

# **Town of Mendon**

## **Selectboard**

**May 27, 2025**

Members of Selectboard present: Megan Smith, Seth Bridge

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator

Rutland County Sheriff Deputies are present.

Visitors present: Fred Bagley, Patti Lancaster, Brian and Carol Gates

M. Smith Chair called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM at the Town Office.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Motion by M. Smith to add Public Comment after announcements to the agenda.

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

### Administrative Matters

The orders were reviewed. Motion to approve orders for 5/8/25 in the amount of \$413,769.67 and payroll for 4/29/25 for \$13,765.61. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Motion by M. Smith to approve the minutes for 4/14/25 and 4/30/25. Motion seconded by S. Buxton. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

*Year End Financials* Jesse Bridge provided a synopsis of year end projections. S. Tully commented that the year-end projections look good. It looks like we will be under budget on the expenses and over budget on revenue. She reported they are looking to follow up on a few outstanding items. M. Smith questioned law enforcement income is low. S. Tully explained this has occurred over the past few budget cycles due to the State of Vermont keeping a greater percentage of the fine revenue. M. Smith stated we should flag this for discussion during the FY27 budget preparation.

### Announcements:

Open Meeting Law, Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Public Records Training for all Mendon Elected and Appointed Officials 6-7:30 at the Town Office.

Public Comment: B. Gates asked when the Town is going to come fix the problem on Terra Lane on his property. He stated he has a river flowing and he has not received a response in the past two weeks. M. Smith directed Mr. Gates to contact the Road Commissioner. Mr. Gates requested the Selectboard conduct a site visit. Mr. Gates complained that the town diverted water onto his property and has damaged his property and won't fix it. B. Gates repeatedly requested S. Bridge to come to his property. M. Smith and S. Bridge repeatedly instructed B. Gates to contact the Road Commissioner. Mr. Gates stated he has a license for a garden, and he can't grow anything.

C. Gates stated that this problem has been occurring for 5 years. When they were excavating their property, they found multiple sources of water diverted onto their property in clear violation of 402.7. She demanded the town take care of this or else she intends to take litigation against the town, neighbors and past neighbors. Mrs. Gates claims the town diverted more water onto their property when they did work for Gordon Stakes. C. Gates accused S. Tully of being the Road Commissioner and not taking care of anything and not responding to public information requests, especially for the ARPA Grant while Mr. Gates yelled profanities in the background.

Business:

*911 Renaming Roads* M. Smith provided a recap of an issue that Jesse Bridge, 911 Coordinator, is working to resolve regarding Heather Lane in Mendon. There is a Heather Lane in Mendon and in Rutland Town. This causes issues with 911 because the two municipalities also share a zip code. It was recommended by VT 911 that one of the roads be renamed. There are 13 addresses on Heather Lane in Mendon with room for development. There are 8 Heather Lane in Rutland Town with 8 addresses with limited room for development. The two Heather Lanes causes issues with 911 response. M. Smith agreed to reach out to Rutland Town to discuss the duplicate Heather Lanes. F. Bagley suggested also talking to Rutland Town about installation of the radar speed feedback signs. M. Smith spoke briefly about the usefulness of these signs with the Rutland County Sheriff present. Mendon is installing a radar sign on Townline Road and it was suggested that it would be good to coordinate installation with Rutland Town for one to be installed on their side of the road. F. Bagley also suggested the Town request the use of Rutland County Sheriff's mobile radar unit to be placed on Route 4. S. Tully stated that the Rutland County Sheriff contract will renew on July 1 and she will request the use of the mobile radar unit.

*TextMyGov* M. Smith explained that at the last meeting the Selectboard supported contracting with TextMyGov to utilize their service to text Mendon residents with emergency information and alerts, reminders of Town Meeting, tax payments due, elections, dog licenses and road work or road hazards, etc. S. Tully presented a 3 year contract with the first 2 years from Computer Services in the FY25 totaling \$4600 and the third year payment of \$2300 budgeted in the FY27 budget. Motion by M. Smith to sign a 3 year contract with TextMyGov and \$4,600 expensed from Computer Services in the FY25 budget. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

*Rutland Regional Airport Representative* The Selectboard received a letter of interest from Steve Molloy to serve on the Rutland Regional Airport Committee. Motion by M. Smith to appoint Steve Molloy, Mendon's representative on the Rutland Regional Airport Committee. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

*Rutland Regional Plan 2026 Feedback* The Selectboard reviewed a letter drafted by S. Buxton and reviewed by the Mendon Planning Commission providing feedback from the Town of Mendon on the draft Rutland Regional Plan 2026. M. Smith and S. Bridge expressed support in approving the letter. Members of the Planning Commission have also supported the letter by including their names. Motion by M. Smith to approve the submission of the letter to Rutland regional Planning Commission with feedback on the Rutland Regional Plan 2026. Motion seconded by S. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Smith moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 6:14 PM. Motion seconded by S. Buxton. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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Megan Smith

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Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

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Seth Bridge