

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

Members attended the Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Fitzpatrick presented his budget for Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical High School. The overall FY16 budget is at a 1.65 increase over last year's. The town's share is increasing 5.25 percent due to minimum contributions and increase of one student which totals \$40,567.

Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Goddard called the Selectmen's meeting to order at and led the pledge at 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes of February 17, 2015 and March 2, 2015 and the executive session meeting minutes of March 2, 2015 not to be released. The motion carried unanimously

There were no citizen statements or petitions.

Chairman Goddard announced the resignation of Susan Darnell from the Library Board of Trustees and the Taft Library Building Committee. Although she was not in attendance, he thanked her for all the work she has done being an advocate for the library and said it was a pleasure to work with her. Don Morin, Library Building Committee member, reminded him that her resignation is effective March 12. The Building Committee has lost a total of two members and will decide whether they want to replace them. The project is going out to bid next Wednesday. Their budget gap is a larger than the \$75,000 than was previously projected. They have received \$35,000 in donations to date. He would like permission to sell the square pendent lights in church which are worth tens of thousands of dollars. There is someone interested in buying them. Depending on where bids come in, the committee would like to know if they could put a place holder on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in case they need the additional funds. Chairman Goddard stated that we need to follow the rules to a 'T' for selling the lights. *Action: Mr. Morin and Ms. Newman will work together offline to determine how lights can be sold. Mr. Morin will submit an article if the Building Committee determines one is needed for the Annual Town Meeting.*

Ms. Newman reported that town counsel approved the 32-month contract with Constellation Energy. He originally had an issue with any contract that spanned more than one fiscal year. He worked with Constellation Energy's attorney and was able to come to an agreement on language to be added to a new contract. The contract previously provided was at \$.0989 per kWh. Today's rate is \$.0987. It will be technically executed tomorrow. Ms. Newman submitted requests for additional bids from other suppliers but none met the towns' needs. Attorney Mangiaratti and Chairman Goddard signed the contract.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to allow a change of opening hours on Sundays from noon to 10:00 a.m. for NLCK dba Lowell's Restaurant, 75 Cape Road, pending departmental approvals. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kotsianas, who represented the owners, explained the types of entertainment they may have.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to grant Entertainment Licenses

for Mondays through Saturdays 12:00 p.m. to midnight and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. to NLCK dba Lowell's Restaurant, 75 Cape Road as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Schofield made and Chairman Goddard stepped down to second a motion to renew the following 2015 seasonal Common Victualler, Automatic Amusement Devices and Public Entertainment on Sundays Licenses for:

- Dawn Phaneuf dba Mendon Driving Range, 37 Hastings St. and
- Southwick's Wild Animal Farm, Inc. dba Southwick's Zoo, 2 Southwick Street pending departmental approvals. Selectman Reil abstained. The motion carried by majority.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to allow EJ Dean, Dean & Flynn, Inc. dba Fiesta Shows to hold the Blackstone Valley Carnival at 35 Milford Street on April 9-19, weekdays 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and weekends 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. pending departmental approvals and a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town of Mendon as Certificate Holder. Selectman Schofield asked about whether the town can have a by-law outlawing animals at carnivals. Ms. Willoughby stated this request did not include animals. Members agreed this discussion could be held at another time. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Mangiaratti and Anne Mazar, Land Use Committee Chairperson, joined the Selectmen to discuss the deed and Purchase and Sale for 43 Quissett Road. Attorney Mangiaratti explained the parties involved and that the buildings and farm land will be sold to the Manoogians subject to a conservation restriction which keeps the property open space. The Selectmen must sign a deed from the Town to Manoogians. It conveys the field and house; not the woodlands. Ms. Hawkes, Treasurer/Collector explained an authorization needs to be signed for \$165,000 as there is no appropriation for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. It will be paid out of the general fund and will be refunded next week. **Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil seconded a motion to sign the Deed and Purchase and Sale Agreement with Mark and Michelle Manoogian and the Report of Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing \$165,000 for the front portion of 43 Quissett Road pursuant to Special Town Meeting on November 5, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Mazar explained that the only way Community Preservation funds could be used to purchase 60 North Avenue would be if the property was used for affordable housing. *Action: Bill McHenry, Affordable Housing Coordinator, will look into it.* Selectmen will readdress the subject next Wednesday.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to reappoint Shirley Spindel of 65 Taft Ave. to the Board of Registrars with a term to expire March 31, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Members discussed and reviewed area Town Hall use fees as a business inquired into using it. Chairman Goddard said if this were for a town function, there would be no fee. The town has premises liability. Selectman Schofield said the fact that it is at Town Hall makes it seem that it is a town-supported activity. Selectman Schofield said he would not want to do this as it gives the organization some legitimacy. Selectman Reil added that the town park has field use fees and the Parks Department decides what group uses it. He doesn't have a strong opinion either way. Ms. Newman said she has worked in Town Halls that charge use fees. This is a unique situation as we will be have limited space and this is a business space. Chairman Goddard's recommendation would be to state that the building

could be used only during non-business hours and user would have to abide by our calendar. Members agreed to table it and do more research. Facility use can be looked at as another revenue source in the future. *Action: Ms. Willoughby to send a reply to the individual saying we cannot accommodate her request at this time.*

Chairman Goddard invited Mrs. Schofield, Mrs. Lowell and Mr. Wagner from the Historical Commission to discuss the village and historic districts. Ms. Newman explained that she met with the Highway Department, COA, Historical Commission, Planning Board, and Community Preservation Committee representatives to discuss enhancing communication for upcoming projects, including the development of a Historic District. Other topics discussed were the basement renovation and correct use of funding for it, the police station and the intersection in front of Town Hall and associated ADA compliance, the tercentennial, Paddock Property use and potentially putting together more studies and a vision for the town. More meetings will be held in the future. Mr. Wagner said the Historical Commission's goal is to have a town center historic district. Mrs. Schofield said the Massachusetts Historic Commission has identified 293 homes in Mendon that are historically significant. The North Avenue Historic District is on the National Historic Register. In 1989, when the study was done, the downtown village center was identified as being a good candidate to protect as a local historic district. To do this a study committee needs to be appointed by the Selectmen. It takes 12-18 months to interview and get feedback from people who live in that section and how they feel about having a local historic district. The guidelines are flexible; towns can identify what is important. For the most part it is the façade that is the most important to preserve. They believe that if businesses see that the town is investing in themselves, they are more apt to come into a town and set up their business. Most preservation work will create jobs for the community. There are tax incentives to preserve an owner's home. There is 20 percent state and federal tax relief for five years. Chairman Goddard asked if this process would result in grants. Mrs. Lowell said that Community Preservation funds can be used for individual home owners or as loans. Mr. Wagner said the Historical Commission would like the Selectmen to appoint a study group to look into creating a local historic district. Mrs. Lowell said the State recommends a realtor and someone from the Historical Society be on the study group of three to seven people. If a home is not historic but is in the district, its value is higher. Mrs. Schofield said the area that was identified is Main, Maple and Hastings Street in the triangle section. Selectman Schofield said they are looking at the potential for water and sewer down Route 16. Mrs. Schofield said the district wouldn't preclude these. Mrs. Lowell noted that when the by-law is written, there are things that you can choose to not include in the restriction. Chairman Goddard noted that this will put people at ease because it will maintain the historic aspect of the town. Mrs. Lowell said a district could be set up in the center of town and then houses in other areas of town can be included. Selectman Schofield said the Master Plan Committee and the Planning Board would support this. Jane thinks some people outside of the district may not be in support. The National Register does not protect the houses. Mrs. Schofield said the Massachusetts Historic Commission will supply names of architects, realtors, etc. If they don't get feedback, they can appoint those interested. Planning Board Chairman Bill Ambrosino confirmed that he is in support of the Historic District. He said the Planning Board likes the idea of preserving the old buildings, possibly using them for business and creating a walking community. To maintain a village district, water and sewer are needed. A village district could have shared parking in the back. *Action: A meeting in April will be scheduled with the Master Plan Committee and Selectmen.* Chairman Ambrosino said we need more people on the Master Plan Committee. They are working on a web page. Mrs. Schofield said the Massachusetts Historic Commission will come out to meet with members that have been appointed to review the district and provide guidance. **Selectman Reil made and Selectman**

Schofield seconded a motion to establish a seven-person Local Historic District Study Committee for the term to expire at the finalization of the findings. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Goddard would like a standard agenda item topic regarding the budget between now and the annual Town Meeting. It will not be a debating session that focuses on the correctness of policies, but a forum to present and discuss facts, figures, and historical views. He wants to make sure individuals who attend Town Meeting have information before then. He would ask individuals to email questions to the Selectmen's Office to be addressed at the meeting. He will start in next couple of weeks and wants to provide ground rules. It will help with misinformation. He has heard via social media and emails that the budget is growing too much and how money is spent. He would like to focus on objective items. Closure will be brought to items brought up. He would like Finance Committee members present.

Chairman Goddard informed everyone that the joint meeting on March 26 with the Finance Committee needs to be rescheduled as he cannot attend Thursday meetings. *Action: Ms. Newman will see if the Finance Committee is available March 30 instead.*

Resident Mike Watson recommended having budget meetings on a Saturday to accommodate those who can't attend a weekday meeting.

Members agreed to hold meetings on April 6, 13 and 27. *Action: Ms. Willoughby and Ms. Newman have overhead projectors available. Ms. Newman will invite Mr. Jay Byer for the MURSD budget discussion. Selectman Schofield would also like Senator Fattman to attend. Chairman Goddard recommended he attend the meeting on the 30th. Action: Ms. Willoughby to post for the Selectmen to attend the Finance Committee's April 1 meeting 7:00 p.m.*

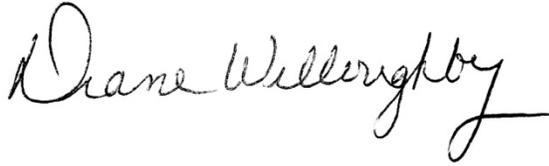
Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to allow Charter Communications to service Tower Road pending Special Counsel Bill August's approval. A resident on Tower Road does not have internet or cable service. Attorney Mangiaratti recommended contacting Special Counsel Bill August and amend the motion to be subject to the action being legal. Selectman Reil amended and Selectman Schofield seconded the amendment to add pending Special Counsel Bill August's approval to the original motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Members discuss the Selectmen's submittals to the Annual Town Report. Ms. Willoughby noted that the Dedication is typically for someone who has passed in 2014. Members all agreed to submit them as written.

Chairman Goddard made and Selectman Reil seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session, MGL Chapter 30A Section 21, to conduct strategy sessions with respect to contract negotiations with the Town Hall Employees Union, the Mendon Coalition of Police, AFL-CIO Local 188, Mendon Police Civilian's Employees Association & Mendon Permanent Fire Fighters Union as an opening meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Selectmen's bargaining position and I do declare and to discuss potential litigation for the matter Town Counsel wants to talk to us about. We'll reconvene only to adjourn. A roll call vote is need. Reil-aye, Goddard-aye, Schofield-aye.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Willoughby
Administrative Assistant

Documents Discussed located in 'Administrative Secretary's' Office:

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional High School FY2016 Approved Budget March 5, 2015
NLCK dba Lowell's Restaurant Application for Change of Hours, Form 43 and Alcohol License
Mendon Driving Range and Southwick's Wild Animal Farm's 2015 Common Victualler, Automatic
Amusement Devices and Public Entertainment on Sundays Licenses
February 17 and March 2, 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Constellation Energy Contract Start Date March 25, 2015
43 Quissett Road Deed and Purchase and Sale Agreement with Mark and Michelle Manoogian
Report of Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing dated March 11, 2015
Area Town Facility Use Fees
Abbreviated Version of Establishing a Local Historic District
2014 Annual Town Report Dedication and Selectmen's Letter