

Town of Mendon, Vermont

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Date: June 23, 2026

Time Called to Order: 5:50 p.m.

Location: Town Office and remote attendance

Members Present: Megan Smith; Seth Bridge; Sarah Buxton

Officers Present: Sara Tully, Town Clerk/Town Administrator; Chris Baird, Road Commissioner

Others Present: Members of the public attended in person and/or remotely, including Carol Gates and Fred Bagley.

The meeting was recorded.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Selectboard meeting of June 23, 2026 to order at approximately 5:50 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Agenda Review

No additions or deletions to the agenda were noted. One announcement was added.

4. Approval of Orders and Payroll

M. Smith moved to approve orders dated June 18, 2026 in the amount of \$21,827.74. The motion was seconded by S. Bridge. All were in favor.

M. Smith moved to approve payroll dated June 9, 2026 in the gross amount of \$14,314.93 and net amount of \$10,411.93. The motion was seconded by S. Buxton. All were in favor.

5. Approval of Minutes

M. Smith moved to approve the minutes of June 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by S. Buxton. All were in favor. The May 11th minutes were previously approved and required signatures.

6. Announcements: The July 4th celebration will be held at 10:00 a.m. outside the Town Office to celebrate America's 250th birthday and the veterans' dedication. Attendees were asked to arrive early. Additional parking will be available at the Town Garage on Park Lane, and Chris Baird was authorized to unlock the gate.

The Board also announced that the Town was awarded a \$200,000 Class II Roadway Grant for Notch Road.

7. Public Comment

C. Gates asked about the amount allocated to the Town Attorney for Environmental Court case 26-CNV-00053 and requested an update regarding the culvert situation at Terra Lane. Ms. Gates

accused the Town Administrator and the Road Commissioner of not returning her emails. B. Gates commented on the fees the town is spending on the appeal to Environmental Court and accused town officials of stealing money from the town. The Chair reminded Mr. Gates he did not have the floor. C. Gates continued her public comment to which she called board members disgusting and took a stand against Board member Sarah Buxton making any decisions for the town when she does not own property in Mendon.

B. Gates again accused town officials of stealing and violating his civil rights and continued to claim there is no such thing as a Home Occupation Permit. Mr. Gates claimed the Board violated the open meeting law stating the doors are supposed to be open and three Board members can not be in the office by themselves. Mr. Gates resorted to name calling and the Chair asked the Deputy Sheriff to remove Mr. Gates from the office. Mr. Gates said he was leaving.

8. Business Items

Budget Projection: S. Tully reported that the Town was currently at a surplus of approximately \$48,000. There will be a few final expenses to be processed before the end of the fiscal year. She noted the Town appeared likely to remain in the black. The Board discussed reviewing line items, including public safety and fire/rescue calls, and following up with Chris Baird regarding vehicle maintenance details.

Economic Development Grant Applications: The Board reviewed two applications. M. Smith reviewed the criteria for receiving grant funds that the project must repair or replace blighted properties, create new long-term housing units or support projects that promote economic development of the commercial and village districts.

The application submitted by Carol and Brian Gates for electrical service to their property at 100 Terra Lane was deemed incomplete or non-responsive to the criteria, with express permission to resubmit a complete or responsive application at a later date. S. Buxton moved to deem the application incomplete or non-responsive to the grant criteria and expressly permit resubmission. The motion was seconded by S. Bridge. All were in favor.

Carol Gates commented that the application was submitted on their blighted property that is being flooded and they want to build on it. She stated that the application would be resubmitted.

The Board reviewed an application from John Dolzadelli at 261 Old Stockbridge Path for assistance completing a long-term housing unit. S. Buxton moved to approve up to \$5,000 to be reimbursed for unfinished but anticipated work to complete the long-term housing unit on the property, subject to documentation/invoices. The motion was seconded by S. Bridge. All were in favor.

July 4 Celebration and Old Town Hall Green: Fred Bagley provided an update on preparations for the July 4 celebration, including program materials, work on the boulder and plaque, traffic and parking plans, veterans' participation, and ceremony details. The Board authorized use of the Town copier for approximately 50 programs. M. Smith moved to name the green at the end of the Town Office driveway the "Old Town Hall Green." The motion was seconded by S. Bridge. All were in favor.

Canon Printer Maintenance Contract: M. Smith moved to approve the Canon printer maintenance contract expense in the amount of \$2,059, to come from the preservation fund. The motion was seconded by S. Buxton. All were in favor.

Recreation Funds: Sara Tully reported that wood chips for the playground had been ordered and delivered, following an insurance recommendation to expand the mulch area under the swing set. M. Smith moved to rescind the prior motion allocating \$1,500 of remaining recreation program funds to the August event and instead approve up to \$1,500 from the current year’s recreation funds for the wood chips. The August event expenses will be addressed using next fiscal year funds or reserve funds. The motion was seconded by S. Buxton. All were in favor.

Rutland County Sheriff Contract: The Board reviewed the Rutland County Sheriff contract for FY27 at \$58.96 per hour, capped at \$98,109, inclusive of deputy, cruiser, and ACO costs. S.Tully noted the increase was approximately 4.5%. Megan Smith moved to renew the contract with the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department for the next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by S. Bridge. All were in favor.

Executive Session: S. Buxton moved to find that premature public knowledge would place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage regarding a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by M. Smith. All were in favor. S. Buxton then moved to enter executive session at 6:26 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. § 313 to discuss the appointment or evaluation of a public officer, with Sara Tully and Chris Baird included. The motion was seconded by M. Smith. All were in favor. Upon return from executive session, it was stated that no action was taken during executive session. M. Smith moved to accept the revised salary structure for fiscal year 2027 and provide it to staff to make salary changes effective July 1. The motion was seconded by S. Buxton. All were in favor.

9. Adjournment: Megan Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion was seconded. All were in favor.

Approved: _____

Megan Smith

Sara Tully- Clerk

Seth Bridge

Sarah Buxton