

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

January 27, 2025

Members of Selectboard present: Megan Smith, Seth Bridge, Sarah Buxton

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator

Rutland County Sheriff Deputy is present.

Visitors present: Fred Bagley, Brian & Carol Gates, Justin Lindholm, Ethan Pepin (RRPC) Debbie Singiser (BUUSD), Ann & Steve Singiser

S. Buxton acting Chair of this meeting called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM at the Town Office.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Motion by S. Buxton to approve the agenda with adding Route 4 Speed Limit to the first order of business and deleting the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator appointments to the agenda. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Administrative Matters

Selectmen's Orders were reviewed.

Motion by M. Smith to approve orders for 1/23/25 \$30,349.41, payroll for 1/20/25 \$15,686.41.

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

M. Smith moved to approve the minutes for 1/13/25. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Announcements:

Mendon Town Clerk, **Jesse Bridge**, was appointed to the Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas's town clerk advisory committee. The group will meet monthly to discuss and address the interests of Vermont's town clerks, who play an essential role in the functioning of Vermont's municipalities. The Selectboard expressed congratulations to Jesse Bridge for the appointment to this committee.

Town Meeting will be held at the VTRANS Building on Valley View on March 3, 2025 at 6 PM, Polls will be open March 4, 2025 at the Town Office from 8 AM to 7 PM.

The Barstow PTO is hosting a Paint & Sip Fundraiser at the Mountain Top Barn on February 2, 2025 at 2 PM. The PTO wanted to invite the Mendon community to attend. Registration is \$45 and you can email thebarstowpto@gmail.com to sign up.

Public Comment: M. Smith clarified the Selectboard Rules and Procedures for meetings specifically in regards to public comment. The public is allowed 2 minutes to those wishing to express public comment. If during the comments expressed the public asks the Selectboard a question expecting a reply, the 2 minutes will not start over because the Selectboard has responded to the question submitted.

Debbie Rushing, Chair of the Barstow Unified Union School District Board announced the Barstow Unified Union School District Annual report has been distributed and the Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6 PM at Barstow. The meeting will allow opportunity for voters to ask questions about the budget, implications on taxes and how the Board believes it supports the strategic priorities and values of the district. In the next 5 weeks the board members will out in the community and various events. There will be a board member present at all the hours the Chittenden Public Library is open. The opportunities to speak with a member of the BUUSD in Mendon will be posted on the Mendon website and Facebook page.

Brian Gates asked if the Town is hiring a new Zoning Administrator. S. Buxton responded that it is not on the agenda. B. Gates asked if there was going to be a job opportunity because its not posted on the website. S. Tully responded that the Town of Mendon has not received a resignation. B. Gates stated but we have a new Zoning Administrator, the business card is available. S. Tully clarified that the Town has appointed an interim Zoning Administrator to cover a medical leave. B. Gates stated that it is a conflict of interest to hire family and friends for personal gain. S. Buxton stated again that it is not on the agenda.

Business:

Route 4 Speed Limit F. Bagley introduced Ethan Pepin from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission which has been working with the Town on two projects. The first is the purchase and

installation of 2 radar speed feedback signs to be placed in the Village District. There is a process with VTRANS to get these approved and E. Pepin has experience working with VTRANS with that process. The second project that the Selectboard has previously expressed support is the reduction of the speed limit through the Village District. E. Pepin explained the process to first determine the location of the speed limit change and submit a letter to VTRANS State Operations Engineer. The State will perform a traffic study to determine whether a speed reduction is appropriate. This information will go to the State Traffic Committee and the Town will have an opportunity to lay out their case to the Committee. S. Buxton confirmed the speed limit is currently 45 mph in the Village District. E. Pepin stated the speed limit transitions from 35 to 45 mph from Rutland City to Rutland Town by Home Depot. It remains at 45 mph through Rutland Town and the Mendon Village District before increasing to 50 mph. F. Bagley proposed working with Rutland Town to possibly submit a joint request to lower the speed through both towns and whether it should remain at 35 mph from Rutland City or possibly 40 mph. The request from the town will state a specific speed recommendation and E. Pepin stated it is a bit of a negotiation taking into consideration the number of access points onto the highway and the 85th percentile speed which is a study about what speed 85% of the traffic is traveling. E. Pepin provided information to the Selectboard from VLCT “Speed limits setting – Currently, speed limits must be set based on an engineering study. The 85th-percentile speed is no longer the sole consideration for setting speed limits. The new standard recommends weighing six factors when setting speed limits: the roadway environment, roadway characteristics, geographic context, crash experience, speed distribution, and an analysis of speed trends.” He also provided information from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Traffic Operations Webpage “A town’s governing body (typically the select board) may request a change in speed limit on a state highway by writing a letter to the VTrans Traffic Operations Engineer, who is the staff coordinator for the Traffic Committee. The letter should include a description of the particular concerns, especially if they are seasonal or at a particular time of day. The Committee meets about three times per year, and the town and other interested parties may present testimony at the meetings.” The Sate’s [Crash Query Tool | Vermont Agency of Transportation](#) was discussed as a resource to evaluate crash data in certain timeframes and locations. The Selectboard thanked E. Pepin for his guidance. Motion by M. Smith that she be authorized to start discussions with Rutland Town regarding a joint request to lower the speed through both towns. Motion seconded by S. Buxton. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. M. Smith will reach out to discuss the Route 4 speed with the Rutland Town Selectboard Chair.

CAI Map Maintenance Contract J. Bridge submitted the Cartographic Associates Inc. (CAI) Contract for \$900 for to Selectboard for review. Motion by M. Smith to approve the CAI Map Maintenance Contract. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

2025-2026 Budget Discussion S. Tully stated there are no last minute changes to the budget from what was adopted by the Selectboard at the last meeting. The budget reflects a \$2.99% increase.

2025 Town Meeting Warning S. Tully presented the Warning for Town Meeting at the VTRANS Building on March 3rd. Article 1 is the budget article. There are 4 appropriation requests submitted by petition. The last article is to elect officers by Australian ballot on March 4th. Polls are open at the Town Office from 8 AM to 7 PM. Motion by S. Buxton to approve the 2025 Town Meeting Warning. Motion seconded by M. Smith. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion. (Attached is the warning)

FY25 Goals & Objectives Review & Update S. Tully explained the FY25 Goals and Objectives as projects continually are reprioritized. Currently, staff is working to complete grant applications and go out to bid for a number of highway projects. The Town is also looking updating Ordinances and Policies to be prepared for readoption after Town Meeting.

S. Buxton moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 6:09 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Date Approved _____

Megan Smith

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Seth Bridge

Sarah Buxton

Warning
Town of Mendon Annual Meeting –March 3, 2024
VTRANS Building
61 Valley View, Mendon, Vermont

The legal voters of the Town of Mendon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **VTRANS Office Building** on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM to transact all business except Article 6. The meeting will adjourn until March 4, 2025 at 8:00 AM, at the Mendon Town Office, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 6. Voting will close at 7:00 PM.

- Article 1 - Shall the Town vote to approve the 2025-2026 Municipal Budget at \$1,419,841?
- Article 2 - Shall the Town appropriate \$1,200 for the support of the Marble Valley Regional Transit District (The Bus) for public transportation for Mendon residents, visitors and surrounding communities?
- Article 3 - Shall the Town appropriate \$700 for the support of the RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program which allows older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to help meet community needs?
- Article 4 - Shall the Town appropriate \$2,600 for the support of VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region to provide services when in-home care is needed?
- Article 5 - Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 for the support of Wonderfeet Kids' Museum to foster curiosity and exploration, inspiring creativity and igniting the imagination of children through the power of play?
- Article 6 - To elect the following town officers:
Delinquent Tax Collector for a 3 year term
Town Moderator for a 1 year term.
Selectboard Member for a 3 year term.
Selectboard Member for 2 years (to complete a 3 year term).

Dated at Mendon, Vermont on this 27th day of January, 2025

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Mendon:

/s/ Megan Smith

/s/ Seth Bridge

/s/ Sarah Buxton