

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 February 2, 2022

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Phil Pouech, Mike Loner, Todd
4 Odit, Joy Dubin Grossman, Nick Baker, Rick McCraw, Deb Shelby, Anna Main, Amy Sayre, James Jarvis,
5 Kurt Gruendling, Cindy Reid, Paul Hawkins, Shannon Wheeler, Kris Merchant, Lenore Budd, Carl Bohlen,
6 Patty Whitney, Doug Taff, Derek Nelson, Bob Heiser, Roberta Soll, Michael Kupersmith, Lee Cheney,
7 Andrea Morgante Alex Weinhausen, Pat Mainer, Roger Nishi.

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9 Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. All attendees were virtual.

10 Agenda Additions or Deletions

11 None

12 Public Comment

13 None

14 Selectboard Forum

15 Mike informed the Board of a possible opportunity for Hinesburg with the Municipal Land Bank Act. He
16 has discussed this with Carl Bohlen and Joy. Mike said he may be providing testimony on how a
17 municipality may see this as an interest to them.

18 Merrily addressed Phil's comment at the last meeting regarding a policy about paving roads. Merrily
19 said the Town has a policy for the consideration of new roads from 2004. She thinks the Board should
20 look at this in the future as it has guidelines stating it is up to the Selectboard to accept new roads that
21 were private roads. With all the new development planned, the Town might want to say we will not
22 accept any public roads till we have a solid policy in place. The Town may not want to take that on as it is
23 a lot of additional miles of roads.

24 Phil said there are two different policies here; when and if to pave current Town roads that are unpaved,
25 which is what he was referring to last meeting. He said Merrily is addressing when the Town takes over
26 roads that are built according to Town standards which have the expectation the Town will take them
27 over. Merrily said she knows there is an expectation but there is not a requirement to take them over.
28 She suggests reviewing the policies. Phil said that would be a huge decision not to take on these roads
29 and he does not think it is up to the Selectboard to make that decision.

30 Todd said the big problem is that we don't have any standards. There were standards in development
31 that have not been adopted. This is something the Board should talk about, if the Town accepts all
32 these new roads it would result in an increase in needed equipment and personnel.

33 Approve Minutes of 1/19/22

34 Phil moved to approve the minutes of 1/19/22 with any agreed upon changes. Seconded by Mike and
35 approved with 5 yes votes.

Approved February 16, 2022

36 Chittenden Solid Waste District Alternate Interview – Richard McCraw

37 Richard said he is involved with environmental concerns and has background in municipal affairs as well.

38 Doug T., CSWD representative said Richard will be a great asset. He said there will be a lot going on in
39 the coming year with CSWD as they need to replace the MRF. There are questions as to the need , how
40 big it should be, and cost that will be discussed.

41 Merrily moved to appoint Richard McGraw as CSWD alternate for Hinesburg. Second by Maggie and
42 approved with 5 yes votes.

43 Consider Approval of Kelley’s Field Community Development Grant Application

44 Dennis recused himself on this item.

45 Tyler Labrie and Cindy Reid were in attendance to answer any questions.

46 Phil said the information in the memo was helpful and noted the Town will have some associated costs
47 of staff time and legal costs. He feels it is well worth it to be able to double the senior housing in Town.

48 Todd said he estimated the Town’s in kind and actual cash outlay to be \$3,000 to \$5,000. Tyler said that
49 sounds accurate and some of those costs could be covered by the grant.

50 Phil asked for a brief description of requirements. Cindy said the plan is to have 3 or 4 different kinds of
51 apartments serving different income levels.

52 Phil moved to approve Hinesburg applying for the Vermont Community Development Implementation
53 Grant for the amount of \$605,000 to assist with the construction of a housing expansion at Kelley’s
54 Field. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

55 Carl B. said as Chair of the AHC he wanted to let the Board know the committee is very supportive of this
56 project and he volunteered to help with the applications.

57 Discussion with Hinesburg Community Resource Center

58 Dennis re-joined the Board at this time.

59 Shannon Wheeler, executive director of the HCRC, spoke about the programs supported by the HCRC.

60 Maggie asked if support for the food shelf is keeping up with demand. Shannon said it is for now.

61 Phil said the way the HCRC has grown over the years is heartwarming.

62 Todd addressed the possibility of use of ARPA funds to provide help and will talk with Shannon to see if
63 there are any opportunities for pass thru funding.

64 Consider Approval of Vestry Quit Claim Deed

65 Maggie and Phil recused themselves on this item.

66 Phill did note he is confused about this item as the United Church owns the property. The Town was to
67 lease the building for \$1 a year which was never paid. The Church is trying to sell the building as it is a

liability, if through the lease the Town has some level of ownership, he is happy to support moving forward with this.

Todd noted while the Town never paid the lease the lease was never terminated. This is simply a matter of clearing title to pass the property to Vestry Community Center. A quit claim deed releases the Town to any claim in the property.

Mike moved the Selectboard approve a Quit Claim deed to the Vestry Community Center, Inc., for the Vestry building. Seconded by Merrily. Motion approved with Merrily, Mike and Dennis in favor.

Mike moved to authorize the Chair to sign any related documents to the transfer of the deed or any property interests. Seconded by Dennis and approved with Merrily, Mike and Dennis in favor.

Consider Request for Funding of Lot #1 Conceptual Plan

Maggie and Phil rejoined the Board at this time.

Todd presented some funding options to the Board.

- Use accumulated capital funds of \$7,500 and absorb the remainder in the P&Z operating budget
- Use ARPA funds
- Absorb the entire expense in the P&Z operating budget

Maggie asked how it would work if we use ARPA funds if we are asking to have this done this spring. Todd said we could earmark the funds but he feels this would be the least favorable option.

Phil said he likes option 1. Even though we had previous plans, it makes sense to put together a new plan if we will be applying for grants and when the time comes, we are able to move forward.

Merrily said we are not a big Town, this is not a big lot, and there will be a lot of changes coming to that area. She feels we would be best served to plant some trees, put some benches in and wait to see how things develop over the next five years. She does not think we need a big, fancy firm to design something. We can use local landscape architects who know the area to design something better suited to Hinesburg that would likely cost less.

Dennis said he agrees with Merrily and added he hates to spend money on cost proposals. It would be nice to have a real cost and we can decide if we are willing to pay it. We have paid for designs in the past and then dropped the project. We need to be committed to following through with a plan. If we are willing to follow through with the project, he would like to use ARPA funds.

Alex pointed out the P&Z department spends money but also raises money. He anticipates the revenue will exceed the projection for this year. Alex noted the Better Places Program, information on which is in tonight's packet, would be a good fit.

Maggie said there is value to investing in a good plan. The amount of feedback and input received from the community is going to contribute to something that is supported by the community.

Merrily asked why local landscape architects were not asked to submit a plan. Alex said the RFQ was available for anyone to respond to.

104 Lenore said a plan is the key and an important part of the plan will be the phasing. We need to have a
105 plan for many of the grants that are available.

106 Todd suggested the Board set a limit to come up with a plan as it seems the cost is a concern.

107 Phil moved to approve spending up to \$10,000 of the Planning & Zoning budget toward developing a
108 plan. Seconded by Mike. Merrily said she thinks this is a small project and would like to reduce the
109 amount to \$7,500 and protect us from doing more than the land is calling for. Phil said the motion is up
110 to \$10,000 and it does not mean they would spend that. The expectation is they would put together a
111 good plan. Mike said it is important to have a plan. We need to be sure we follow up and actually do
112 something.

113 Phil moved to amend the motion to include the Selectboard is committed to moving forward to
114 accomplishing what we can with the plan. Mike accepted the amended motion.

115 Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

116 Consider Approval of Revised HFD Logo

117 Nick shared the new logo noting the vote for the new logo by department members was not unanimous.

118 Merrily moved to approve the revised HFD logo. Seconded by Phil. Phil said not to diminish the logo
119 and work of the past but he feels it is time to move forward. Motion voted and approved with 5 yes
120 votes.

121 Consider Approval of Letter of Support for WCVT Fiber-Optic Grant Funding Request

122 Kurt G., of WCVT explained the plan to apply for broadband grant funding from the State's new
123 Community Broadband Board. They are seeking a letter of support from the Selectboard.

124 Maggie asked how many Hinesburg residents would be served by this expansion.

125 Roger N said the State has listed 1600 addresses. Of those they currently serve 333 with fiber, 295 are
126 considered underserved and that is what the State will fund.

127 Maggie asked if this will change what customers pay. Kurt said customers will be able to choose their
128 service package.

129 Phil asked if there are two parts to this; one is the letter of support to qualify for the funding and a
130 second piece stating Hinesburg could get matching funds up to \$58,000 if the Town was to use some of
131 the ARPA funds toward this. Kurt said that is correct.

132 Merrily moved to approve sending a letter of support for Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom grant
133 application. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

134 Consider Approval of Highway Mileage Certificate

135 Phil moved to approve the certificate of Highway Mileage in the Board's packet for 2022. Seconded by
136 Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

137 Consider Approval of Town Forest Management Fund MOA

138 Phil said he assumed the Vermont Land Trust would be watch dogging that the funds are spent
139 correctly.

140 Bob H., from VLT, said yes. This is a binding MOA and they will be checking in. Phil asked if there will be
141 plans on how it is spent and do they expect it will be spent over 5 or 10 years and then finished. Bob
142 said they do expect funds will be spent in the near term.

143 Merrily asked Pat M if they have an idea of what the fund will be spent on. Pat said there are some
144 initial ideas.

145 Phil moved to approve signing the Vermont Land Trust – Town of Hinesburg Memorandum of
146 Agreement as presented in the Selectboard packet. Seconded by Mike with an amendment to have
147 Merrily sign for the Selectboard.

148 Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

149 Town Manager Report

150 • The FY 21 audit is complete
151 • The PD full time vacancy from January has been filled
152 • Budget flyer is ready to be mailed out

153 Joy reported the annual report will be going to the printer tomorrow.

154 Consider Approval of Warrants and Payroll

155 Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by herself and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by
156 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes. Dennis thanked Todd for the
157 adjustment he made to the payroll listing.

158 Adjourn

159 Mike moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

160 Respectfully submitted,

161 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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