orders* were reviewed.

Motion by M. Smith to approve payroll for \$9525.05 and orders for \$48,661.85. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by M. Smith to approve the minutes for 10/15/24. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

#### Announcements:

Thank you to Jesse Bridge, Town Clerk & Treasurer and Joy Hatfield, Assistant Clerk for doing such a fabulous job with the election.

The Selectboard in the next few weeks will be meeting with interested candidates for filling the Selectboard vacancy.

Public Comment:

Ann Singiser wanted to also thank J. Bridge and J. Hatfield for their work at the election.

Carol Gates thanked all the volunteers that assisted at the polls.

Business:

*Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union* Superintendent Rene Sanchez attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss a few projects the RNESU are working on.. Motion by M. Smith to add RNESU Superintendent Rene Sanchez to the agenda. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. R. Sanchez reported the RNESU will be applying for a digital grant to enable the RNESU to provide fiber broadband to all of our towns. They would connect Libraries and Town Halls for students and the general public. RNESU is about to launch the budget season. They are trying to get out to get feedback from the communities to be able to answer questions and concerns early in the process. They will be putting out a survey very soon and posting in Front Porch Forum and the papers to get the public to take the survey. R. Sanchez welcomed communication in whatever means the public chooses to get feedback to the RNESU.

*Rutland Emergency Management Committee Appointment* Motion by M. Smith to reappoint Lema Carter, Emergency Management Director and Val Taylor to the Rutland Emergency Management Committee. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*Zoning Administrator* Motion by M. Smith to appoint Greg Smith Interim Zoning Administrator if one is needed in the upcoming weeks. M. Smith disclosed that Greg Smith is her husband and is willing to step in for the town. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. B. Gates requested the appointment stating he knows the regulations and to avoid a conflict of interest in the town. M. Smith disagreed there would be a conflict of interest as she would not be supervising her husband and he has 12 years of experience on the Selectboard and working in the Town Office. S. Bridge also supported the appointment as Greg Smith is a good fit in this case. M. Smith stated that he G. Smith will be up to speed on the ongoing issues if in fact he needs to step in.

*Appropriation Policy Amendment* S. Tully reported that on September 23, 2024, the Selectboard approved a motion to amend the process for social service agencies to submit appropriation requests. The written policy

has been amended to reflect those changes. S. Tully read the policy as amended. Motion by M. Smith to approve the amended Town of Mendon Social Service Agency Appropriation Policy. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

## Town of Mendon Social Service Agency Appropriation Policy

All Social Service Agencies must obtain petition signatures from 5% of the voting population. Petitions must be received in the Town Clerk's office not less than 47 days before the day of the annual meeting. The petition should be in substantially the following form:

Petition of Legal Voters of the Town of Mendon

We, the undersigned legal voters of the Town of Mendon, hereby petition the Selectboard to add the following article to the warning for the annual town meeting to be held on Monday, March \_\_, 20\_\_:

Shall the Town appropriate \$[insert amount of request] to [insert name of Social Service Agency], for [insert brief description of the purpose of the proposed appropriation] in accordance with 24 V.S.A §2691?

Print Name                      Address                      Signature

Any Social Service Agency requesting funds must also submit a written request for funding, which includes, what services the Agency provides to Town of Mendon residents, and if possible, the number of Mendon residents utilizing the services of the Agency.

Approved Social Service Appropriations will be paid by the Town after the final tax payment in March, of the budget year approved.

Policy amended and approved by the Mendon Selectboard at its 9/23/24 meeting.

Ann Singiser asked how many signatures required. The response was 45 signatures, but this should be confirmed by the Town Clerk.

*2025 Health Insurance* S. Tully submitted a recommendation to fund health insurance for 2025. The recommendation includes the same funding level as previous years with adjustments to rate increases for the upcoming year. Employees must submit enrollment by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

S. Bridge disclosed that he has a potential conflict of interest as he is currently on a health insurance plan funded by the Town by being a family member to an eligible employee. There are only two members of the Selectboard and he stated he would be voting on the matter instead of jeopardizing the town's options for choosing health plan policies. We are making the same decision as previous boards with the only difference being the 2025 rates.

M. Smith Moved to approve the following funding for 2025 Health Insurance:

<b>2025 Funding Levels</b>		<b>Buyout</b>
<b>SINGLE</b>	<b>13,390</b>	<b>5356</b>
<b>TWO PERSON</b>	<b>26,781</b>	<b>10712</b>
<b>PARENT/CHILD</b>	<b>25,843</b>	<b>10337</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>37,627</b>	<b>15051</b>

The Motion was seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*2025-2026 Budget Discussion & Timeline* M. Smith reported that the Departments will be making budget recommendations. There is no one present tonight but she will be meeting with the departments to discuss their requests before the next meeting.

*2024 Town Report* M. Smith reported that S. Tully has updated her on all the information from last year for the Town Report so we can move forward with preparing those reports.

M. Smith moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 5:55 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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