

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 November 15, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Paul Lamberson, Todd Odit, Jennifer
4 McCuin, Rick Bushey, Heather Roberts, Katharina Frazier.

5 Attending remotely; Margaret McNurlan, Anthony Cambridge, Alex Weinhagen

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

7 Agenda Additions and Deletions

8 Removed discussion on a contribution to FPF till Merrily is present

9 Public Comment

10 Margaret asked about the Public Safety Study. She said it seems like the results of the study would be
11 pertinent to budget discussion. Todd said we are waiting for a draft for a public hearing some time in
12 December. Currently, he does not see implementing any major changes in the proposed budget.

13 Approve Minutes of 3/6/23

14 Mike moved to approve the minutes of 3/6/23. Seconded by Paul and approved with 4 yes votes.

15 Selectboard Forum

16 Mike said he spoke with Travis at Good Times Café. Travis said they plan to have a meeting of the
17 Hinesburg Business Association mid-December to have discussion on the Town budget.

18 Review of FY 25 Department Budgets

- 19 • Recreation – Jenn said as with other departments the opt-out payment has been moved to
20 wages resulting in a large increase. The proposed increase in revenue of \$15,000 is off-setting
21 the increase for the year. The rec department members have been working hard on plans for
22 the build out of the Bissonette recreation area but all is on hold now with the delay of the
23 BlackRock Development. Dennis asked about the 4th of July. He thought we had a credit for the
24 fireworks. Jenn said this covers all 4th activities not just fireworks. Todd said we do not know
25 what the price will be for 2024 and this can be discussed later.
- 26 • Highway-Todd and Rick. Todd said overall the big picture is increase in salaries for the addition
27 of the 4th highway crew person. On the capital budget side increases for the new equipment.
28 New signs increased as we need to replace a lot of them. Vehicle fuel is increased now with 4
29 employees driving vehicles. New item is \$6,500 to be paid for solar array credits. We pay 90% of
30 the credit received back to the company that installed them according to the contract. There
31 was discussion on paving a portion of the hill roads as a possible saving on maintenance costs.
32 Rick said there are some complications associated with that. They will work on grading more
33 frequently; he is not convinced that asphalt is the way to go. Paul asked about the roads in the
34 village cemetery. Todd said we have the ability to strip the blacktop to prepare for paving, but
35 not sure if we have the time. Rick said one of the challenges is the canopy that prohibits big
36 trucks access. He did look at the area with Mary Jo.

- Police Anthony said aside from his collaboration with Todd on salaries there are small increases that reflect costs to the department. Not included was a 5% increase in dispatching he just found out about. Todd said the budget includes the 6th officer. Maggie asked why the CUSI budget is lower. Todd said that was the amount requested. Todd noted we have not signed the contract with the Howard Center and plan to have a conversation as Hinesburg has low utilization of services and are charged according to population, so we are averaging a cost of \$500 a call. Paul asked about the solar array credits paid in the police budget. Todd said that is for the array on that building and it works the same as the one on Town garage according to the contract.
- Town Clerk and Elections- Heather pointed out there will be three elections held in FY 25. The election salaries are budgeted the same as FY 24 budget. In the Clerk budget professional development is remaining at \$1,000 for training opportunities. Paul asked about the accounting position. Heather said this is included in the salary of the clerk. Margaret said she noticed some towns are going back to in-person town meetings with voting as opposed to Australian Ballot voting. She asked if Hinesburg has considered that as it might save on cost of mailing ballots. Heather explained it would not save on mailing ballots as there are still items that need to be voted by Australian Ballot. Todd explained that Hinesburg voted to adopt Australian Ballot voting and Charlotte used the pandemic laws to use the ballot without having to adopt it so can back to the original method. For Hinesburg the only way to go back would be to put an article on the ballot and vote on it. Heather read a statement regarding salaries (the statement is attached with the minutes).
- Planning and Zoning- Alex said the increase in wages is mostly from including the insurance opt-out cost in that line and restoring funds to pay the part-time administrative assistant. Two items increasing are the annual dues to CCRPC and Special Projects. The increase in Special Projects is to give the Town more leverage in applying for grants.
- Town Manager and Buildings & Facilities - Todd noted the opt-out payment included in wages. Increase in Professional Development is to allow Joy to take advantage of training opportunities. Buildings & Facilities includes 50% of the Public Works Director position and associated costs. Stormwater increase is to get back on the cycle of cleaning out catch basins.

FY 25 Budget Review and Discussion

The large increase each year was discussed and what would need to be cut to reduce the budget.

Margaret addressed the school budget. She said as a tax payer she pays a lot in school tax. When the Town approves development all she sees is the school tax increasing. Can there be discussion on the impact development has on the schools. She noted the State allocations are going down this year as Hinesburg is considered a wealthy area and the State money is going to poorer areas. Her question is what is really the cost of development. Todd said the Town does not know what the tax from the school will be.

Discussion of Seeking Public Input on Budget

Paul said Claudia at Parkside thought it was a great idea and said the best time is Sunday mornings before church.

77 Maggie said Papa Nick's was concerned about when it is crowded. It would be best to avoid meal times
78 and mid-morning would be best.

79 Mike said he spoke with Travis who is working on getting the business community together as he noted
80 earlier. He can still reach out to Will at the Public House.

81 Dennis said Dumb Luck Pub can't reserve a specific table.

82 Maggie suggested having two Board members at each event like they did last year.

83

84 Consider Approval of Loan for Fire Department Mini-pumper

85 Paul moved the Selectboard accept the loan bid from Community Bank at 5.29% for a 5-year term.
86 Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

87 Consider Approval of Amendment to Police Chief Contract with Richmond

88 The amendment is to change the contract charge for the Chief to have Richmond pay 50% of salary and
89 benefits. This has been approved by Richmond.

90 Mike moved the Selectboard approve the Police Chief Agreement Amendment as presented. Seconded
91 by Paul and approved with 4 yes votes.

92 Town Manager Report

- 93 • Todd submitted an article to the Hinesburg Record and will likely do this each month.
94 • Todd received notice that the 1st loan for the ww upgrade contract will be totally forgiven as the
95 State found funds to cover this.

96 Approve Warrants and Payroll

97 Will be held over to the next meeting.

98

99 Adjourn

100 Dennis moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Paul and approved with 5 yes votes.

101

102 Respectfully submitted,

103 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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