

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 July 7, 2021

3 Attending the meeting; Phil Pouech, Merrily Lovell, Mike Loner, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place,
4 Joy Dubin Grossman, Todd Odit, Cheryl Par Kupersmith, Alexandra Konecewicz, Rachel Kring,
5 Nicole Doner, Patty Whitney, Barb Forauer, Amy Sayre, Matt Lapierre, Alex Weinhausen, Scooter
6 MacMillan, Sara Lobitz, Roberta Soll.

7 Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Town Manager, Todd Odit, as Phil has resigned his
8 position of Chair effective July 1.

9 Selectboard Reorganization

10 Maggie nominated Merrily Lovell as Chair of the Selectboard. Second by Mike and approved
11 with 4 yes votes. Merrily thanked the Board saying she welcomes suggestions from Board
12 members.

13 Merrily asked for a nomination for Assistant Chair of the Board. Mike nominated Maggie
14 Gordon to serve as Assistant Chair, second by Phil. Dennis said he felt there is a need for
15 different mind sets. He noted he was ready to volunteer as he has a different point of view.
16 Merrily thanked Dennis for his opinion and noted she values his view point. It was noted all
17 members have equal input. Motion voted and approved with 3 yes votes and Dennis opposed.

18 Public Hearing – Town Plan Chapter 8 Energy Plan Revisions

19 Phil moved to open the second Public Hearing for changes to the Town Plan Chapter 8 Energy
20 Plan Revisions. Second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

21 Barb Forauer said since the last meeting she has tried to get a cost from contractors on what
22 the cost to have a house be solar ready when built would be. She noted 3 years ago she was
23 told about \$300. Dennis asked what is involved in making construction solar ready. Barb
24 mentioned the wiring in the house. Dennis said he thinks the cost would be closer to a few
25 thousand dollars. Phil agreed on that estimate. Phil stated the Town Plan states this as a desire
26 not a request and there is no regulation to require it.

27 Alex added this is not a regulation. If it becomes a regulation the term solar ready would have
28 to be defined.

29 Phil moved to close the Public Hearing, second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

30 Approve Minutes of 6/16/21

31 Phil moved to approve the minutes from 6/16/21 with agreed changes. Second by Mike and
32 approved with 5 yes votes.

33 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

34 There were no changes.

35 Public Comment

36 Rachel Kring, executive director of the Hinesburg Resource Center, was present to bring an
37 issue regarding use of space in the main hall at Town Hall building for the Friends of Families
38 Program playgroup to the attention of the Board. HCRC recently has had some discussions with
39 Todd and have been asked to no longer hold the playgroup program at Town Hall. Rachel said
40 they have said they are willing to reduce what is stored in the room and to work with the Town.

41 Dennis asked when the program operates. Rachel said it is on Wednesday from 10 to 11:30.
42 Dennis is in support of allowing the program to continue at Town Hall.

43 Maggie said she would like to get a group together consisting of people from HCRC, the
44 Selectboard and someone from Town Hall to discuss needs and solutions.

45 Phil said he is curious what the conflicts are. He mentioned the parish hall at the United
46 Church is available to non-profit organizations to use at no charge.

47 Merrily said traditionally the Town Hall is the community center of the Town not an office, she
48 is in favor of keeping the building as the hall of the people of Hinesburg.

49 Phil said it is also needed to be used for business.

50 Todd said there may have been not enough communication on the issue. His question to
51 Rachel and Alex when they met was if it would be possible for them to find a different location
52 and hoped for further discussion on it.

53 Joy offered to be the person to represent the Town Hall working with a small group to work on
54 a compromise.

55 Rachel said they will be meeting outside till the younger population can be vaccinated and hope
56 to be back inside in September.

57 Patty Whitney said she appreciated Merrily's description of the Town Hall and questioned why
58 the business at Town Hall is now a conflict and was not in the past as this activity has been
59 going on for 30 years.

60 Todd said he can't address what previous administrators chose to work on, he is reacting to
61 concerns he has heard.

62 Mike said with Hinesburg being a growing Town, we will be running up against these types of
63 things as space is a premium. The challenge is to maintain the programs we have while growing
64 Town staff.

65 Amy Sayre wanted to thank the Board for listening to the concern and looks forward to working
66 on a compromise.

Sara Lobitz wanted to say how valuable the program was for her and supports finding a solution.

Matt Lapierre wanted to hear from the Selectboard regarding celebrating Al Barber who posted homophobic and anti-immigrant posting on the web and how celebrating that can dovetail with the statement of inclusion and diversity. Phil responded that we are celebrating over 40 years of service to the Town. Phil said there was an apology and the 40 plus years have a lot of weight. Matt feels this is not social justice and said he has been threatened. Phil suggested he contact the police about the threats.

Merrily said Al made a mistake, acknowledged it, apologized to the Board and the Town. She accepts that and said his actions do not reflect what he posted and the celebration was for his dedication.

Mike added the Board took this very seriously and a number of things were discussed in executive session and it is now time to move to forward.

Selectboard Forum

Merrily read the following resolution to honor Al Barber.

Resolution to Honor Alton Barber In Recognition of His Long and Devoted Service to the Town of Hinesburg

WHEREAS, Alton Barber has served Hinesburg for many years including 22 years as Chief of the Hinesburg Fire Department (from June, 1999 to June 30, 2021) and 44 years on the Hinesburg Fire Department (he joined in 1977) on which he still serves as a valuable member; and

WHEREAS, Alton Barber has many noteworthy accomplishments which helped Hinesburg, including leading the town to develop its own EMS transport service with the donation of a new ambulance. Al has received many awards including SerVermont Outstanding Community Volunteer Award in 2012, he was nominated to the Northeast State Emergency Manager in 2014, and under his leadership the department received the Star of Life and EMS Provider of the Year awards; and

WHEREAS, Al has received numerous appointments in addition to his work in Hinesburg, including Gubernatorial Appointments from the State of Vermont: Fire Service Training Council 5/2007 to 6/2018, State Emergency Response Commission 1/2007 to 9/2018, Communication Board (VCOMM) 2008 to 2019, Department Public Safety Communications Committee, Local Emergency Planning Chittenden County (LEPC # 1) Chair 2000 – Present(he is the longest serving chair), and Chair of Chittenden County Fire Chiefs; and

WHEREAS, as our Emergency Planning coordinator, Al consistently kept the Selectboard informed and updated during the Covid crisis; now therefore be it

105 **RESOLVED**, that the Hinesburg Selectboard expresses deep gratitude for the contributions
106 made by Alton Barber and for his long and devoted service to the Town of Hinesburg. Be it
107 further resolved that a copy of this resolution be entered permanently into the Town of
108 Hinesburg Selectboard minutes.

109 Adopted this 7th day of July 2021 by the Hinesburg Selectboard.

110 Phil moved to approve the resolution, second by Dennis and approved with 5 yes votes.

111 Phil said the 4th of July celebration was nice and it was good to have some normality again.

112 Consider Adoption of Town Plan Chapter 8 Energy Plan Revisions

113 Maggie moved to approve the Town Plan Chapter 8 Energy Plan Revisions, second by Mike and
114 approved with 5 yes votes.

115 Discuss Dog Bite Complaint

116 Phil moved to convene as the Animal Control Board, second by Mike and approved with 5 yes
117 votes.

118 Todd explained a complaint of a dog bite was forwarded to the SB / Animal Control Board. The
119 ordinance requires the hearing being held tonight. Both parties were notified by phone and
120 email.

121 Nicole Doner, the person who was bit, was present to explain what took place. She said this is
122 not the first time she was bitten by this dog, the first was not serious but this second time she
123 needed treatment by a doctor. She is requesting the Board to require the dog be assessed by
124 an independent dog trainer to find out if the dog is able to be trained and be safe at the
125 owner's expense and the results reported to the Selectboard and Police. She does not think
126 just ordering the dog to be muzzled and leashed will stop the problem of the aggression the
127 dog exhibits.

128 The Board reviewed the written complaint given to the Police Department as well as the
129 officer's experience with the dog when he went to the residence of the dog's owner.

130 The Board discussed what actions can be taken.

131 Phil moved that on receipt on the certified letter sent to the owner the dog immediately needs
132 to be leashed and muzzled when outside and not taken off the property unless by an adult. The
133 dog needs to be licensed with the Town. The owner needs to respond to the Animal Control
134 Board with a plan to address the behavior of the dog within 30 days. And ask the police officer
135 who took the report to go see the dog again.

136 Motion second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

137 Phil moved to adjourn as the Animal Control Board. Second by Mike and approved with 5 yes
138 votes.

139 Consider Adoption of General Obligation Note, & Resolution and Certificate

140 Todd explained this is all related to the Wastewater project.

141 Phil moved to approve the General Obligation Note and the Resolution and Certificate. Second
142 by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

143

144 Consider Approval of Revolving Fund Loan Agreement

145 Mike moved to approve the Revolving Fund Loan Agreement for loan RF1-229-2.0 for
146 \$200,200.00. Second by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

147 Consider Adoption of FY 22 Tax Rate

148 The recommendation of the Town Manager is not to use \$100,000.00 of the loan fund to
149 reduce the tax rate. He discussed this with Missy and Joan and they agreed it was not fiscally
150 responsible to reduce the fund balance that much.

151 The Board discussed the options Todd showed in a chart of the tax rate with no use of fund
152 balance and with using \$50,000.00 of fund balance.

153 Mike moved the Selectboard set the FY22 tax rate at \$0.5696 by applying \$50,000.00 from our
154 fund balance. Second by Dennis and approved with 5 yes votes.

155 Mike moved the Selectboard adopt the Local Agreement Rate of \$0.0009. Second by Phil and
156 approved with 5 yes votes.

157 Discuss Sidewalk Repair Projects for FY 22

158 Phil noted the Town has been saving for sidewalk repair. We have done the report on sidewalk
159 condition but have not taken any action to make repairs.

160 *ACTION ITEM. Phil suggested getting together with Tyler and Erik to discuss what should be
161 done now with funding in the current budget.

162 Consider Holding a Selectboard Retreat / Work Session

163 October 6 is a tentative date. Todd had some suggested topics and asked Board members to
164 think about what topics they want to discuss.

165 Town Manager Report

- 166
- 167 • Competitive pay analysis is being conducted
 - 168 • Cultural assessment of the Town organization has started
 - 169 • Received notice that members of the Police Department, excluding the chief, have filed
a petition to form a bargaining unit
 - 170 • Training titled "Creating a Respectful and Inclusive Workplace" will be provided

- 171 • Draft social media policy is being reviewed by the Town Attorney
172 • Todd and Nick Baker, newly hired Fire Chief, are working on job descriptions for two full
173 time employees. These have now been advertised.

174

175 Consider Approving Warrants of 6/17, 6/24, 6/28, 6/30 & 7/1

176 Phil moved to approve the warrants of 6/17, 6/24, 6/28, 6/30 and 7/1 signed by Merrily and
177 himself, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Mike and approved
178 with 5 yes votes.

179 Adjourn

180 Mike moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., second by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

181 Respectfully submitted,

182 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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