

Town of Hinesburg

Celebrating 250 years

Weekly Update

1762-2012

July 17, 2013



Upcoming Meetings. . .

- **Planning Commission:** *Wednesday, July 24th at 7:30 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*
- **Economic Development Commission:** *Thursday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m. (3rd floor conference room)*

Weekly Updates from Departments:

Hinesburg Community Police

- *Family Fight* - On Tuesday, July 9th, officers responded to Sunset Mobile Home Park for an argument between a male and female. The parties were separated and there was no evidence of a physical altercation. One person agreed to leave for the night.
- *DUI Accident* - On Thursday, July 11th, Hinesburg Police, Hinesburg Fire and First Response responded to Texas Hill Road for a reported motor vehicle accident. The driver was uninjured but determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The 43 year old male from South Burlington was placed under arrest and transported to Shelburne PD for processing. He was later cited and transported to ACT 1.
- *Motorcycle Accident* - On Friday, July 12th, officers along with Hinesburg Fire responded to Richmond Rd for a motorcycle accident. The 24 year old male rider was treated at the scene for injuries received and transported to Fletcher Allen.
- *DUI* - On Monday, July 15th, an officer received a report of a vehicle being operated in an erratic manner on Vermont Route 116. The officer observed a vehicle matching that description stopped on Place Rd. The officer made contact with the 51 year old female from Bristol and determined that she was under the influence of alcohol. She was placed under arrest and transported to Shelburne PD for processing. She was cited and released to a family member.

Recreation Department

- *Driver's Education* - Session 2 Driver Education with Kevin Browne started on July 8th and will run through July 13th.
- *Arts & Crafts Camp Cancelled* - We had to cancel our Arts & Crafts camp scheduled for 7/15 through 7/19 because the instructor broke her foot in three places and has to have surgery this week. Students have an option to participate in a camp in Huntington 8/22 through 8/26. We wish instructor Chris a speedy recovery.

- *Hart & Mead Concert in the Park* - Wolcot performed in the first Hart & Mead Concert in the Park of the season. We ended up cancelling the Wednesday due to flash flood warnings and held the concert on Thursday, July 11th at 6:30 pm. Wolcot is comprised of Hinesburg residents, HCS and CVU alumni Albert Brown, Drew Cooper, Garrett Linck, and Thomas Keller. Next concert is scheduled for TONIGHT (Wednesday, July 17th) at 6:30 pm behind HCS. Matt Francis with "Something with Strings" will perform. Rain date is Thursday. Same time, same place.
- The Champlain Valley Track & Field program participated in a casual meet at MMU on Wednesday, July 10th at 5:00 pm. They dodged the poor weather forecast and were able to accomplish a full schedule of events.
- State Track Meet forms were due on July 11th. There are 29 children registered from the Champlain Valley Track & Field team for the State Track & Field Meet on Saturday, July 20th at St. Johnsbury Academy. Good luck to all athletes!
- Kudos go to Hinesburg resident Sierra Morton and Williston resident Tawn Tomasi - both qualified for the National Hershey Meet 8/1 - 8/4 in Hershey, PA for their performances in the 200 m dash in the Hershey Meet on July 6th at Essex H.S. This is a huge honor. There were only 5 athletes from Vermont who qualified. Congratulations Sierra and Tawn!!

Carpenter-Carse Library

- *Keep up-to-date on the current events happening at the library—*
http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl_programs.html.

Town Administrator

- *MTBE Litigation* – The Town of Hinesburg’s filing in US District Court against large oil companies for their role in contaminating Hinesburg’s water supply with MTBE is available for review on the Town’s website. As stated previously, this lawsuit is not targeted towards any local distributor of petroleum products.
<http://hinesburg.org/waterworks/town-of-hinesburg-original-complaint-DOCS-19511067-v1.pdf>

Weekly Update from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Selectboard

- *Hinesburg Energy Committee* – After authorizing the creation of a new Hinesburg Energy Committee at the last Selectboard meeting, Chuck Reiss, the committee’s founder, presented the Selectboard with a proposed mission statement and objectives for the new Hinesburg Energy Committee. The Selectboard adopted the mission statement and objectives and the Town will begin advertising for applicants immediately.
- *Police On-Call Program* – Chief Koss reviewed the data from the first year of the Hinesburg Community Police Department’s 24-hour on-call program. This program allows 24/7 police service in Hinesburg by calling out a specified

Hinesburg officer for a Hinesburg issue during the hours our police department is not typically open (11pm – 7am). The benefit, supported by the data kept and analyzed by local volunteer Doug Olufsen, for local residents is a quicker response time for after hour local disturbances compared to when other departments had to respond to Hinesburg after hours prior to the implementation of the program, and a more personalized, well-informed response from officers who know Hinesburg well. The total cost of the program, originally estimated at \$10,000, was less than \$5,000 for the first full year of operation. This program was included with the budget passed by voters at Town Meeting back in March for the new fiscal year as well.

- *Shooting Ordinance* – The Shooting Ordinance that will be presented at the July 29th Selectboard meeting for the Selectboard to consider Warning for a public hearing prior to adoption in August will disallow all shooting in (or into) the Hinesburg Town Forest except for hunting during hunting season(s), and prohibit all shooting at all times in Geprags Park. No other provisions will be addressed in the ordinance.
- *Community Health Living Index* – Ginny Roberts, Connecting Youth and Hinesburg Community Resource Center, shared the results of the Hinesburg Community Healthy Living Index. The purpose of putting together the Healthy Living Index was to better position Hinesburg to find funding to help the 80 families in Hinesburg who rely on the free and reduced lunch program at the Hinesburg Community School during the summer months.
- *Hannaford/Act 250 Hydrological Study* – Roy Schiff from Milone & MacBroom reviewed his report on the Patrick Brook culvert which runs under Rte 116 as it pertains to the improvements proposed (road widening) to Rte 116 by Hannaford. According to Roy’s report, the current box culvert should be upgraded from 7’ (height) x 4’ (width) to 14’ (height) x 8’ (width). The Selectboard passed a Motion with a 3-2 vote to include Roy’s recommendations with the Town’s submittal to the Act 250 Board for consideration during their review of the Hannaford project. Roy’s full report is available on-line.
http://hinesburg.org/lot15/hannaford.html#hannaford_decisions
- *Commission, Board, Committee (CBC) Policy & Procedure* – In preparation for the upcoming fall round of interviews for CBC seats, the Selectboard will need to update the policy to make more clear how the actual interview process will work in the future. There has been issue revolving around if interviews and the deliberation of those interviews should be held in open session or executive session. State Statute supports both processes and various towns around Vermont handle these in a number of different ways. A proposed policy will be presented to the Selectboard for consideration at the July 29th Selectboard meeting.
- *FY2014 Property Tax Rate* – The Selectboard set the FY2014 property tax rate as the following: Total Homestead Tax Rate: \$2.0236; Total Non-Residential Tax Rate: \$1.9514. Hinesburg’s municipal tax rate makes up \$0.4783 of the total and the education portion is \$1.5453 (residential) and \$1.4731 (non-residential) respectfully. Compared to last year, the municipal tax rate increased by 1.46%;

the education rate by 6.33%; total tax-rate increase 5.13%. For each \$100,000 of homestead value, Hinesburg property tax payers will see a \$99 increase to their tax bill. \$7 of that increase is due to the municipal tax rate increase and \$92 is due to the educational tax rate increase. The table below outlines the impact to Hinesburg's residential property tax payers due to the change in the property tax rate.

<u>Portion of Tax</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>% TaxBill</u>	<u>100K</u>	<u>200K</u>	<u>300K</u>	<u>400K</u>	<u>500K</u>
Municipal Tax Rate - 13	0.4714	24.49%	\$471	\$943	\$1,414	\$1,886	\$2,357
Education Tax Rate - 13	1.4533	75.51%	\$1,453	\$2,907	\$4,360	\$5,813	\$7,267
Total Prop Tax Raised - 13	1.9247	100.00%	\$1,925	\$3,849	\$5,774	\$7,699	\$9,624
Municipal Tax Rate - 14	0.4783	23.64%	\$478	\$957	\$1,435	\$1,913	\$2,392
Education Tax Rate - 14	1.5453	76.36%	\$1,545	\$3,091	\$4,636	\$6,181	\$7,727
Total Prop Tax Raised - 14	2.0236	100.00%	\$2,024	\$4,047	\$6,071	\$8,094	\$10,118
Muni Rate Change - 14	<u>0.0069</u>	<u>1.46%</u>	<u>\$7</u>	<u>\$14</u>	<u>\$21</u>	<u>\$28</u>	<u>\$35</u>
Ed. Rate Change - 14	<u>0.0920</u>	<u>6.33%</u>	<u>\$92</u>	<u>\$184</u>	<u>\$276</u>	<u>\$368</u>	<u>\$460</u>

- *Water/Sewer Rates* – The Selectboard also adopted new wastewater rates for FY2014. The new rate of \$72.50/unit/quarter plus \$0.027/cu ft. usage fee will increase the total charge to each user by \$34 annually. Water rates remain unchanged from the previous year.
- *Creekside Roads* – The Selectboard passed a Motion to sign the Decision & Order to officially take-over the Creekside Roadways.
- *Buccaneers/Town Agreement* – The Selectboard passed a Motion to sign an Agreement to engage in a joint-fund raising campaign with the Buccaneers Youth Football Association to construct the proposed Bissonette Family Recreation Fields. This Agreement also includes the provision that the Buccaneers and the Town will work on crafting a lease agreement so the Bucs have priority use of one of the two multipurpose fields during the 5 month football season.
- *Rural Area Zoning* – The Selectboard voted to Warn a Public Hearing on the proposed Rural Area Zoning Ordinance on August 19th. The purpose of this public hearing is to get more community feedback. Two public hearings are required before September 12, 2013 in order to adopt the ordinance this year. If the ordinance is not adopted within that timeframe, it would be sent back to the Planning Commission for review. Information on this ordinance is available at: <http://hinesburg.org/planning/raz/>

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