

Chairman Reil, Selectman Schofield, and Town Administrator Kimberly Newman are present in the Upper Town Hall, Mendon.

Chairman Reil called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the pledge.

There were no citizen statements or petitions.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to approve the baseball and softball Opening Day Parade on Saturday, April 23 with a rain date of Sunday, April 24 as requested. The assistance of the Mendon Police Department. is granted in order to stop and control traffic on Millville St. and to prevent traffic from travelling on Kelly Rd. from approximately 9:30 a.m. until the conclusion of the parade. The participation of the Mendon Fire Department. is also granted. Chris Belleville, Nipmuc Baseball representative, and Brian Morford, Nipmuc Softball representative, explained the parade is the same routine as it has been for many years. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to appoint Ken O'Brien, 6 Swandale Drive, to the Agricultural Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2017. Ms. Willoughby explained this appointment will fill the term of Ellen Gould who resigned. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to appoint Peter Denton, 39 Thayer Road, to the Agricultural Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2019. Ms. Willoughby explained this appointment fills the term of Max Carbone which ends in May. The Town Clerk recommended having Mr. Denton's three-year term expire in 2019. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to appoint Joyce Gilmore, 23 Hastings Street, to the Taxation Aid Committee with a term to expire June 30, 2019. The term expiration date was chosen for the same reason as the previous appointment. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Anne Mazar, Land Use Committee Chairperson, discussed the proposed Land Stewardship Program. Land Stewards would be extra help for the Land Use Committee and Conservation Commission. In some towns one of those committees appoints the stewards. Ms. Mazar said she met with the Conservation Commission informing them they may take over the program at any time. Chairman Reil said he will read through the program description. She suggested a walk-through of all the property in the future. Selectman Schofield is concerned the group may think they are the land police. Ms. Mazar clarified the document outlines the proper procedure and they are not intended to be enforcers

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to allow Boy Scouts Troop 44 to hold their can and bottle drive at the Mendon Town Hall on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. pending adequate Certificate of Liability Insurance and to hang a banner at the Town Hall advertising the event to be put up Monday the 18th. Mr. Rudden will provide the certificate of liability insurance and remove the banner after the event. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion that the Selectmen send a letter to the State Art Commission in support of the Massachusetts Liberty Bell Replica Move. Chairman Reil explained that someone is asking for the bell at the State House to be moved as it is not accessible to the public. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion to schedule the Land Use Five-Year Plan public hearing for April 11. Next year Ms. Mazar plans to combine this with the CPC meeting to have one legal notice. The Land Use Plan won't change until 2020. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Moritz Schmid, Library Building Committee Vice Chairman, and Mary Bulso, Owner's Project Manager, provided an update on the new library. Mr. Schmid explained the high water table below the elevator shaft caused a design change. The contents of the current library will be moved over in May. The interior finishes are being done now. Mr. Schmid will take pictures soon and put them on the web site. Ms. Bulso said due to the delay, the contractor is allowing others to come in and work. Mr. Schmid explained de-stratification fans were considered as part of a Green Communities Grant. It was not an oversight that the building was not designed to include the fans. They felt with everything else going on, adding the fans did not seem like a good investment at that time. It would complicate things with another company coming in to do the work. She explained that if the fans were added now, the HVAC warranty would not cover any problems that may be caused by the fans. M.G.L. Ch. 149 does not allow for someone else coming in under the existing contractor. She recommends waiting until the one year operational warranty expires before looking into installing them. Ms. Mazar said they can be added with another Green Communities Grant in a year. Ms. Bulso thanked Ms. Mazar and Bill McHenry, Green Communities Coordinator, for all their work. Mr. Schmid explained the library staff is looking to mitigate the impact of limited access to books. They want to be up and running for Summer Reading programs. Systematics is on schedule to set up the shelving.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil stepped down to second a motion that the Town donate the lights from St. Michael's Church to the Friends of the Taft Library. Gabrielle Porciello, Friends of the Taft Library President, explained they would like to take the lights that were in the church, sell them and use the money to put back into the library. They have raised just under \$90,000. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Willoughby explained Articles 1-5, 14 and 15 are similar to those in previous Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrants. Selectman Schofield believes that Article 5, cyclical inspections, were intended to be funded for five years. Then not again for the following five years. *Action: Ms. Newman will look and see what was budgeted for F17.* Ms. Willoughby noted that the ballot votes will be on a separate ballot this year. Mr. Rudden, former Town Moderator, noted that the meeting can be adjourned and dissolved instead of continued until Election Day. Ms. Newman explained the shared fleet vehicle in Article 7. Selectman Schofield said he is not in favor of purchasing a shared vehicle and it is not on the top of the capital needs list. Self-contained breathing apparatus, valued at \$232,000, will be needed in a year. Ms. Newman expects a recommendation would be needed from the Capital Expenditure Committee. Ms. Mazar suggested the vehicle should fall within Green Communities Guidelines. Ms. Newman explained Article 8 is a place holder for a potential match for a Community Compact IT Grant. She requested a total of \$372,000 in IT upgrades; \$267,000 is for a KVS or Accela software upgrade. Article 9 is carried over from the Special Town Meeting for the Town Administrator's Salary. Articles 10-13 are standard revolving-fund articles.

Mr. Rudden proposed reducing stipends for two Board of Assessor members and adding that money to the third member's stipend. That person, potentially Mr. O'Brien, would conduct field visits. This change can be made on Town Meeting floor in Article 3. Mr. Tycks may be stepping down in the fall or winter. The position would be open the following year. Articles 17-19 involve tax exemptions. Article 20 is for a Community Preservation Act, three-percent, tax abatement. A November ballot question is also needed. The State has recommended the wording of this article. Mr. Rudden noted that Mendon has more tax relief options than area towns. Ms. Mazar assured Selectmen this should be the last year of mechanical weeding of Inman Pond. The following years hand picking will be done. *Action: Ms. Newman will ask Bill McHenry, Affordable Housing Coordinator, for affordable housing numbers.* Article 25, quotes are being obtained to digitize the 300th anniversary film. The Drive-in has offered to show the film as part of the 350th anniversary celebration. Mr. Rudden added someone will be making an HD video for the 350th festivities.

Ms. Willoughby explained that counsel is reviewing the article for a National Grid Assent Agreement. It may not be necessary. The attorney for the Iron's Way road acceptance shall provide a legal description of the road. There is also an article from a citizen's petition to limit where future solar arrays can be installed. Town Counsel is also reviewing the article for road acceptances in Cobbler's Knoll. The last article is to rezone parcels in a residential district to commercial on Route 140. Mr. Rudden explained Braza is moving their facility to this location.

Ms. Newman reported she is scheduling interviews for the Accountant position. A member from the Finance Committee, the Treasurer/Collector and Interim Town Accountant will participate. She would like a member of the Board to also attend. This week Ms. Newman had a meeting to start the Human Resources (HR) audit. As it was funded through a MIIA Grant, the intent is to minimize liability. It will look at HR policies and hiring practices. Someone will be meeting with individuals who hire employees. She will also look at the storage of HR documents. The IT Grant will be back late spring. There is a vacancy in the Highway Department. The FY 17 budget is in KVS and it can be distributed again this week.

Mr. Kent, Water Commission Chairman, asked if articles can still be added to the warrant. Ms. Newman acknowledged there may be a need for an article as a result of their meeting with the Water Commission tonight. There are also Town Meetings in June and August.

Selectmen attended the Water Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Skinner, Hartford Avenue East resident, voiced his concern about missing bolts on a hydrant near his house, Mr. Watson, Certified Water Operator, confirmed that the hydrant works and it is not a danger. Mr. Watson agreed to replace the bolts per Selectman Schofield's request.

Glenn Barrows, Barrows Contracting, explained his client wishes to build an auto repair shop and car wash on Lot 21 Cape Road. Mr. Watson stated a water connection cannot be sub-metered per Hopedale's contract. Mendon would need to approve the plan before sending it to Hopedale for their approval. Mr. D'Alessandro, Water Commission Chairman, said the applicant needs to send a letter to them with the estimated usage, type of business and the plan. Mr. Rudden said the Planning board approved a site plan. Chairman Kent asked if one of the Selectmen would be attending the Hopedale Water Board meeting. Mr. Watson said the meeting was prompted due to questions regarding pricing, the contract and how building on Route 140 will affect the contract.

Action: Ms. Newman will ensure the routing slip process is used for Planning Board to make the Water Commission aware of projects that may impact them.

Chairman Kent said they are losing 30 percent of their water, \$42,000. Causes and potential solutions were discussed. Meters should be replaced every ten years. Currently ten are replaced every year. There could be leaks in the water mains. One has been fixed on Bates Street. Another cause could be that people could be using the hydrants. Alan Tetreault, Highway Surveyor, said only once in his 20 years of service has he seen someone inappropriately use a hydrant. Mr. Watson doesn't think the problem is from people using the hydrants based on the readings. Chairman Kent said seals or locks could be put on them. All agreed this would not be practical. They may consider hiring someone to investigate why there are leaks. Selectman Schofield said they cannot get accurate loss readings because they can't get all the meters read the same time as outgoing meters are read in Hopedale. Mr. Kent did not agree. Mr. Watson recommends installing new meters which will catch drips and are more accurate. Mr. Rudden suggested people pay for their own new meters or have someone search for leaks. Mr. Watson doesn't think there are three million gallons worth of loss from leaks. It is costly and difficult to search for leaks but may be worthwhile. It is estimated to cost \$34,000 to replace/retrofit the remaining meters. Anything under five years can be retrofitted. Lawney Tinio, Finance Committee Member, recommends taking that money out of stabilization. Selectmen agreed to put an article on the ATM warrant for replacing /retrofitting water meters as a special article. Mr. Watson will get a cost for the place holder. The Water Commission voted to do leak detection on the system and fund it from the existing maintenance budget. Selectmen agreed to include \$1200 for an annual leak test on the FY17 budget requests.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Willoughby
Executive Assistant

Documents Discussed located in Selectmen's Office:

Land Stewardship Program

Draft May 6, 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Hopedale Water Agreements (3) Dated May, 2005, March 20, 2002 & August 16, 1999

Letter dated March 22, 2016 from Kevin Rudden

Letter dated March 17, 2016 from George A. Warren