



TOWN MEETING WARNING

Town of Hinesburg, Vermont

Minutes: - Draft - March 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Moderator Frank Twarog gave a brief overview of the history of town meeting in Hinesburg. He then reviewed procedures for speaking and voting on the Articles before the body. He asked for a motion to let non-registered voters speak if they so desired. The motion was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote. Twarog then noted that Article 1 would be voted on the following day at the Hinesburg Town Hall with voting hours to be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the necessary town and school district officers by Australian ballot Tuesday, March 5, 2019 (see “Officers for Election” list in the Annual Report).

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

Selectboard Chair Phil Pouech gave an overview of important milestones in the town in the preceding year. He gave special recognition to Andrea Morgante who is not seeking reelection to her seat on the Board that she has held for 27 years. He presented her with flowers and she received a standing ovation from the audience. He also said that the pedestrian bridge over the canal will be dedicated to her with a plaque for the bridge. Phil then recognized several employees who were reaching important milestones. Frank Koss, Chief of Police, is retiring in June or July; Cheryl Hubbard, Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer, is retiring at the end of 2019; Town Clerk Missy Ross reached her 20 year mark of working for the town; Marie Gardner had retired in 2018; and he acknowledged the hard work of the water and sewer department and highway department employees. He also gave a brief summary of the changes of note in the budget. There was a motion to accept the report of the Selectboard and it was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: *Shall the Town approve a General Government budget of \$1,808,181 with the estimated sum of \$1,364,064 appropriated from property taxes to defray the general government expenses of the Town?* Moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: *Shall the Town approve a Highway Department budget of \$1,014,991 with the estimated sum of \$877,491 appropriated from property taxes to defray the highway expenditures of the Town?*

The article was moved and seconded. Vicki Matthews stood to thank the highway department for all of their hard work during this challenging winter. Richard Watts asked whether there was money in the budget for fog lines on some of the roads which are important for pedestrian, cyclist and motorist safety. Andrea said yes, they were planning on doing fog lines where needed but that it was sometimes hard to find a company to implement the plan. Vicki Matthews asked if there was an increase in the salt budget and Andrea said yes, a \$5,000 increase. The motion was then called and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: *Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Community Police Department budget of \$574,391 with the estimated sum of \$532,891 appropriated from property taxes to defray the police expenditures of the Town?* There were a few questions about various things in the police budget,

particularly the unmarked car and whether our department was buying equipment from the military. The Board answered that we are not buying military equipment. Deb Light asked why there was such an increase in the salary line and the Board answered that the increase was less than the 3 percent given to employees as they are anticipating paying Chief Koss's replacement less than he makes. Selectboard member Aaron Kimball said that they are looking for a collaborative person to take the Chief's place.

ARTICLE 6: *Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Fire Department budget of \$311,939 with the estimated sum of \$271,939 appropriated from property taxes to defray the fire expenditures of the Town?* The question was moved and seconded. Carl Bohlen asked about whether or not the Town was looking at a new fire station? Al Barber said that call volume was up and they needed more space for training and equipment. Phil stated that the Selectboard will be very involved in weighing the options for any expansion. Norm Smith asked if we can charge impact fees to help with the additional calls that any new senior housing might generate. Phil Pouech said that we can charge impact fees for very specific things and that those things must be spelled out in the ordinance. Greg Matthews got up to say that as we move forward we must keep affordability in mind. He quoted the old saying that we have champagne taste on a beer budget and that people will leave if we keep spending too much money. The moderator moved the question and the article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: *Shall the Town approve the Carpenter-Carse Library allocation from the Town of Hinesburg of \$225,487 with the estimated sum of \$225,487 appropriated from property taxes to defray the library allocation from the Town?* Several people stated that we have a wonderful resource in our town library and that everyone should use it. Director Sara Armstrong Donegan recognized a couple of long serving employees, Judy Curtis for 25 years and Richard Pritzky for 15 years. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: *Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$27,550 with the estimated sum of \$27,550 appropriated from property taxes, to be distributed as specifically designated to the following agencies and organizations?* The motion was read, moved and seconded. Howdy Russell made a motion to add \$1,000 to the Article for Chittenden Community Action as they had gotten their request in a few days late. The motion was approved, bringing the total of the Article to \$28,550. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Hinesburg Community Resource Center	\$13,000
UVM Home Care & Hospice (VNA)	\$6,500
Agency on Aging (CVAA)	\$2,000
Howard Center	\$1000
Hinesburg Rides	\$1,800
VT Family Network	\$1000
Hope Works	\$200
American Red Cross	\$400
Hinesburg Senior Meal Site	\$650
Lund Center	\$1,000

ARTICLE 9: *Shall the town appropriate an estimated sum of \$50,000 to be raised from property taxes for work required to modify the configuration and signal light timing of the Lantman's exit/Charlotte Rd/Rt. 116 intersection for the purpose of improving traffic flow in the village?* The motion was moved and seconded. Phil Pouech gave an overview of what the \$50,000 would accomplish. Deb Dameron, who lives adjacent to the intersection, expressed her concern that it would make it more difficult to turn left off of the Charlotte Road as you would have to yield to cars coming out of Lantman's. Ray Mainer said it

was the worst idea he had heard in his 45 years of attending town meeting. He made a request to amend Article 9 by striking language concerning signal light timing and traffic flow. The amended motion reads:

“Shall the town appropriate an estimated sum of \$50,000 to be raised from property taxes for work required to modify the configuration of the Lantman’s exit/Charlotte Rd/Rt. 116 intersection for the purpose of improving safety at the exit of Lantman’s?”

The amended motion was seconded and following discussion, it failed.

(If voters approved Articles 3 through 9 as presented, total general fund expenditures of \$4,012,539 will be required, with the estimated amount of \$3,349,422 to come from property tax revenue).

ARTICLE 10: *Shall voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town of Hinesburg?* Motion was made, seconded and passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: *Shall voters authorize the payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, payable in full to the Town of Hinesburg in one (1) installment, with the due date being November 15, 2019? Any and all payments received in the Town Treasurer's Office later than midnight on November 15, 2019 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.* Motion was made, seconded and approved on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: *To transact any other business, as proper, to be brought before said meeting?* Chuck Reiss stood to ask that we consider the following motion, which Moderator Twarog read to the audience:

WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures and increasingly severe storms demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation, and the planet, and WHEREAS the State of Vermont and the Town of Hinesburg have goals in the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Hinesburg Town Plan to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal; Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Hinesburg urges the State of Vermont to:
 - a. Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, including but not limited to energy transmission and distribution pipelines;
 - b. Firmly commit to at least 90% renewable energy for all thermal, electrical and transportation energy needs for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines; and,
 - c. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy includes the reduction of total energy demand through energy efficiency measures.
2. That the Town of Hinesburg will do our part to meet these demands by committing to the following:
 - a. Prohibit new construction of fossil fuel infrastructure on town-owned lands, with infrastructure defined as a structure and ancillary facilities used to move fossil fuel from one location to another, such as a natural gas or oil pipeline and other natural gas facilities. The exception being connections to individual properties that abut an existing fossil fuel pipeline;

- b. Weatherize all town owned buildings and schools and promoting programs and regulations that support all non-town owned buildings to incorporate efficiency and weatherization ;
- c. Install renewable energy generation technologies on municipal buildings when financially viable;
- d. Pursue initiatives that would reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles while encouraging carpooling , mass transportation and the transition to electric vehicles;
- e. Strategically review all town government energy use and transition to new ways to provide necessary services in an energy sustainable way.

Article 12 involved extensive discussion about a non-binding resolution brought to the floor by Chuck Reiss (read by the moderator) and seconded. The Ray Mainer made a motion to amend the resolution to strike 1a and replace it with the following language: “Encourage the State of Vermont to restart Vermont Yankee.” The amended motion was seconded and discussion was had. Keith Roberts moved to call the question and was seconded. Following a voice vote, the amended resolution failed. Keith Roberts then moved to strike 2a altogether, which was seconded. Bill Marks then moved to amend the amendment by including 2a, but replacing the word “prohibit” with the word, “discourage.” The amended amendment was seconded. Following discussion, the amended amendment passed by voice vote.

There was a motion made to adjourn at 10 p.m. Seconded and passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed and dated this 28th day of January 2019, and as attested to by:

Phil Pouech, Chair

Tom Ayer

Aaron Kimball, Vice-Chair

Merrily Lovell

Andrea Morgante

Attest: Melissa Ross, Town Clerk