
**SELECTBOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2012**

page 1 of 4

DRAFT

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Selectboard Budget Retreat –

Board members discussed the total budget goals / what projects they believe are important to fund and what can be done over multiple years / opportunities to save utilizing volunteers and long term ideas.

At 7:00 p.m. the Board moved up to the main hall for the remainder of the meeting.

George Dameron suggested the Selectboard on behalf of the Town send a card to the Selectboard of Newtown, CT.

David Carse wanted to thank the Selectboard for the letter sent to VT Gas expressing the concerns of residents of Hinesburg.

Andrea noted that the Town of Monkton has the same view and there is a petition in Monkton addressing the issue.

John Roos added he felt the public presentation by Steve Wark has not been very forthcoming.

Delinquent Property Tax Policy

Nancy Dunlap stated her tax payment was 4 days late and feels she should only pay interest on those 4 days.

Missy Ross, Town Treasurer, sent a memo to the Board explaining the policy states that a 1% penalty is charged on a late tax payment if payment is received 1 day late the same as if the payment would have been received 1 month late.

The Selectboard advised Nancy that her recourse would be to go the Board of Abatement with her argument.

Dick Jordan said if the purpose of the policy is to get the payment made it seems punitive to charge for the entire month. It seems right to him to pro-rate the interest according to when the payment is made.

Jon suggested the Selectboard have a discussion to clarify the policy.

CCRPC/ECOS Project Presentation

Charlie Baker and Michelle Boomhower of CCRPC were present to review the project with the Board. More on the ECOS project can be found at <http://ecosproject.com/>

On the list of projects for Hinesburg that the Board has discussed are new water source for the Town and extension of natural gas service up Richmond Rd to the trailer parks.

Public Safety Facility

At the meeting last week the Selectboard was able to interact directly with the estimator on the cost proposal for the public safety facility and tonight the Board has the chance to discuss the cost proposal and consider how to best move forward.

The Public Safety Facility Committee met this past week and suggests the following:

- 1) Issue a 1.1M bond for the design and construction of the police station plus 100K for master site plan per DRB requirements
- 2) Finish fire station design work with impact fees
- 3) Investigate Town owned land to sell to offset total project costs. Selling a half-acre portion of Lot 1 for the appraised value of \$208,000 is not a recommendation of the committee.
- 4) Review Lot 1 design work as part of a long-term vision.

This building proposal has been looked at, reviewed, re-examined many times and Joe believes the proposal we have here is a strong, realistic proposal. Interest rates are very low now making borrowing money attractive and we have gone through an extensive public process to bring these plans to this point dating back over a year. Another important aspect to consider is that, as Henry alluded to last week, the Town still has a lot of control over the total cost of the project at this point and if a 1.1M bond is supported by the public does not mean the entire portion must be borrowed. A vote gives the Selectboard the authority to borrow up to said amount.

It was noted that a reserve fund could be set up for unused funds as well as any income from sale of Town land which could be used toward the next phase.

Jon stated while he feels it is a good strong project he is concerned with the timing of bringing it to the voters.

Phil said something needs to be done and he would like to move forward with this – he feels some things might be removed to lower costs.

Tom said while he is frustrated he feels the whole project has done its job and Frank has worked on doing his part but he is still uncomfortable with the high cost.

Andrea said she feels good about putting it up for a vote before the Town. She feels we need more specificity and all the details around the items like in the schematic budget.

Ed Waite said by supporting this proposal for just doing the PD now is taking advantage of the FD and does not want to see any FD impact fees used. He feels this is not a Public Safety Facility but a PD building.

Diane Barber asked how much the Town has in Fire Dept and Police Dept impact fees. Joe said he will put that information on the Town Web Site. Diane stated a survey was supposed to be done to find out why the bond was voted down.

John Lyman said it feels like the PD is being supported but not the FD.

Mike B said he believes it needs to be done in phases and the PD has an immediate need for a building and that will allow the Town to then focus on the FD.

Joseph Bowman said it feels like the Selectboard does not support the FD.

Jon said the Town had meetings about the project and people said it was too much money and they wanted to see the project phased.

John Lyman said the FD worked hard on a Strategic Plan which was supported at the time and addressed growth and the needs of the FD.

John Kiedaisch feels the Board should commit to a time line. Put out the current phase and price with the statement that the next phase, which is the FD, will be done within a specific time frame.

Village Steering Committee: Memorial Park Proposal

Rolfe Kielman presented the Village Steering Committee's proposal for Memorial Park improvements. They are proposing a \$70,560 improvement plan split 50-50 between private fundraising and Town funding. This has not been included in any budget presentation for FY2014 up until this point.

The Board discussed this being a phased project and the need to talk with the State about work in the State right of way.

According to Alex, DRB approval would not be necessary for this proposed beautification project. State approval would be necessary if anything is place in the State ROW.

Phil moved the Board vote to state their support of the Monument Park beautification plan as proposed by the Village Steering Committee. Second by Andrea and approved.

Selectboard Budget Discussion

Jon asked Joe to prepare a statement of the Selectboard's thoughts on budget changes to department heads so they can respond.

Town Administrator's Report

1. Holiday Hours – Town Office closed Monday and Tuesday December 24 & 25; Monday and Tuesday December 31 & January 1.
2. Vt Gas Response – See response from Steve Wark. Steve Wark has proposed a January 16 meeting at Town Hall hosted by a 3rd party facilitator. Joe supports this and ran this idea by Phil Pouech who also supports this. The Board agreed to go ahead with plans for the meeting.
3. Rural Area Zoning – The Planning Commission wrapped up work on the Rural Area Zoning Ordinance. Alex, Tom, and Joe will get together to talk next steps and how/when it will be presented and discussed at the Selectboard level.
4. Growth Center Designation – Municipal Planning Grant. \$7,500 in Planning department's budget; grant is \$15,000. With those funds we will prepare an application for Growth Center Designation with necessary consultant horsepower. Work will commence in June. Alex will manage this project.

5. **Police Department Phone Bill** – Tom Ayer asked about the \$230+ monthly charge from Waitsfield for the police department. Chief Koss informed me that he had to call-out Waitsfield twice to repair lines that had been eaten by the pet mice that hang-out at the police department.
6. **Delinquent Tax Authority** – Please sign authority to collect \$467,556 in delinquent taxes for FY2014. This figure looks large because it does not include a \$90,000+ check from a bank that was somehow delayed in the mail. With the inclusion of the 90K the total delinquent amount is comparable to years past.

Warrants

Jon moved the Board vote to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Mike B and approved.

Minutes

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of Dec 3. Second by Phil and approved.

Jon moved the Board go into executive session for contract and legal discussion including Joe Colangelo and Frank Koss. 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