



Select Board

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2020

- Draft -

Attending the Meeting: Phil Pouech, Merrily Lovell, Mike Loner, Jeff Tobrocke, Renae Marshall, Joy Dubin Grossman, Wayne Elliott, Al Barber, Chuck Reiss, Mike Webb.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom online remote meeting platform.

There were no changes to the agenda or public comment.

Town Administrator Report

Renae announced the newest member of the Highway Department, Matt Denis. He will begin on August 17th.

- Working with Lantman's to support their mask requirement to shop inside the store. Renae said there seems to be some confusion regarding the ADA related to COVID-19 pandemic facial covering requirement. Lantman's, in coordination with the Town, provides other shopping options for those unable to wear any form of facial covering.
- Thanks to all our businesses that are working hard to keep the community safe and businesses open.
- Assisting VTrans with getting information out regarding the intersection project.
- Met with the Energy Committee to discuss their recommendations.

Select Board Forum / Correspondence Received

Merrily said she watched the DRB meeting last night. They closed the public input portion of the hearings for the Haystack Crossing project. She said this will come to the Select Board eventually and there are issues the Board needs to be aware of. Phil asked why she thinks it will come before the Board. Merrily responded it was stated several times at the DRB meeting, "that is a decision the Select Board will have to make".

Phil said there have been a lot of postings on FPF about Black Rock development expressing concerns. Phil reminded us that the size of the development and the Town developing this way is a function of

the Town Plan. People can be involved in that part of the process and help in developing a vision for the Town.

Phil said the Board got a letter from the Fire Department.

Mike said he spoke with Sau who had a comment similar to what Allison Cleary stated in a letter. The suggestion is to start considering our hiring policies and how to make them more equitable.

Consider Approving Solar Proposal Recommendations by the Energy Committee

Phil recused himself and Merrily stepped in to chair this item.

Mike Webb reviewed the bid summary and recommendations by the Energy Committee.

Recommended projects

- Move forward with project A – the Town’s wastewater plant
- Move forward with project B – Fire Station roof. There are some possible structural concerns with the roof supporting solar. An assessment of the roof would be done by an engineering company at no cost to the Town. If found to be structurally viable, we would move ahead with the project. If not, recommendations to make it structurally viable will be made. If improvements are made, the Town will bear that cost.
- Move forward with project C – new Town Garage roof
- Move forward with project E – Town Landfill

Merrily thanked the committee for all the work on the proposal and their recommendations. She asked who will be doing the work.

Mike W said they will reach out to all the bidders and let them know the decision of the Select Board. The Energy Committee will set up a kick off meeting with each bidder to see how they see the process playing out and possible schedules. He expects the first step they will take is to submit a CPG to lock in the current rate.

Mike L moved the Board approve the recommendations as proposed by the Energy Committee and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign necessary documents and work with the Town Attorney. Second by Merrily and approved with 3 yes votes.

Merrily turned the meeting back over to Phil.

Phil asked about the next steps. Mike W said the first document to be signed is the letter of intent requested from one bidder. The Energy committee will engage in initial discussion with the bidders. The bidders will submit net metering and lease agreements that will be sent to the Town Attorney for review. Chuck Reiss wanted to clarify the role of the Energy Committee going forward. Phil said the assumption is the Energy Committee will drive this forward. If there is a commitment of funds or legal documents to be signed it would come back to the Board. A representative from the Select Board will be involved with the Energy Committee.

Wastewater Upgrade Funding Update and November Bond Vote Discussion

Phil welcomed Wayne Elliott to the meeting. Wayne talked about the process of the project and his involvement.

Renae said Wayne can talk about how to divide the project in order to access all the available funding. The bond vote will still be for the full \$11.7 million project cost.

Wayne said the bond counsel requires a vote for the total project cost amount in part because some of the money is loan subsidy and forgiveness. Wayne advised if the bond vote passes we will need to move quickly to get the project started.

Merrily asked about the Resolution Certificate. Renae said those are the necessary documents for the bond vote and will be ready for the Board to act on at the next meeting.

Mike L asked at what point the Board discusses the bond debt and how that will be paid. Wayne suggested having Alex attend a meeting in Sept to get an idea of new development and allocation fees. Jeff T asked Wayne if there any concerns with State Funding being suspended or changing due to shortfalls at the State level. Wayne said the money is already there and the State cannot dip into the funds.

Phil asked if Wayne has any doubts or concerns regarding the funding options available to the Town. Wayne replied he feels good and the Town is still looking for any further funding opportunities.

Discuss Select Board Action Regarding an Unpermitted Driveway

Renae shared a letter written to the property owner regarding the violation. The property owner is working on correcting the violation. Renae will let him know to be sure the fence he is putting up is not erected in the road right-of-way.

Consider Creating a Community Advisory Working Group

Renae shared a list of residents interested in participating, Mike L said he has two names to add and Jeff T is looking to add a student from CVU. Renae asked for contact information for all interested so she can schedule a time for a meeting.

Review Minutes from July 29, 2020

Phil moved to approve the minutes from July 29, 2020 as amended. Second by Mike L and approved with 4 yes votes.

Consider Approving Warrants

Phil moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

Merrily moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., second by Mike L and approved with 4 yes votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, Clerk of the Board