



TOWN OF MENDON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756
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Notice of Meeting
January 7, 2019
Mendon Town Hall
6:30 PM

Board Members
Mark W. Reil, Jr., Chairman
Christopher Burke

Meeting Minutes

A regular Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Present: Mark Reil, Chris Burke, Kim Newman and Laura St. John Dupuis.

Mr. Reil led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence to the Board

a) Mendon Historic Commission

Mr. Tom Merolli had sent correspondence to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Miscoe Springs building. Mr. Merolli thought that the building was to be given to the Town and that the Town was going to sell the property. Mr. Burke stated that Mr. Schofield was working on this, and that the Board has not accepted this property as a donation. Mr. Reil stated that the choices were to either accept the building as a gift and preserve it or, if there is was a buyer who would like to purchase the property. Former Selectmen Schofield was handling this matter. Mr. Burke stated that he would like to have Mr. Reil check with Mr. Schofield on this as he was working on this. Mr. Merolli stated that would be fine.

The Wood Property: the Commission would be interested in a study commission for this property.

Mr. Burke made a motion to allow the Historical Commission to investigate the wood property and return to a future Board of Selectmen meeting or further discussion. Step down 2nd by Mr. Reil. The motion was approved unanimously.

Interview and Consider Appointment of Daniel Byer to the Historical Commission

Mr. Burke made a motion to appoint Daniel Byer to the Historic Commission for a term to expire 6/30/21. Step down second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed unanimously

Interview and Consider Appointment of Seth L. Shufro to the Economic Development Committee (non-voting member).

Mr. Burk made a motion to appoint Seth L. Shufro to the Economic Development Committee as a Non-Voting Member for a term to expire 6/30/19. Step down second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss New Recycling Program- Board of Health

Board of Health members and a representative from Waste Zero addressed the Board to discuss textile curbside recycling program. The collection day would be the same as a resident designated trash/recycling day. A pink back would be used, and a replacement bag would be left for the next recycling day. If someone were to lose a bag or needs bags there is a form that can be filled out or a call/email can be made to obtain bags, the bags will be delivered. Prior to the implementation of this there will be pictures of the vans, so people are aware of what is going on. The van will be a plain white van with an advertisement on it.

There is no cost the Town and the Town would be getting money from the recycling. The Town is paid by pound within 15 days and it is about a penny per pound, within 15 days at the expiration of the month.

Mr. Reil asked if there were towns around Mendon doing this. Milford is currently enrolled Mr. Reil stated that he feels this is valuable and knows the Town can benefit.

Discuss Senior Abatement Worker Program

Ms. Amy Wilson-Kent, Council on Aging Director, addressed the Board stating the Senior Abatement Worker Program is running very well, \$20,000 has been put aside by the Assessor's office, there are 8 departments that are utilizing senior workers. Ms. Wilson-Kent stated that this program was set up to pay a senior worker minimum wage up to \$1000 per year. The minimum wage has increased to \$12. Ms. Wilson-Kent asked the Board if they wanted to stay with this course of action or would like to consider something different.

Mr. Reil stated that the Board should look at this each fiscal year with the budget and determine the rate of pay at that time. Mr. Burke stated that he is in agreement Mr. Reil added, that by law the Town is not required to follow minimum wage. Ms. Wilson-Kent stated that senior workers are aware that minimum wage has gone up and they expect theirs will too.

Mr. Burke stated that he would be in favor and keeping it on a Fiscal Year schedule and talk about what that rate should be and is in favor of keeping it a \$1K per year.

Fire Department Update

Fire Chief Kessler addressed the Board of Selectmen with an overview of the state of the Fire Department. Chief Kessler stated that over the past month he has done a lot of listening and found there were two things he was wrong about: One, there is a lot more that needs to be addressed and two, how the current personnel would take a new Fire Chief coming in from the outside. He stated that the personnel have been very helpful.

Information Technology: Indicative of the department as a whole, we do not share any files. We are going to be working on shared files.

Reporting: The Fire Department was 9 months behind in filing their State Filing Recap due to reports not being completed, we changed some processes. We did get it caught up in December and at this point we are doing our reporting timely.

Fire Inspectional Services: We have been doing a good job on the paperwork part. There is an educational piece. When we do inspections, we do not have any paperwork, we are going to start keeping a history. Another issue, the blasting going on in Town. There was blasting that was going to take place within 250 feet of the route 16 the State Highway, there will be more procedures in place. Blasting has been put off until approval from MA Highway.

Policies/Procedures: the current policies that are there are not coordinated, not well known and outdated, job descriptions are pretty vague. Chief Kessler stated that he worked on the manual on my previous job and provided that to the union. Jason Bangma, On-call Firefighter has offered to assist with this effort

Personnel Protective Equipment. We have had to change something in the culture. Members have been able to keep their helmets, we have had to buy new helmets. Town purchased equipment stays here. Interim Chief Harris was able to purchase enough equipment for 10 people. To outfit the additional people, we are looking at approx. \$35K and we are keeping the old gear. The fire academy will not allow you to use old gear. We will keep the old gear to use as back up gear.

Radio Communication: It appears that the existing personnel did not have a good understanding on how the radio system operated. Radios have been issued to individuals, there is only one in each truck. The standard typically was a radio for each seat. We have a grant to try with Millville, we will issue to the officers and have one per seat. Over the summer we lost power in Town and had no radio communication during that down period as the batteries in Inman Hill Road were outdated from 2009. We moved a generator out there and there are portable ones we can assist the Police with. I have had conversations with the thoughts of putting in a permanent generator.

Vehicles:

Ambulance is 10 years old. The replacement cost is \$250K - \$275K.

Engine 4 is near the end of life. To replace, there is a possibility we could buy a used engine, new they are \$600K there are some Towns that replace their fire engines every 15 years. You have 10 years of life. Chief Kessler stated that he is trying to get an engine that is right for this community as Mendon will need something quick and agile as we have limited manpower and have small streets.

Equipment:

Hoses: There are no spare hoses, and the nozzles are outdated, there is some equipment that needs replacement.

Extrication Equipment: The current extrication equipment may be outdated and not work on today's cars. Most of the posts are made with boron and this makes it hard to cut through. Hydraulic tools would not cut through. A battery powered tool went through. They run on batteries; many departments are moving on that they are \$13K brand new a demo is \$10K.

Cardiac Monitor: The current ones the Town has, the manufacture is not in existence but promised they would make repairs until 2020 to 2021.

Fire Station: Chief Kessler stated that things seem to be going well. There were some door issues that have been fixed. There is no Town wide storage, the Fire Department is responsible for their files and are looking at options to free up part of a bay to make room for storage.

Chief Kessler stated that he is close to having a Mendon Fire Department sign installed out front. He received figures from XYZ design and got permission from Alan Tetreault (Highway Surveyor) to have the sign installed in a masonry block so that it is protected from vehicles.

Training: Chief Kessler has arranged for 2 trainings per month with Mr. Joe Netter a former Boylston and Uxbridge Fireman. Mr. Netter has published a fire service trainers' book and working on a second book and is well respected.

We are required to review our run reports both on statistics on quality of care. We do not have an effective evaluation on care. Chief Kessler will pursue a company that Hopedale uses.

Personnel: There are 5 career positions. They have been covering the ambulance and doing a lot of work, we are going to try to build an on-call staff. On-call are getting paid ½ of what the career people are getting and doing approximately the same thing. They are getting \$50 a night to cover an hr. shift. We are not requiring them to be in the station, if we are going to continue this way, we are going to start seeing elongated response times. We need to do something on the on-call side.

Chief Kessler distributed an organizational chart based upon what is done in Uxbridge. It is a combination department but primarily on call. What he would like to put a Lieutenant. Assessment test out there. Then he can start grooming one of them. And for the existing people they will see what the process entails and take the test to see what is expected. In order to do the test lists out the qualifications.

Town Administrator, Kim Newman advised to start moving forward we should start as soon as possible. Ms. Newman sees little risk at this point in this fiscal year, the sooner the better and we have a better idea what we are looking at for the May budget. Hopefully if we can change this, we can get a realistic look at what we would need for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Reil stated that if the Chief feels the budget will handle this, we should go forward with this change.

Mr. Burke made a motion to change from on-call stipend to hourly rate. Step Down second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed.

Consider the Appointment of Nicholas Aicardi to the position of On-call Firefighter Recruit.

Mr. Burke made a motion to appoint Nicholas Aicardi to the position of On-Call Firefighter Recruit. Step down second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider the Appointment of Kevin Anderson to the position of On-call Firefighter Recruit.

Mr. Burke made a motion to appoint Kevin Anderson to the position of On-Call Firefighter Recruit. Stepdown second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Budget

Ms. Newman stated that she wrapped up meeting with department heads.

Mr. Reil asked Ms. Newman to supply the BOS with a list of requests of all departments.

Ms. Newman stated that she won't have the school's numbers for another month or so. And everything else looks almost identical from last year with the exception of the Fire Dept.

Future Meeting Dates

The Board of Selectmen agreed on the following upcoming meeting dates:

Jan 28th, Feb 11th and Feb 25th

Executive Session -Purpose 3, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Mendon Town Hall Union Local 272, Mendon Highway Department Union Local 272, Mass. Coalition of Police Union AFL-CIO Local 188, Mendon Police Civilian Dispatch Union Local 188A and the Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union Local 4936 I.A.F.F.

Mr. Reil made a motion to enter Executive Session under purpose 3, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3): to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Mendon Town Hall Union Local 272, Mendon Highway Department Union Local 272, Mass. Coalition of Police Union AFL-CIO Local 188, Mendon Police Civilian Dispatch Union Local 188A and the Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union Local 4936 I.A.F.F. Second by Mr. Burke. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Reil-Aye, Burke- Aye

Adjourn

Mr. Burke made a motion to adjourn. Step down second by Mr. Reil. The motion passed unanimously

Submitted by Laura St.John Dupuis