



Select Board

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2021

- Draft -

Attending the Meeting: Phil Pouech, Merrily Lovell, Jeff French, Mike Loner, Maggie Gordon, Joy Dubin Grossman, Dawn Francis, Mike Anthony, Colleen Mackinnon, Tara Murphy, Christopher Schastok, Seth Bowden, Alyssa Lasher

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

Additions / Deletions / Public Comment

Joy noted the minutes from January 21, 2021 were added to the meeting packet and should be included when reviewing minutes.

Maggie Gordon is not seeking re-appointment to the Planning Commission. Her name needs to be removed from the re-appointment list.

Phil added an item for discussion of upcoming interviews for the TA/TM position, it will be 10.b.

Mike Anthony was present to discuss the proposed purchase of a grader.

Phil noted the timing of the purchase for the dump truck and grader has been swapped.

Mike A said they have two prices. One from John Deere and one from Caterpillar Inc. After checking out both machines Mike A recommends the purchase of the John Deere.

Merrily moved to approve the Highway Department purchase of the John Deere grader for \$242,524.00 after trade in. Second by Mike L and approved with 5 yes votes.

Town Administrator Report

- Joy shared the link on the Town website in the box for Town Meeting Information that Ann Janda worked on.
- The Town Report and information flyer have gone to the printer and will be mailed shortly.
- The Town Meeting warning has been posted.

Select Board Forum / Correspondence

Phil said he received correspondence from Kristen Needham concerning the letter from the Frost's to the Board on the viscous dog problem.

The Black Lives Flag was raised on Monday.

Also received a letter thanking the Town for the sidewalk plowing on Mechanicsville Rd between the Village Heights and corner of Commerce Street.

Phil said the Board has the very important job right now with the hiring process for the TA/TM.

FY 22 Chittenden Valley School District Budget Presentation

Colleen, representative from Hinesburg on the CVSD Board, reviewed the proposed FY22 budget.

Colleen spoke about the impact of COVID on the budget and the point that even with COVID we were able to have a high rate of in school learning for the students. The central office has been very aggressive about applying for federal money so that even with the extra expenses they do not anticipate it to impact to the tax rate.

The budget anticipates being in school full time next year.

The Board set a goal to come in under a 3.0 % increase but several factors pushed the budget higher. To off set this the Board agreed to apply additional fund balance reserves which resulted in reducing the increase to 1.0 %.

Colleen addressed the common level of appraisal and the fact that it has dropped considerably since last year. She suggested exploring this further with the State. Phil said a few years ago the Town did a Town wide reappraisal and now with the selling prices of homes going up we might have to do a reappraisal sooner than planned to avoid being penalized by the State when computing the State wide educational tax.

Merrily asked about last year's approval to purchase of electric school busses. Colleen says she does not know the status of the purchase of the electric busses.

Phil brought up the past discussion of putting a light up by the HCS crosswalk and suggested looking at moving that forward.

Discussion of Vermont Smoke & Cure (VSC) Water & Wastewater Allocation

Tara Murhpy, of VSC, spoke about the future expansion plans.

Erik said we have plenty of water to allocate especially in this category.

Mike L asked Erik if the recently approved allocation to Frost was included in Erik's estimates. Erik said it was.

This is not being done as an escrow agreement. They will pay an application fee up front and over 3 years will pay in installments alternately for water and wastewater.

Jeff wanted to confirm that from the time this comes on line until we have the new WW plant will we have enough capacity. Erik said we will.

Merrily moved to convene as the Water and Sewer Commissioners. Second by Jeff and approved with 5 yes votes.

Merrily moved to approve the increased water and wastewater application for Vermont Smoke & Cure Holdings LLC. Water from 6050 to 7500 gpd and wastewater from 5960 to 7500 gpd with a payment plan as outlined in the memo presented at the February 3, 2021 Select Board meeting. Second by Jeff and approved with 5 yes votes.

Merrily moved to adjourn as the Water and Sewer Commissioners. Second by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Update on Town Administrator / Town Manager Search

Dawn updated the Board on the status of the search. The next steps are to hold interviews with Department Heads and Select Board members and provide a conditional offer letter subject to background and reference checks.

The Board discussed the interview schedule.

Committees, Commissions and Boards Reappointments

List of reappointments in the meeting packet for tonight's meeting.

Phil moved to reappoint the people on the list to the positions noted, the terms noted and dates noted and remove Maggie Gordon from the Planning Commission. Second by Merrily.

Joy noted the absence of the Village Steering Committee. She has not heard from any of the members regarding reappointment. Phil said in the past this was a strong committee that did some good work. He is not what the process would be to dissolve it. He would like to see it continue and added maybe some new residents in the Village who are unaware of the committee might be interested. He suggested having a past member from when it was active come speak to the Board. Maggie added having a clear vision might be helpful. Jeff, previous member, spoke about what they worked on and feels the past objectives have been achieved. He agreed with Maggie and suggests a new mission. Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

Consider Approving Certificate of Highway Mileage

Phil moved to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented for 51.778 miles. Second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Review Roles and Responsibilities for March 1st Zoom Informational Town Meeting

Phil said his thought is it would run like the usual Town Meeting. The moderator would read the warning and invite discussion on the articles. Board members would address questions asked. Joy's suggestion was that the Board member who worked on the budget for a particular department along with that department head would answer questions.

The Board discussed possible scenarios for the Board to physically be in one location, as well as the anticipated technical challenges.

Review Minutes from January 6, 2021, January 20, 2021, and January 26, 2021

Phil moved to approve the minutes from January 6, 2021 as presented, second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Phil moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2021 as amended, second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Phil moved to approve the minutes from January 26, 2021 as amended, second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Consider Approving Warrants

Phil moved to approve the warrants signed by Merrily and Phil, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

Merrily moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m., second by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Spadaccini, Clerk of the Board