



Select Board

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2020

- Draft -

Attending the Meeting: Phil Pouech, Merrily Lovell, Mike Loner, Maggie Gordon, Joy Dubin Grossman, Dawn Francis, Elizabeth Doran, Lisa Truchon, Jeff Forward, Mike Anthony, Alex Weinhagen, Mary Jo Brace, Kate Kelly, Andrea Morgante, Chris Conant, Jeff Davis, Meg Handler, Lisa, Bob Hyams, Mike Webb, Meg Handler, Shannon Kelly, Darcie Mumley, Erik Bailey, Jane Clifford, Roger Crouse, Bob Donniss, Marion Mumford, Oren Guttmann, Jeri Belise.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

Phil noted Jeff French is not able to attend the meeting.

Additions / Deletions and Public Comment

None.

Town Administrator Report

Joy wanted the Board to be aware that the Agency Request Review Committee met and reviewed requests that were sent in before the deadline. There have been two or three agencies now looking for funding. The general consensus of the committee is that they have a deadline which all applicants are aware of and the money has already been allocated.

- The Town hired Amy Coonradt as recording secretary for the PC and DRB.
- Still have open positions for winter sidewalk maintainer and highway maintainer.
- The skating rink has been erected and Jen is working on getting lighting.
- Met with Aaron and the web designer from Civic Plus. Looking for photographs of Hinesburg to include on the website to personalize it.
- Geprag parking lot has become a dump site. The Highway Department has cleaned it up.
- VTUMS contracted with Creekside for the stormwater pond detention work. The Town's share of the cost is 50%. The work is anticipated to be completed within the next three weeks.
- Joy suggests Boards, Committee and Commission open seats be made in February when the workload for the Board is lighter. Phil agrees this is a good idea and the Select Board will need to change the reappointment policy.

Select Board Forum / Correspondence Received

Merrily said she received an email from Janice Osgood about the budget presentation to the voters. Janice suggests the Board present it as separate departments as in the past.

Phil said they are working to get complete closure of the landfill for the solar project.

Phil was contacted by a reported from UVM about the hire through the police grant.

There has been some discussion on how to formalize the Fire Department as a Town Department.

Phil spoke with Al Barber about the level of water in the canal, it needs to be cleaned out as it is a primary water source for firefighting. It will likely need dredging which will involve ANR. Mike said he mentioned to Al there are some beaver dams diverting the flow back to Patrick Brook. Andrea said there are a lot of issues around the canal and certainly the canal that goes from Nestech to Route 116. Dealing with the canal / Patrick Brook from Nestech heading toward CVU would need to be addressed with ANR and stream alteration. There are a number of things that have to do with the ACT 250 permit for the Nestech building, she will share the documents she has on that with Joy.

Consider Approving FY 21 Delinquent Tax Warrant

Joy said this year's amount is considerably lower than the past few years.

Merrily moved to approve the FY20 Delinquent Tax Warrant. Second by Mike. Amended by Phil to correct the year to FY 20/21. Motion voted as corrected and approved with 4 yes votes.

Consider Approving FY 21 Errors & Omissions

Lisa Truchon, from NEMRC, reviewed the properties on the E&O report.

Maggie moved to approve the FY 21 Errors & Omissions report. Second by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

Discussion of Australian Ballot Process for Town Meeting

The Town is changing to an Australian Ballot vote for this year and only this year due to the pandemic. The Board will need to make a more robust effort in advance of the vote to get budget information out to the voters. They will need to prepare the budget as early as possible. At the January 20 meeting they will have a formal budget presentation similar to how it would be presented at Town Meeting. At this meeting, people can propose any changes and suggestions and the Board can make any modifications they deem necessary. The Board would finalize the budget at this meeting. It will be signed on January 21.

Phil read the Resolution of Hinesburg Select Board Regarding Australian Ballot system for March 2, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. (copy attached)

Phil moved to approve the Resolution regarding the Australian Ballot system for March 2, 2021 Town Meeting with the correction of the date to 2021. Second by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

Conservation Commission Applicant Review

Liz Doran was present to apply for the open position on the Conservation Commission. Liz grew up in Hinesburg and has experience serving on volunteer boards.

Merrily thanked Liz and said from her application it is clear she has a lot to offer the Commission.

Merrily moved to appoint Liz Doran to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term expiring January 2024. Second by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Update on Highway Garage Solar Project

Jeff Forward said it took a little over 2 weeks from start to finish for the project. There are 88 panels and he expects they will be energized with the next week or two after the inspection is done.

In the Spring they will doing the solar project on the water treatment facility building.

Phil asked about the Town's option to purchase in 5 years. Jeff said the contract gives the option in year 7 or 8.

Andrea asked if this will cover the costs of electricity for the garage. Jeff said it will be close, they want to be a little less. If they produce more net metering credits than can be absorbed then the utility gets them for free.

FY 22 General Fund Budget Review Expenditures and Revenue

- **Highway** – Mike presented the budget. He added \$10,000 to professional services for culvert engineering work. Vehicle Repair & Maintenance increased by \$5,000 (prices of parts have increased). Salaries includes funds for temporary part-time hire if needed for snow removal and also winter bonuses. In the capital budget Mike recommends not replacing the dump truck as planned and to use those funds to replace the grader. The capital transfer cost will be about the same. Phil moved to adjust the Capital Improvement Plan to reflect purchasing the grader before the next dump truck. Second by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes. Mike will have dollar amounts for the Board at their next meeting.
- **Planning and Zoning** – Alex said it is basically a flat budget. He is requesting an additional \$500 in capital transfer funds for the zoning regulation overhaul. Revenue projections are

conservatively projected to increase by \$3,000. Phil asked about the CCRPC projects. Alex said he is not looking at anything new but would like see the Board take some action on the two projects in the queue. The Route 116 / Charlotte Road intersection and the Richmond Road / North Road / Texas Hill Road intersection project. Merrily asked if the Richmond Road sidewalk can be added to the list. Alex said the Richmond Road / North Road/ Texas Hill Road work could be a starting point for that. The sidewalk project is very large and expensive. The Board is in favor of moving forward on this intersection improvement. Alex said he would like the Board to look at the study. If this is the project the Board chooses to work on, he can work with Mike A to get a projected dollar amount for the work.

- **Cemetery Commission** – Mary Jo said they increased the capital improvements by \$2,000 for needed tree maintenance work. The total estimate for the work is \$12,000. Mary Jo also mentioned setting aside funds for future road repair. Joy will make some adjustments to the capital improvements and review them with Mary Jo
- **Conservation Commission** – Kate said most items are level funded. There is \$6,000 for phase 2 of the Natural Resources Inventory. This request will probably continue for 3 to 4 years. Merrily asked about the tree plantings. The Tree Warden has a separate budget so it is not clear why there is funding for tree plantings here too. Joy will check into this.
- **Lewis Creek Association** – Andrea reviewed the budget. They are requesting the usual \$550. for general operations of the Association. Andrea requested at a meeting in October support for the Water Quality Stewardship Program in the amount of \$1,653.60. Mike asked if this \$1653.60 is to be voted separate from the \$550 request in the CC budget. It was agreed Lewis Creek will remain in the CC budget this year and the \$1653.60 will be added to the usual \$550.
- **Lake Iroquois Association** – Chris Conant shared a power point presentation on the work of LIA and what they have accomplished. They are requesting \$15,000 in funding. Phil asked where the \$15,000 will specifically be spent and is the plan to use some of that for the herbicide program. Merrily said last year the Board was provided with a spreadsheet showing where the funds would be spent and asked if Chris can provide that again. Chris said he has one and can forward it on. Merrily said, last year \$7,500 of the budget request was marked for the herbicide treatment. It was removed as there was no permit in place at that time. There still is no permit so she feels it is untimely to include those funds. Chris said there are so many projects and the money can be allocated for any portion for the years plan to mitigate milfoil. There is the greeter program, DASH program and others. Bob Hyams asked about getting more property owners to comply with Lake Wise standards so they would be doing their part in cutting down nutrient flows from their lawns. Chris said this is something the LIA is working on.
- **Lake Iroquois Recreation District** – Jeff Davis said they again asking for \$3,000. \$1,500 is toward maintaining the road and \$1,500 for the beach. Andrea asked about ownership of the road, if a portion is owned by the district is there any funding available through the state as a municipality. Shannon Kelly said there would be no money based on road miles. He has worked with help from CCRPC on this for over three years, they were successful in getting funds for the design to improve the road. Andrea said while this is a large expense it is critical and she would support if there was a long term plan for continued maintenance that is shared with the different towns, property owners and the State. Shannon asked Phil for his thoughts on coming

back in the future for a funding request to make this happen. Phil said if they can get everyone involved and possible grant funds, he feels the Town would support it.

- **Trails Committee** – Oren said they are level funded this year. They have two projects planned. One is to start the Baldwin Road trail and the other is to continue to work with VYCC for heavy work on the trails. Merrily asked about the monthly cost for zoom included in the budget. Oren said they are paying for zoom meetings. Joy said she could create invitations through the Town account and will work with Oren to do that.

Review Minutes from November 18, 2020

Phil moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2020 as amended. Second by Merrily 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 Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Merrily moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m., second by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, Clerk of the Board