MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2012

The Annual Meeting was held at the Champlain Valley Union High School on March 5, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Joe Fallon. The first order of business was the report of the Selectboard. Jonathan Trefry, Selectboard chair, gave the report and covered a multitude of changes that have taken place over the preceding year. He introduced all of the new employees for the Town, including new town administrator Joe Colangelo. The report of the Selectboard was approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 1: **To elect the necessary town and school district officers by Australian ballot Tuesday, March 6, 2012.** Moderator Joe Fallon reminded everyone in attendance that the polls would be open the following day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Australian ballot voting.

ARTICLE 2: **Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Hinesburg in amount not to exceed Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars ($275,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal construction grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of making certain improvements, vis: the repair and reconstruction of the Mountain View Mobile Home Park Sewage Disposal System, such improvements estimated to cost Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars ($275,000)?** Selectboard chair Jon Trefry suggested that the discussion on Article 2 be postponed until after the budget articles had been dealt with so that more people could be present to vote on them. This was moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: **Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Hinesburg in amount not to exceed Two Million Nine-Hundred Thousand Dollars ($2,900,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal constructions grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of a proposed public safety facility and community park?** The Board also suggested postponing discussion on Article 3 until after the budget articles. This was also moved and seconded and the discussion was postponed.

ARTICLE 4: **Shall the Town of Hinesburg take advantage of the provisions of Chapter 37 of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and authorize the Selectboard to employ a Town Manager?** Again, there was a motion to postpone discussion on this article. Moved and seconded and discussion was postponed.

ARTICLE 5: **Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $1,013,607 to defray the general expenses of the Town?** This article was moved and seconded and the moderator opened the floor for discussion and questions. Joe Colangelo presented the budget since there were some significant changes for this year. We are moving to a capital budget program to help the town budget for large expenditures in the future. Joe then explained the way capital budgets work and how this changes the way the budgets are presented in the town report. After his presentation, the audience asked questions. The main areas that were questioned related to the need for a full-time administrative assistant to be shared by the town administrator and the planning office; the projected costs and needs for the new proposed recreation fields north of the village; and the need to spend an additional $24,000 on new aerial photos for the town. After some discussion, Moderator Fallon asked if we were ready for the question and the article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: **Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $766,786 for highway purposes?** The article was moved and seconded. Town Administrator Joe Colangelo gave an overview of the budget, with a focus on the capital budget and how it works. The floor was then opened for questions. Vicki Matthews wanted to know when the new "Welcome to Hinesburg" signs would be installed? There was a question on highway uniforms and why the budget was $7000.00. The selectboard answered that they had made a decision a long time ago to provide uniforms for the highway workers. There was then some additional discussion relating to the Capital Budget and leasing of vehicles as opposed to purchasing. Carl Bohlen asked about the re-paving budget, and Bill Lippert followed up with a question as to whether or not the town has a policy in place regarding paving of dirt roads. The Selectboard answered that there are no plans to pave any dirt roads in the foreseeable future. The highway budget was approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $487,106 for the Community Police Department?
The motion was moved and seconded. Joe Colangelo then explained the budget. There were then many questions following the presentation. Someone wanted to know what CAD is? It is the computer system in use in the cruisers. Someone else wanted to know how many FTE's we have in the police department, and it was stated that we have 5 full-time officers plus one more made up of part-time people. Nancy Baker then asked for an explanation of the proposed on-call 24 hour coverage program. Chief Koss gave a brief overview of the way it would work and answered questions about how many calls they anticipate. Andrea Morgante expressed some concern that the number of calls may increase when people know that officers are available. This would drive up the cost. Carl Bohlen wondered how we would determine if the on-call program was a success or not? Someone also wondered if we could go back to being covered by the State police in the event we want to discontinue the on-call program? Chief Koss stated "yes".

Karl Novak then asked what happens to the officer currently being paid for by the COPS grant at the end of the 3 year grant period? The answer is that the Town is obligated to keep the officer on for one additional year at our cost. Another citizen then asked about the costs of covering CVU and whether we should have the district pay for a school resource officer? The Selectboard is looking into having the other towns in the school district help with the calls and/or help pay for the cost of the calls at CVU. After a few more questions and discussion, the Moderator called the question. Len Duffy then called for a paper ballot, and his motion was seconded by the requisite number of additional people (6). The ballots were collected and counted and the budget passed with 178 in favor and 71 opposed.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $192,425 for the Carpenter-Carse Library?
The motion was made and seconded and the budget was approved on a voice vote with no discussion.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $7,500 for the purpose of obtaining options and/or the acquisition of lands, or those rights in land, which would preserve open space and natural resources, any unexpended portion of such sum to be placed in the Land Preservation Fund?
The article was moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $600 in property taxes to the Lake Iroquois Recreation District?
The article was moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise the sum of $29,150 to be distributed as specifically designated to the following agencies/organizations?

Battered Women	2,000
CTR Indepnt Living	300
Comm. Res. Center	10,500
VT Nurse Assoc.	7,200
COTS	1,000
Agency on Aging	2,200
Vermont CARES	500
Howard Center	800
Chitt Emr Food Shlf	500
Chitt Com Action	1,500
Hinesburg Rides	1,500
Maple Leaf Farm	750
Rape Crisis Center	200
VT Red Cross	200
TOTAL	29,150

The motion was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to furnish the Town of St. George fire protection and first response coverage at the sum of $24,448?
The motion was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

(If all articles are approved as printed, a total of $2,497,173 will need to be allocated from the property taxes for town government)

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness of said Town?
The motion was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters authorize the payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 payable in full to the Town of Hinesburg in one (1) installment, with the due date being November 15, 2012? Any and all payments received in the Town Treasurer's Office later than midnight on November 15, 2012 will be considered delinquent and will be subject to the collection of interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof for the first three (3) months and thereafter at the rate of 1 1/2 % per month or fraction thereof.
The motion was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town present notice via mail at least thirty (30) days before the annual town meeting regarding the availability of the annual town report to the voters or residents of Hinesburg in lieu of distributing the report itself and provide full copies of the annual town report to a voter or resident of the Town of Hinesburg upon request as well as providing the Town Clerk with those copies of the annual town report required by 24 V.S.A § 1173?
This article generated a significant amount of discussion. Most people who spoke felt that the citizens deserved to receive a copy of the Town Report in the mail. They pay a lot of taxes and the concern was that many people might not make the effort to go down to town hall to pick one up. They felt it was worth the expenditure. Article 15 was defeated on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: In light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with political speech and gives corporations the rights constitutionally to intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Hinesburg vote to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to propose a United States Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations do not possess the rights of persons under the United States Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the Town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?
There was a significant amount of discussion about this article. Though most people supported the spirit of the article, a couple of attorneys in the audience questioned its wording and whether it was worded correctly. Ellen Fallon made a motion to amend the wording of the resolution as follows: "In light of the impact on and concerns of the citizens of Hinesburg regarding the effect of substantial amounts of money on the national political system, the citizens urge that the Vermont Congressional Delegation take such steps as they may see fit to address such concerns." There was argument back and forth about which was the preferable resolution. The moderator then read the amendment which was defeated on a voice vote. Moderator Fallon then read the original resolution over again and it passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: To transact any other business proper to be brought before said meeting.
A representative of the Hinesburg Meal Site asked for an appropriation of $500.00 as they had neglected to get their funding request in to the committee in a timely manner. A motion was made to add $500.00 to the total Agency Request budget and the amended motion was passed on a voice vote.

/s/ Jonathan S. Trefny
Selectboard, Chair

/s/ Andrea Morgante
Selectboard

/s/ Phil Pouech
Selectboard

/s/Thomas Ayer
Selectboard

/s/ Michael Bissonette
Selectboard

/s/ Melissa B. Ross
Town Clerk/Treasurer