

SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 21, 2013

Attending the meeting; Jon Trefry, Mike Bissonette, Andrea Morgante, Phil Pouech, Tom Ayer, Joe Colangelo and attached list.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. for FY 2014 budget deliberations by Board members.

Mike B said his goal is to keep the tax rate flat. The estimated growth in the grand list is \$20,000.

Mike discussed accomplishing this by implementing cuts in the following; attorney fees / brush cutting / fire insurance / storage shed – maintain the reduced paving budget of \$150,000 and increase the cash carry over.

Jon said he is a bit concerned with keeping the rate flat this time which may result in a substantial increase next year.

Both Andrea and Jon were not opposed to putting more of the fund balance toward items, but agreed on the need to budget the true amount a project is expected to cost and not cut the budgeted amount so close in anticipations of using the fund balance if needed.

Phil also said he feels the need to put forth budget amounts needed to tax payers so they see what the true costs are and use the fund balance to reduce the tax rate as in the past.

The Board then discussed adding the \$25, 0000 cut from the paving budget back in and using the fund balance to cover that.

Jon suggested leaving the shed a three year project and leave the attorney fees, but agreed to cut the \$5,000 from brush cutting and \$5,000 from the fire insurance.

Phil agreed on holding off on the shed. He said he is reconsidering the electronic speed sign purchase.

Mike B brought up his past suggestion of funding to hire a grant writer. Andrea said the grants the Town applies for are fairly straight forward and can be completed by staff. Tom suggested the Economic Development Committee tackle that idea.

At 7:00 p.m. the Board moved on to the rest of the items on the agenda.

Matt Baldwin was present. He stated he attended the Public Hearings regarding the VT Gas Pipeline project. He wanted to again say, as he did at the public hearing, that the line would go right next to his house and within feet of his well. His home is the closest one to the line on Baldwin Rd. He is requesting the Town get a lawyer to represent the Town with the VT Gas process. Jon said that was the sentiment expressed at the Public Hearing and the Selectboard is aware.

Phil also noted that the letter the Town sent regarding the project opposes the route on Baldwin Rd and supports work be done in the VELCO right of way.

Town Forest Committee

The Town Forest Committee has attended a number of Selectboard meetings over the past 12 months. Most notably, the Town Forest Management Plan was adopted back in September by the Selectboard after a number of meetings and public hearings.

Chuck Reiss noted other accomplishments this past year as; identification of vernal pools and wetlands near selected trails / erosion control work on the Eagles trail / endorsement of a Fellowship of the Wheel grant / salvage and clearing of July blow down near the Economou Rd trailhead and down in the Laplatte Headwaters Town Forest as well.

Steve Fisher of Fellowship of the Wheel offered their help with construction of the kiosks.

Tom asked about logging from the blow down up by Texas Hill. Pat said everything of value has been salvaged and no further work has been planned.

Jon asked about the list of action items – Stuart and Chuck said they have identified what items they will focus on this coming year.

Phil asked about the Fellowship of the Wheel grant. Steve Fisher said this year work will be done on the trials.

Conservation Commission – Budget Request

Bill Marks reviewed the budget with the Board. Bill said they reduced the request for Geprag Park to \$1,500 as they no longer plan to purchase a mower. The monies are for hiring someone to mow the fields and rent a mower commission members use to clear the trails.

There is a budget item requesting \$5,000 for the Lake Iroquois Association.

Jim Ross of the Lake Iroquois Association said the request is for phase 2 of a 3 phase project to address the shoreline problems.

Jim reviewed with the Board the first phase that was done last fall with help from Williston and Hinesburg to build catch basins.

Jon asked if the money requested is to be used for grant funding. Jim said if needed a portion of the \$5,000 would be used as a contribution for the Associations share toward a grant.

Phil asked in regards to the focus on the watershed, if the other towns in the LIRD have been approached for help and Jim said they have.

Tom asked about the run off from Dynamite Hill. Jim said that problem will be their focus for the months ahead.

Mike B moved the Board vote to accept the FY2014 Conservation Commission Budget Request of \$8,600 and take the request into strong consideration before finalizing the FY2014 Hinesburg Town budget and setting the Town Meeting Warning on January 28, 2013. Second by Phil and approved.

CBC Interviews

Meg Handler attended the meeting to express her interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. Meg is interested in conservation and currently serves on the Board of the Lake Iroquois Association. Meg has already been very involved in the work of the Conservation Commission.

Phil moved the Board vote to appoint Meg Handler to a 4-year term on the Conservation Commission ending December 31, 2016. Second by Andrea and approved.

Lake Iroquois Recreation District Update

Michelle Fisher, Hinesburg's rep was present to answer any questions.

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District beach area, along with its 150 acres of open land, continues to serve the district towns of Hinesburg, Richmond, St. George, and Williston, as well as all non-residents. The district lands provide access to swimming, picnicking, playground equipment, and walking trails.

The beach area is host to birthday parties, individual and group functions, and summertime fun. Costs for septic maintenance and summer staff represent the majority of annual expenses. Water quality sampling continues on a weekly basis.

The Beach area is open for the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day, annual beach passes are available for a fee at the Town Clerk's office.

Lake Iroquois Recreation District Representatives

Michelle Fischer	Hinesburg
Bruce Hoar, Chair	Richmond
Susan Bishop, Treasurer	Williston

The district exists for the purpose of owning, leasing, developing, maintaining, and managing its property located on Lake Iroquois and vicinity, for public park, conservation, and recreational purposes to serve its member communities.

The District Commission normally meets the first Monday of each month at the Williston Town Office.

Michelle said last year the roof was replaced on the building. Vending machines with snacks are available. Last year they hosted a community walk on the trails and a kayak night. Beach erosion is a continuing problem and they look forward to working with the Lake Iroquois Assoc to solve the problem.

For FY2013 an allocation of \$600 to the LIRD was voted on and approved as a separate Article at Town Meeting.

Public Safety Facility Project

Joe shared the latest drawings and building layout plans updated to include changes discussed as well as traffic pattern changes.

Discussed was how best to show the entire campus alternative and lot 1 / Town green plan.

Phil suggested highlighting the drawing so it is clear what is included in the first phase while showing the entire project.

John K said he liked Phil's approach to show the phasing.

Tom said he still feels there is not enough specificity to show exactly what the bond is for – do we know for sure what the Fire Department will look like or the park.

There were questions if all the paving costs for all required access are included. Joe will check on that.

PACE Financing

Chuck Reiss was present to request an Article placed on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to approve designating Hinesburg as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District, to enter into an agreement with Efficiency Vermont to administer the program, and arrange so that the Town is not required to incur debt as a result of the program.

Chuck is also circulating a petition to capture the signatures necessary to force the item on the Warning by the January 24 deadline. Chuck and Joe met just this past week on this. Joe passed along his concern that regardless of the merits of the program he was concerned that the Selectboard did not have proper time to study this request prior to setting the Warning next week and thinks this prompted Chuck to consider acquiring the 5% signatures by January 24th.

Jon said not having all the answers on this program makes him a bit reluctant to place on the warning by the Selectboard.

If warned and approved there is no deadline for implementation.

Jon asked what if it is voted and the Selectboard chooses not to implement. Joe will check that out.

Andrea moved the Board vote to warn an article for Town Meeting that addresses the need to establish a PACE district with exact wording of the article to be decided by January 28. Second by Mike B and approved.

Vt Gas Pipeline Project

The Public Meeting on Jan 16 was a well-attended event and a useful exchange of information, thoughts, and emotions. Phil Pouech and Joe met with VT Gas representatives again Friday afternoon to review their presentation materials for the Tuesday, January 22 meeting between VT Gas and regulators – ANR, Army Corps, etc. Phil and Joe will not discuss those plans until after the Tuesday meeting to best respect the process; after the meeting on Tuesday, Phil and Joe will draft a letter to the Selectboard and community outlining the content and outcomes of that meeting.

Phil said it was clear at that meeting that Hinesburg residents did not like the 5A proposal going down Baldwin Rd. Phil said he has heard from VT Gas and they stated they clearly got that message.

John Roos asked about the VELCO right of way and the proposal to establish another right of way parallel to that. Phil said the Town has stated they prefer in the VELCO right of way not parallel.

Continue FY2014 Budget Deliberations if Needed.

Board members continued their discussion on setting the budget. After much give and take on items Andrea moved the Board vote to set the budget for the Town Warning based on taking \$5,000 from Highway for brush cutting / taking \$5,000 from the fire insurance / taking \$6,000 from the shed / remove purchase of the electronic speed sign at \$6,000 / use \$25,000 from the fund balance toward paving which is back to \$175,000 / the attorney fees will remain at \$1,500 and there is a reduction in the Conservation Commission budget of \$1,900.

Motion second by Phil and approved.

Hinesburg's State Representatives and Senator Bill Lippert, Mike Yantachka, and David Zuckerman

Information was shared with the Board on many items including health care, education funding, transportation funding,

Town Administrator's Report

1. **Hannaford Info** – There is a memo from Alex in the meeting packet on line outlining the current status and the process to expect ahead.
2. **Dollar Store Update** – See email/memo from Alex in the meeting packet on line.
3. **Humane Society Intake** – The Humane Society of Chittenden County will now be charging a fee to accept animals from the Town. Joe spoke with Chief Koss about this and seems fine to go. Chief Koss stated at the meeting that it is unlikely the Town will need to send any animals to the Humane Society. Joe will sign the agreement and send back.
4. **Minutes** – We seemed to have already solved our problems. Draft minutes from last meeting were available online by the following Friday.
5. **Town Meeting Warning** – Joe will forward to SB members a draft of the Town Meeting Warning by Wednesday. This will need to be signed at the January 28th SB meeting.
6. **Town Report** – Town Report is awaiting a few last minute documents: final budget, Warning, etc. Needs to be to the printers next week.
7. **VLCT Legislative Reports** – <http://www.vlct.org/advocacy/weekly-legislative-reports>

There were no Selectboard items this evening.

Warrants

Jon moved the Board vote to approve the warrants, including payroll warrants, as presented by the Town Clerk. Second by Andrea and approved.

Minutes

Tom moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of Jan 7 as amended, second by Phil and approved.

Phil moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of Jan 14 as amended, second by Mike B and approved.

Jon moved the Board go into executive session for legal and personnel discussion, second by Phil and approved.

Jon moved the Board come out of executive session and adjourn, second by Phil and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, secretary