



Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
(802) 482-2281 | hinesburg.org

Town Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2018

- Draft -

The meeting kicked off at 7 p.m. with a short presentation by Bill Lippert, Hinesburg's representative to the Legislature. He ordinarily doesn't give a talk before town meeting, but felt that there were several important issues facing the State and Town in light of changes in Washington, DC and here at home. He pointed out that the legislature is very concerned with protecting Vermonters from the impacts of tax reform and changes to health care legislation, and he also mentioned gun control measures that are being considered in light of the recent threat to a school here in Vermont. Once he finished his informational talk, the moderator, Frank Twarog, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the necessary town and school district officers by Australian ballot Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (see "Officers for Election" list in the Annual Report).

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of the officers of the Town of Hinesburg and take action thereon.

Phil Pouech, Select Board Chair, gave a power point presentation highlighting some of the important things that had happened in the Town during the last year. He mentioned several areas of interest including the hiring of Renae Marshall as the town administrator and Joy Dubin Grossman as the new assistant town administrator as well as the highway garage construction project. He also showed a pie chart illustrating what parts of the budget were the causes of the increase of 12 percent. There seemed to be little consternation about the budget increase as there were no follow up questions. Pouech then displayed a picture of some of the fire department members and said that they will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the department on June 30, 2018. The audience thanked the members of the department with a standing ovation. Phil then gave accolades to a few of the employees who had reached milestones in terms of their employment with the Town. They included Mike Anthony leading the pack with 35 years, Marie Gardner who stayed on to help the Town with reappraisal, and Cheryl Hubbard who completed 20 years of working for Hinesburg in the clerk's office. Phil also mentioned several other new employees who have helped fill the roster.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town approve a General Government budget of \$1,731,252 with the estimated sum of \$1,389,135 appropriated from property taxes to defray the general government expenses of the Town?

The motion was moved and seconded and passed on a unanimous voice vote with no questions and no discussion.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town approve a Highway Department budget of \$1,002,241 with the estimated sum of \$864,241 appropriated from property taxes to defray the highway expenditures of the Town?

The motion was moved and seconded and passed on a unanimous voice vote with no questions and no discussion.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Community Police Department budget of \$558,510 with the estimated sum of \$522,010 appropriated from property taxes to defray the police expenditures of the Town?

The article was moved and seconded. There were a couple of questions about the car replacement schedule and whether it would be possible to put off purchasing new vehicles for a year? The chief responded that it had been determined that the cars last about 6 years given some of the rough roads in Hinesburg. Another member of the audience wanted to know if the department was applying for or receiving any military type equipment from Homeland Security. Chief Koss responded no. The motion then carried on a voice vote with only a few dissents.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Fire Department budget of \$317,122, with the estimated sum of \$289,122 appropriated from property taxes to defray the fire expenditures of the Town?

The motion was moved and seconded. Carl Bohlen asked why it appeared that the proportion of the fire department budget to be raised from taxes was so much higher than last year and he wondered if they had less revenue than the year before or was there another explanation? After some confusion, an audience member pointed out that there was actually a typo in the minutes from last year which made it look that way. Missy Ross, the town clerk who had done the prior year's minutes, said that she had made a typo and had reversed two numbers in the article. The article was then approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: 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 motion was moved and seconded. Sara Armstrong Donegan, the new director of the Carpenter Carse Library, gave a brief overview of changes in the coming year. She said that the Board had made a decision to level fund the amount they were requesting from the Town. She also said that the library will remain open for 8 more hours per week, for which she received applause. She thanked everyone for their support. The motion was carried on a voice vote with no dissent.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$29,100, with the estimated sum of \$29,100 appropriated from property taxes, to be distributed as specifically designated to the following agencies and organizations?

Steps to End Domestic Violence	\$2,350
Hinesburg Community Resource Center	\$13,000

Visiting Nurses Association	\$6,500
COTS	\$1,000
Howard Center	\$800
Chittenden County Community Action	\$1,000
Hinesburg Rides	\$1,800
Hope Works	\$200
VT Family Network	\$800
Hinesburg Senior Meal Site	\$650
Lund Center	\$1,000

The motion was moved and seconded. An audience member asked how the amounts were arrived at and was told that there is a committee that determines which agencies get funded. The motion then carried on a voice vote.

(If voters approved Articles 3 through 7 as presented, total general fund expenditures of \$3,855,040 will be required, with the estimated amount of \$3,140,040 to come from property tax revenue)

ARTICLE 9: Shall voters authorize the Select Board 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 10: Shall voters authorize the payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, payable in full to the Town of Hinesburg in one (1) installment, with the due date being November 15, 2018? Any and all payments received in the Town Treasurer's Office later than midnight on November 15, 2018 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.

The motion was moved and seconded and passed on a voice vote with no discussion.

ARTICLE 11: To transact any other business, as proper, to be brought before said meeting?

Andrea Morgante made a motion to amend Article 7 in the 2017 minutes from town meeting shown on page 40 of this year's report: "motion to amend the minutes from the March 2017 Town Meeting Article 7 for correction of what is written from \$238,836.00 to \$283,836.00." The motion was carried without objection.

Peter Erb inquired about progress for speakers for audience members to better hear public meetings. No motion was offered, but it was noted that the move to the downstairs meeting room at town hall had improved the quality of acoustics and should help with the issue.

Following encouragement from Greg Leroy to voice the town's desire for CSWD to return to Hinesburg, Bill Lippert made the following motion: "[Hinesburg's] Town Meeting expresses our strong support to CSWD for returning to Hinesburg to establish a recycling station as soon as practical." The motion was resoundingly passed.

Although Roger Kohn did not advance a formal motion to request that the 2019 Town Report would once again be mailed, rather than placed at certain publicly accessible locations around town, the Select Board did infer that copies would get mailed.

Ray Mainer's motion to adjourn was approved at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa B. Ross
Town Clerk