



Hinesburg Town Meeting

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes – Monday, March 6, 2017

CVU Auditorium – 7:00 PM

- Draft -

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Moderator Frank Twarog reviewed the rules for the meeting and then asked for a motion to allow non-residents to speak so that Town Administrator Trevor Lashua could answer questions if needed. Moved and seconded and carried on a voice vote. Twarog then suggested that he was going to change the order and discuss Article 2 after Article 3.

Mike Bissonette then stood to recognize Bud Allen for his 24 years of service to the town as Town Agent and Grand Juror; Brad Wainer for 50 years of service to the fire department; and recognized the fire department for 75 years of serving the town. There was sustained applause from the members of the audience.

Article 3: To hear the reports of the officers of the Town of Hinesburg and take action thereon. There was a motion and a second for Article 3. As there was no budget presentation, the floor was opened for discussion. Nancy Baker asked what the status of the Black Rock development was and Trevor responded that they had appealed the DRBs denial of their permit and it was now before the environmental court. Jon Trefry wanted to point out that the Conservation Commission had played an important role in getting a much larger settlement from Vermont Gas for the town and also that they were not the ones protesting the pipeline. John Kiedaisch then inquired as to the status of Hannaford and its wetlands permit. Someone responded that it was found to not be a Class I or II wetland and therefore didn't need a wetlands permit. Matt Probasco who works for the State of Vermont stated that they only need a stormwater permit and they have not yet obtained that. Lenore Budd then pointed out that the report regarding the Bissonette Field project omitted any mention of the increased maintenance costs that would happen after the fields were in use and that was shown as a \$9715.00 increase in the facilities maintenance line #. There was a response that the increase would be only about \$5,000 to \$6,000 and that it is reflected in the increase in the recreation budget. The report of the Selectboard was then accepted as printed by voice vote.

Article 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Hinesburg, in an amount not to exceed Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal construction grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of construction a highway garage, such improvements estimated to cost Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000)? Moderator Twarog opened the floor up for discussion for informational purposes. Norm

Smith asked what the total debt load of the town was at the moment? No one could answer the question based on what was in the town report and several people felt that that was unacceptable. How were they to make an informed decision regarding the garage without that information? Eventually it was ascertained that the general fund debt load is \$2,496,288 and the water and sewer enterprise fund debt load is \$2,542,316. After a series of questions, Ruth Ayer suggested to end the discussion and Twarog moved on to Article 4.

Article 4: Shall the Town approve a General Government budget of \$1,416,285 with the estimated sum of \$1,150,285 appropriated from property taxes to defray the general government expenses of the Town? The article was moved and seconded and approved on a voice vote with no questions.

Article 5: Shall the Town approve a Highway Department budget of \$918,810 with the estimated sum of \$780,810 appropriated from property taxes to defray the highway expenditures of the Town? Moved and seconded. Steve Cote asked a question about dust control and salt. He felt that the town should make every effort to reduce our salt use and save our rivers and streams. Carl Bohlen asked about the increase in the capital transfer for the highway department. Trevor responded that it was for paving and that we were anticipating paving additional mileage this year. When there were no additional questions, the article passed on a voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Community Police Department budget of \$528,311 with the estimated sum of \$491,811 appropriated from property taxes to defray the police expenditures of the Town? Moved and seconded. Carl Bohlen asked how many FTEs there are in the police department? Chief Koss responded that there were 6 with 5 full time officers and one more equivalent made up of part-timers. Ruth Ayer asked about dispatch services and Koss responded that it isn't always easy to predict how much dispatch costs will be as it is a per call charge. He outlined how much it is per call and suggested people call the station rather than dispatch for non-emergency situations which generated some laughter. Bob Thiefels asked about the officer who has been on administrative leave and wondered how long it has been and how much it has cost? Trevor Lashua responded that it has been about 9 or 10 months and that it is costing his weekly salary. He explained that it took a long time for the State to decide if they were going to press charges and for our insurer to settle the case with the victim. Deb Light wondered why we are still paying the officer if the case is settled? Lashua said that we are conducting a review and hope to have things resolved in the near future. Sharon Lee Trefry then stood to thank Chief Koss for the work they do and she then asked about what the CUSI cost was based on? Koss responded that it is based on population. Article passed on a voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Fire Department budget of \$311,836 with the estimated sum of \$238,836 appropriated from property taxes to defray the fire expenditures of the Town? Moved and seconded. Will Patten wondered if someone could explain what the relationship of the fire department is to the town? Phil Pouech responded that it isn't always clear. Town Clerk Missy Ross responded that all of the fire department funds appropriated from the Town are run through the Town's accounting system and

are audited. Bill Schubart asked how much money the fire department raises by itself and no one supplied the answer. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town approve the Carpenter-Carse Library allocation from the Town of Hinesburg of \$216,815, with the estimated sum of \$216,815 appropriated from property taxes to defray the library allocation from the Town? The article was moved and seconded. Paul Lamberson recognized Sue Barden, the town librarian, who is retiring in June after 30 years. She received a standing ovation. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$27,250, with the estimated sum of \$27,250 appropriated from property taxes, to be distributed as specifically designated to the following agencies and organizations?

- Women Helping Battered Women: \$2,400
- Hinesburg Community Resource Center: \$11,000
- Visiting Nurses Association: \$6,500
- COTS: \$1,000
- Howard Center: \$800
- Chittenden County Community Action: \$1,000
- Hinesburg Rides: \$1,750
- Hope Works: \$200
- Vermont Red Cross: \$400
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont: \$500
- Hinesburg Senior Meal Site: \$700
- Lund Center: \$1,000

Moderator Twarog said that he would read the entire motion once in its entirety but would then read only the first part after the discussion, if any. The article was moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote with no dissent.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of funding the milfoil mitigation and removal efforts in Lake Iroquois to be managed by the Lake Iroquois Association? If approved, the voters will be funding one year of the five-year effort led by the Lake Iroquois Association.

Jamie Carroll of the Lake Iroquois Association gave some history and background information related to the plans for chemical treatment of the Lake for milfoil mitigation. After some discussion, Dee Dee Erb asked for a paper ballot. More than the requisite number of 7 people wanted the paper ballot. Town Clerk Missy Ross then gave instructions for the procedure for paper ballot voting. Several members of the BCA helped count the ballots and the article passed 121 in favor and 104 opposed.

ARTICLE 11: Shall voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town of Hinesburg? Moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: *Shall voters authorize the payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, payable in full to the Town of Hinesburg in one (1) installment, with the due date being November 15, 2017? Any and all payments received in the Town Treasurer's Office later than midnight on November 15, 2017 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 1.5% per month or fraction thereof.* Moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: *Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651d?* Moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: *Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3546 (e), shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to adopt an ordinance regulating domestic pets or wolf-hybrids by an ordinance that diverges from the procedures in statute by allowing, among other things, the filing of complaints regarding dog bites or attacks by law enforcement officers regardless of the location of the bite or attack?* The moderator read the article aloud and there was immediately a wave of laughter in the auditorium as it sounded like the police were biting people. After the guffaws ran their course, there was a motion to amend the article to read as follows: "...from the procedures in statute by allowing law enforcement officers to file complaints regarding dog bites or attacks, regardless of the property location of the bite or attack." The amended motion was adopted and approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: *To transact any other business, as proper, to be brought before said meeting? Signed and dated this 30th day of January 2017, and as attested to by:* There were several motions offered under other business, none of which are binding. Roger Kohn offered a Motion to: "mail or leave at high traffic areas, to include the Post Office, library, Lantman's, Good Times, Papa Nick's, Hinesburg Public House and such other locations as deemed appropriate by the Selectboard the Annual Report." There was then a motion to amend the motion with the language "if each business wishes to allow". The amendment and the motion were adopted. Lenore Budd then offered a motion: "I move to advise the Selectboard to create a committee to establish criteria and procedures for determining how Vermont Gas Systems compensation funds, assuming they become available to the Town, will be utilized." An amendment was offered by Chuck Reiss: "... and at least 2 warned public meetings will occur before any binding decisions regarding criteria and procedures are made." The Motion passed by voice vote. A Motion by Stacey Riley to "apply \$190,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 Vermont Gas Systems compensation to the Bissonette Family Field project" was rejected by voice vote.

We adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m. precisely.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa B. Ross, Town Clerk