

**SELECTBOARD MEETING    DRAFT FOR REVIEW**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

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

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

Public Comment – David Carse was present regarding a right of way he is giving to the Town to construct a bike/walking path along Charlotte and Baldwin roads. David said that the lots on the adjoining property will be for sale this fall and encouraged the Town to take action on the right of way. Lenore Bud of the Trails Committee thanked David for his generous offer and urged the Selectboard to act on this.

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Public Hearing/Information Meeting on the proposed water supply and treatment bond**

This is the public information meeting/hearing required by State Statute, and the third overall.

Joe Duncan gave a scaled down presentation, which recaps the project for those less familiar. Joe also has additional information on treatment costs, based on continued discussions with vendors of both the ion exchange (salt-based) and reverse osmosis (membrane-based, no salt) systems. The operating and maintenance costs associated with the ion exchange system have increased, due to differences in regional salt prices. The vendor initially quoted salt at the regional price for the western United States (where salt is less expensive), rather than the regional price for the northeast. The difference, \$0.0375 per pound, adds \$7,100 to the initial annual operating and maintenance estimate (\$17,850 compared to \$10,750). The change in salt prices would bring the annual operating and maintenance cost to \$24 per year, and increase of \$9 from the initial estimate (\$15 per year).

Jon stated the goal of the project is to establish sufficient water supply free of contaminants.

Jon also mentioned a post on FPF referring to the two new wells. Joe D explained how that came about and the fact they would not be used in unison.

Heather Kendell said she would be happy to have water free of MTBE's but asked about the treatment piece in regards to sodium levels in the water. She noted it is not safe to make baby formula from softened water and feels it is not safe for children drink the water with higher sodium levels.. Joe D said he has no knowledge about the baby formula. Heather also noted with the RO method it strips everything out of the water and there is documentation about the health risks of drinking RO water.

Joe D said 70% of the water will be treated and 30% will bypass and then be mixed with the treated water.

He noted this is information the Board can consider when talking about the treatment issue.

Catherine Goldsmith questioned the fairness of the entire Town voting on the Bond and only the users paying. Val Spadaccini noted residents not on Town water pay for their water also. After the cost of the well there are maintenance costs, testing costs and operating costs. She stated what the users are paying for is the guarantee of having safe drinking water and no concerns of running dry.

Rob Bast stated the system did not exist as real system till the upgrade in 1998 when it became an enterprise system. The Town currently has a lack of capacity the only item he feels is up for discussion is the treatment.

Roger Kohn had three points; part of the quality issue is due to the pipes – he asked if the schools pay for water and the problem that the Bond vote has become intermixed with development issues

Joe D said some scaling in the pipes has occurred, getting off the current wells along with aggressive flushing to clear out the lines will help. The schools do pay for water. He noted the State is on a time frame for construction to happen in summer of 2015.

Jon noted if the Bond failed the Town would probably bring an amended proposal back to the Town in March. Sarah Murhpy said she feels there was not much transparency of the numbers and is concerned with keeping the contaminated wells on line and if for some reason they are used finds that frightening. She said if the flow numbers are at the lower projected level the Town would need more water just a few years away. She feels the users vote is lost as they are a small portion of the Town.

Frank Koss asked about the Saputo wells and Jon said they have a higher MTBE level than the Town wells. Stewart Pierson feels it is unfair to the have users pay for this.

Mary Beth Bowman asked if the new wells are on line will Hannaford and Haystack get water. Jon said Hannaford is included in the figures but not Haystack. She then asked if the Bond is defeated will Hannaford get water. Jon said there is currently a moratorium and no additional allocation is being approved.

Rob Farley addressed the danger of stressing the wells and current vulnerability of operating below required levels.

George Dameron wants to move beyond the point of noncompliance and wants the Bond to pass so users can have water free of MTBE.

Chuck Reiss said he is uncomfortable voting to raise costs to others and asked about only the users voting.

Frank Koss noted that currently the FD can't hook up to the hydrants due to the low water flows.

Trish Olman asked if the Bond passes will include treatment. Jon said the treatment portion is an open question at this time.

Lynn Matscham asked about the physical limits of the aquifer in terms of growth. Joe D replied 240 gpm

Andrew Frost asked how common it is for the State to come in and take over a town system.

Catherine Goldsmith asked if the water department has currently been breaking even. Rocky said they are. Catherine asked when the last rate increase was and Rocky replied it has been three years.

### **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Annual Visit**

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Charlie Baker and Michele Boomhower of the CCRPC reviewed work for Hinesburg and thanked Karla Munson for her work with the State in the Partner Ride Program.

### **Consider Authorizing Town's Share of Hannaford Mediation Costs**

Phil moved the Board authorize the Town to spend an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for its share of the costs of mediation as it relates to Hannaford's proposed Commerce Street development. Second by Mike B and approved with 5 yes votes.

### **Consider Reappointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

Phil moved the Board vote to make reappointments to Boards and Commissions for those wishing to be reappointed as referenced in the document CBC Term Renewals / Appointments – 2015. Second by Andrea. [http://www.hinesburg.org/selectboard/meeting\\_packet/14-1103/%2037%20-%20CBC%20Term%20Renewals\\_2015.pdf](http://www.hinesburg.org/selectboard/meeting_packet/14-1103/%2037%20-%20CBC%20Term%20Renewals_2015.pdf)

Tom asked if the Board had any information regarding attendance of members for meetings. The Board does not but feels if there was an absentee problem it would be brought to them. Tom also wondered if with Zoe Wainer's statement that she will not be completing her term it might be best for her to step aside now.

Andrea said her remaining on the DRB provides continuity to the new members for however long she serves. Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

**Health Officer Request for Authorization to Issue Illegal Refuse Disposal Tickets**

Town Health Officer Joe Gannon has asked for the ability to issue tickets for illegal disposal of refuse (particularly the illegal burning of trash). Statute (24 V.S.A. § 2201) allows the legislative body to delegate this authority. The Police can also issue tickets for this offense, per the same section of Statute. The “ticket book” itself is issued by the Judicial Bureau, and allows for the issuance of fines not to exceed \$500. This process is separate from the provisions of Statute dealing with regular and emergency health orders, and the ticketing authority would be limited to the illegal disposal of trash. As Joe writes in his request, his first approach will be to obtain voluntary compliance and then issue a ticket if needed. Joe would coordinate with the Police, to alleviate potential safety concerns. Joe’s request provides some examples of illegal burning activity.

Andrea moved the Board vote to authorize the Town Health Officer to obtain a four-digit Department Number and Officer Number from the Vermont Judicial Bureau and corresponding ticket book for the purpose of enabling enforcement actions for the illegal disposal of refuse pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2201. Second by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

**Consider Returning Previously Reserved Funds to General Fund (Old Police Station)**

The Town has \$6,490.07 in a reserve fund for police station upgrades as of June 30, 2014. The reserve fund was set up to provide funding for projects at the old police station, and with the Community Police in the new station (and the old station slated for an “as is” sale), reserving those funds is no longer necessary. The funds would be moved to the General Fund.

Tom moved the Board vote to approve moving \$6,490.07 from the reserve for Old Police Station Upgrade to the General Fund. Second by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

**Town Administrator’s Report**

- a. **FY16 Budget** – In reviewing last year’s process, moving the presentation to the 17<sup>th</sup> puts the budget on an identical trajectory as last year (well, minus one day). An updated schedule will be available.
- b. **VT Gas and Richmond Road** – The Town met on-site with officials from VT Gas and Shawn Lyman of Iroquois Manufacturing on 10/31. The issue, basically, is the ledge. Two solutions are proposed that shouldn’t disturb the blacktop (boring and hammering a trench in the ledge). There is skepticism that the hammering option can be done in a way that does not also require altering the slope of the ledge above the trench area. Until the ledge is dealt with and a gas line installed, Iroquois will be without heat in one of their buildings (they converted from propane to natural gas, in anticipation of the connection).
- c. **Thistle Hill** – Discussion on Town takeover of some of the streets is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> now. Mike Weisel suggested that the elevation and surface stability be checked by the developer’s engineer, and combined with pavement observations (cracking or other signs of settling). If everything is holding as it should, the Board could assume control of the roads by resolution. The Town already performs winter maintenance.

- d. **Water and sewer bills and NEMRC** – As a follow up from the prior meeting, NEMRC is the software package utilized for water and sewer bills. In talking with water customers the past few weeks about the bond, a significant amount of feedback focused also on the tendency of the bills to read as, shall we say, obtuse. There may be ways to re-program the way bills are formatted, providing greater clarity for ratepayers in the process.
- e. **Hazmat and Spoiled Cheese** –Fire Chief Al Barber’s research found that the barrels contain spoiled cheese buried in 1972. The exact number of barrels is unknown, but may be substantial. Since the first two barrels made themselves known, others have emerged. We are exploring disposal options, though it may be general disposal at the CSWD facility in Williston.
- f. **Street Trees and Memorial Park** – Progress is being made, though the trees will now need to be planted in the spring. The discussion is focused on slight adjustments in placement, a change in the type of American elm (switching from New Harmony to Princeton elms), and a written agreement specifying maintenance responsibilities. The Village Steering Committee has been very involved in the project, and the group’s feedback is a crucial next element.
- g. **MTBE Settlement Funds** – We hope to have an update on potential timing of receipt of those funds for Monday night.

### **Selectboard items;**

Tom announced the Dance Party fundraiser for the Bissonette Fields will be held Jan 9 at the Old Lantern.

Andrea noted there is a problem with water backing up at the culvert on Rte 116 as the beavers are clogging it up.

### **Warrants**

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

### **Minutes**

Mike B moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of 10/20 as amended. Second by Andrea and approved with 5 yes votes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Spadaccini, secretary