

MENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING----- January 20, 2015

APPROVED-----February 5, 2015

Selectmen Schofield and Reil, and Town Administrator Newman are present in the Upper Town Hall, Mendon.

Selectman Reil called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes of January 5, 2015 as written and the executive session minutes of December 16, 2014 and January 5, 2015 as written not to be released. The motion carried unanimously as amended.

Selectman Reil announced a resignation on Cultural Council. We will post the opening.

Joel Shapiro, Senior Right of Way Agent with Algonquin Gas, joined the Selectmen. Selectmen just received comments from town counsel and would like to review them and ask questions if they come up. Selectmen will notify him when the item will be on the agenda again.

Ms. Newman explained the bid opening for the 43 Quissett Road property was on December 22. They received four proposals. A committee consisting of herself, Ellen Gould, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, Linda Hawkes, Treasurer/Collector, reviewed the proposals. Mark Manoogian had the highest bid at \$395,000. Ms. Gould could look at it from the farming point of view. Mr. Manoogian had the most experience and was the most qualified out of all candidates. As the Treasurer, Ms. Hawkes said the \$395,000 was the most appealing. Ms. Newman said a background check was done with the references and they all had fantastic proposals. **Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to accept the proposal of Mark Manoogian to purchase an approximately 36-acre portion of 43 Quissett Road. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Newman said she, an architect and project manager for the library looked at the Town Hall, old fire station and church rectory to replace the police trailers. After receiving the price proposal, the basement of the Town Hall was chosen. Chief Horn explained he agrees that it is the best choice. The police station needs to be completed. He was surprised to hear how energy inefficient the trailers are. Selectman Schofield wanted to reiterate that this is a temporary solution and it restricts the ability to increase revenue by adding additional towns to regional dispatch. Selectman Reil feels it is also good for the long-term investment of the current infrastructure. Ms. Newman said she went to the Community Preservation Committee to discuss funding a portion of project that qualifies for historic CPC funding. The other half will be funded by the town. The total cost is approximately \$85,000. The return on investment would be over two years.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to appoint Lawney Tinio, 13 North Avenue, as a Zoning Board of Appeals alternate member with a term to expire June 30, 2015. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Reil got confirmation that as long as Mr. Tinio recuses himself in business that involves his family, it will not be an issue.

Discussion of budgetary requests was tabled until the next meeting when all Selectmen are in attendance.

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Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to grant permission for the Bay State Trail Riders Association to apply for the Quissett Trail Grant and support their project on the Inman Hill Conservation Area.

Becky Gallagher, Bay State Trail Riders Association, explained that she will know in October or November if the grant is approved. The work could not start until 2016. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to appoint Albert Crisfield, 22 Carpenter Hill Road, to the Capital Planning Committee with a term to expire June 30, 2018. Selectman Schofield said Mr. Crisfield was a good candidate for the Finance Committee but there was not another opening. Ms. Newman did not think Mr. Schofield can continue to be on the committee as a member of BOS. If not, there would be another opening. Selectman Schofield will see if Mr. Scharnagle would be interested.

Discussion followed upon review of the March Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Newman noted that the only article Chairman Goddard had an issue with is the one regarding repealing excise tax on farm machinery and animals. Ms. Newman recommended another \$48,000 for town counsel expenses in Article 2. Article 4 is no longer needed as money in the budget will cover expenses. Articles 5 and 6 are interdepartmental transfers. Article 7 covers the increase in the number of building permits generated to pay the Building Inspector. Articles 8 through 10 are to cover an increase in Gas, Plumbing and Electrical inspector fees. Articles 11 and 12 are interdepartmental transfers. Article 13 may not be needed depending on the release of Chapter 90 funds to cover a replacement and repair plan for roads. Every 5 years every road gets treated. Article 14 is to cover veterans aid needed depending on case load. Seventy five percent comes back to the town in state aid. Article 15 is for CPC funding of the Town Hall basement renovation. Article 18 is for money needed if offices need to be relocated when the new Town Hall flooring is installed over a two-week period. Article 19 is \$20,000 in historical CPC funds to do a study of Main Street coinciding with the Town's 350th anniversary--handicap accessibility and crosswalks. Selectmen would like further information on Article 20-repealing farming excise tax. Ellen Gould, Agricultural Commission, explained that the results of the Master Plan committee survey showed there was interest in farming within the community. This would be incentive for farmers to come or stay in town. The annual tax revenue is \$1300. Ms. Hawkes explained that the section of the State law in Article 21 needs to be adopted if we want town employees to have direct deposit. Selectman Schofield does not understand why this needs to be done. *Action: Ms. Newman will confirm with counsel if this needs to be adopted.* Article 26 transfers control of North Avenue property to the BOS from the Library Trustees.

Ms. Newman reported that they are starting FY16 budget preparation and is meeting with the Finance Committee. Selectman Schofield is also meeting with the multi-board and the schools. Ms. Newman participated in interviews for a patrolman position. She will be attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association conference Friday and Saturday. Selectman Reil said he may also attend.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion at 7:34 p.m. to enter to into Executive Session M.G.L. C.30A Sec.21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Town Hall Employees Union, Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union, Mendon Coalition of Police, and Mendon Police Civilian Employees and I so declare. A roll call vote is needed. We'll

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reconvene only to adjourn. Schofield-aye, Reil-aye.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Willoughby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Diane Willoughby
Administrative Assistant

Documents Discussed located in 'Administrative Secretary's' Office:
Regular Session Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015
Executive Session Minutes of December 16, 2014 and January 5, 2015
Draft March 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant
Pearson Farm Buyer Ranking