

SELECTBOARD MEETING

June 3, 2013

page 1 of 5

DRAFT

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

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

Town Administrator's Report

Public Safety Facility Project – DRB application was submitted to the Planning Office on May 31, 2013. To take advantage of cost savings by combining the work for the FD and PD into one project a decision on the roof design for the FD apparatus bay needs to be made. A Design Development Conference was held on Friday (May 31) with the architects, engineers, estimator, and landscape architects. Both the pitched roof (Option A) and the 'flat roof' (Option C) will work; both have pluses and minuses associated with the design, ranging from aesthetic considerations to functional ones. Ashar indicated that he has come to feel more comfortable with the flat roof option.

Andrea pointed out that the roof style is not part of the DRB review. Joe said the only reason for doing this before final DRB approval is the cost factor.

Phil asked about the cost differences in the two roof styles and Joe said there is not substantial difference it is in effect a wash.

Tom moved the Board vote to support Option C for the roof design of the new apparatus bay addition to the fire station for final design work. Second by Andrea and approved.

Department of Public Service / Vermont Gas Update

Louise Porter, Attorney for Department of Public Service, was present to speak with the Board on the status of the Addison Natural Gas project and expectations for the public hearings to come.

Jon advised Louise that the designs are not clear and the Town does not have the details of the exact route.

Phil noted that property owners are concerned with the language in the easement and that language has not been made public so the Town is unable to review it. Phil also said the Town is still waiting for an answer from VT Gas on the question of how many landowners have agreed to the easement.

Louise said she will relay the concerns of needing answers to VT Gas.

Jon pointed out the Selectboard has written to VT Gas with their concerns. The Town Agent is now representing the Town in the hearings.

Andrea said her personal feelings have caused her to reconsider her position of support as she no longer believes this is a benefit to Hinesburg or Vermont but to VT Gas and she does not want to perpetuate dependency on fossil fuels.

DRB Applicant Interview

Andrea Bayer, applicant for the alternate position on the DRB was present to talk with the Board.

Andrea has lived in Hinesburg for 25 years and finds she now has the time to be involved as a volunteer in Town.

She said while she is a proponent of solar and energy efficiency she realizes that it can sometimes not be the best choice due to cost.

Andrea B asked if, as an alternate, she would attend all DRB meetings and the Board said that would be the expectation.

Mike B moved the Board deliberate on the appointment in executive session, second by Tom.

Andrea M said she feels the Board should be able to speak about the merits of a candidate in open session.

Jon said he agrees it is a good idea to discuss in open session.

John Roos said as a member of the public attending meetings he would appreciate it being an open discussion.

Motion voted and approved with Andrea M opposed.

Shooting Ordinance – Town Forest

Board members reviewed the draft ordinance and discussed what properties would be included.

Mike B suggested the ordinance follow the VT Fish and Wildlife hunting dates.

Mike Potvin said The Town Forest currently has 5 safety zones.

Bill Marks said the Conservation Commission feels there should be no hunting allowed at Gepraggs. It was posted at one time but no longer is.

Jon said there has been hunting in the Town Forest as long as he has been in Hinesburg without incidence and does not feel a need to list the seasons.

Milo, a resident who lives across from the Town Forest parking area said the problem is with recreational shooting and feels it is not a safe place and so is requesting rules to address that problem.

No action taken at this time.

Rte 116 Corridor Study

The Town has hired a traffic consultant to help us with the Route 116 corridor.

The project will run through this summer and fall, with a final report to the Selectboard anticipated in December. Alex is seeking volunteers to serve on a 7-member steering committee to give information and perspective to the consultant, to provide a reality check ahead of planned public meetings, and to review and confirm recommendations prior to delivery of the final report.

Phil moved the Board vote to authorize the team of Alex Weinhagen, Joe Colangelo, and Mike Bissonette the ability to appoint the seven (7) member Rte 116 Corridor Study Steering Committee. Second by Tom and approved with Mike B abstaining.

Water/Wastewater Budget – FY2014

Board members reviewed the proposed budget. Noted was the change in allocation of personnel costs due to reorganization. 40% for Rocky / 10% for the Town Administrator and staff / and 10% for Town Clerk and staff.

Rates will be set by the Board in early July.

Phil moved the Board vote to approve the FY2014 Water/Wastewater Budget for the Town of Hinesburg for a Total Spending Plan of \$650,748. Second by Mike B and approved.

Andrea asked that time be documented to be sure the Board has a realistic number to work from in the future.

Contracts & Agreements

Public Safety Facility Bond Bank Application –

The Selectboard reviewed the two options for bonding; 20 yr. vs. 30 yr.

The Town Administrator's opinion is that the 30yr note makes a lot of sense for the Town. First of all, it will lower the annual payment by roughly \$16,000 per year and this will ensure that a higher percentage of the total payback each year is made with police impact fees rather than property tax payments. Second, the lower annual payments place the Town in a much stronger position for the other known capital project needed over the next few years – a new highway garage. Third, we are confident that the new police station will last, as constructed and without additions, for at least 30yrs; therefore, the life expectancy of the capital project will still outlive the bond repayments and Hinesburg residents twenty-five (25) years from now, who will receive the same benefit of that new building as Hinesburg residents of today, will share some of the financial responsibility for the capital upgrade.

Jon moved the Board vote to apply for a 30-year term bond for the \$1,055,200 Public Safety Facility Project. Second by Andrea and approved.

MTBE – Rocky and Joe have been in contact with a law firm from Texas regarding some sort of class action lawsuit against oil companies for MTBE contamination. This firm, evidentially, bundles a number of municipalities together at once and puts the case(s) before a judge. They get half we get half of any settlement. Bud Allen has been doing some work on our behalf to vet the law firm.

Dump/Plow Lease –

Andrea moved the Board vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign all necessary paperwork and enter into an Agreement with Municipal Leasing Consultants of Grand Isle, VT for the Lease/Purchase of the FY2014 dump/plow via Seven (7) year Lease Agreement. Second by Mike B and approved.

Police Officer Wage – Joshua Mesec recently graduated from the Police Academy and will be engaged in Field Training with our police officers. Joshua earned the Directors Award for his performance at the Academy. As such, Chief Koss is requesting Joshua's rate of pay to be increased. The department will now be fully staffed for the first time in nearly a year; Officer Mesec will also be part of the department's on-call program.

Mike B moved the Board vote to increase Officer Mesec's pay rate from \$19 per hour to \$19.50 per hour effective 5/29/13 and upon successful completion of Field Training have his pay increased to \$20 per hour. Second by Phil and approved.

RURAL ZONING

Board members continued discussion on the proposed changes.

Mike B said he believes people don't know what they can do with their land and therefore do not know how the changes affect them.

Andrea spoke about the number of commercial lots that might be built on smaller lots.

Marie Gardner agreed with Andrea and said that allowing commercial development on smaller lots could really change the character of the area.

Tom suggested the term "buildable" land could perhaps change the allowed density and lot size requirement.

The Board will continue discussion at the next meeting.

Continuation of the Town Administrator's Report

Current Police Station – Joe had a few different conversations with a few different people interested in developing a plan for the continued use of the current police station. He has asked them to develop a concept plan, review with me, and then would put them on a Selectboard agenda in the future to propose their idea.

Hinesburg Economic Development Commission – See draft minutes from May 23rd meeting in Selectboard packet.

Budget Report – Summary and line-item budgets in Selectboard packet. Joe noted with (1) more month to go, if you go by straight percentages 92% of the fiscal year has been completed and 88% of the budget has been spent. Therefore, we are roughly \$120,000 'to the good'.

Dog Park – Joe had two (2) separate people – Kathy Gutierrez and Stephanie Maslack – contact me regarding the possibility of a dog park at Geprags Park. They have also both been in touch with the Conservation Commission. Stephanie has done a pretty amazing amount of research on her own; Joe included her work in the Selectboard packet.

Memorial Park – The Village Steering Committee is dealing with two (2) issues at Memorial Park. First, there is an issue with large water puddles on the drive into Good Times; Second, there is an issue with their proposal to plant trees within the State road right of way.

It was suggested one solution is to fill in the pot holes and block off the area with fencing

Andrea suggested a discussion between the landowner and Village Steering Committee is needed to work out the driveway area.

Bissonette Field – \$16,185.60 has been raised to-date from private donations. This past week Joe met with our engineer who finalized the plans and forwarded those to our attorney so deed language can be updated. It appears, minus some changes to the deed language due to the final engineering plans, both parties are in agreement with the terms. Joe is also working with the Town's attorney to finalize language for an agreement between the Bucs and the Town for fundraising and field sharing arrangements. He should hear back soon on the status of a \$25,000 grant applied for from the State for this project.

Hannaford/Act 250 Consultant Update – The traffic consultant will have information for the Selectboard for the 6/17 meeting.

CSWD – Representatives from CSWD will attend the Board's June 17th meeting. Joe is scheduled to meet with Tom Moreau, Executive Director, next week; among other things, we will talk some about site planning for the drop-off/Town garage area.

Fire Department Purchase – Joe approved unexpected/unbudgeted \$1,000 expenditure for the Fire Department to replace the locks into the building. These are necessary purchases. The repair and maintenance line-item in the FD will show as an overture for the year due to this.

Grand List Status Update from Lister's Office – On Thursday, June 6th, we will be sending out Change of Appraisal Notices to everyone in town that has had changes in their property assessments, in other words to everyone that has gotten a building permit, done a subdivision, and all the trailers in the three parks that have been reappraised. At the same time, we will be launching the Abstract of the Grand List. This will tell the value of the Grand List before grievances which are going to be held on Thursday, June 20th. The Abstract is like a rough draft and the final Grand List will likely be a lower value. After grievances on the 20th, probably within a few days of this date if all goes well, the Grand List will be filed with the clerk. This will be close to the value you will be able to use with the Board in coming up with the tax rate. Most changes after to the Grand List should hopefully be small, like corrections and maybe some changes in Current Use. If there are corrections, that process has to be approved by the Board anyway.

Selectboard items

Tom said he is still looking for more volunteers for the fund raising bottle drive on Saturday.

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

Phil moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 5/13 as amended. Second by Mike B and approved.

Andrea moved the Board go into executive session for discussion on employee evaluation and discussion of non-public records. Second by Phil and approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, secretary

