

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING DRAFT**

2 March 16, 2022

3 Attending the meeting in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Phil Pouech, Dennis Place,
4 Todd Odit, Rene Sanchez, George LeClair, Andrew Starman, Kristi Kilbride, Kieran Kilbride, Kristi Brown,
5 Anthony Cambridge, Caleb Casco, Frank Bryan, Jeremy Hulshof.

6 Attending the meeting remotely; Natacha Liuzzi, Jackie Hickerson, Jennifer Decker, Chelsea Edgar, Beth
7 Danon, Kathy Newton, Carl Bohlen, Mike Webb, Kate Kelly, Kathy Beyer, Jen McCuin, Andy Fritz, Amy
8 Cambridge, Tony St.Hilaire.

9 Meeting called to order at 7:00 via zoom.

10 Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

11 None

12 Public Comment

13 Rene Sanchez, superintendent of Chittenden South Supervisory School District, thanked Hinesburg
14 residents for their support of the budget. He said the district is conducting an equity audit. They will be
15 writing a 5 year strategic plan and will be welcoming community input.

16 Jennifer Decker shared her belief about community oversight and the role it plays in police
17 accountability. She wants to have Hinesburg establish a civilian oversight board.

18 Jackie Hickerson addressed the police budget. She would like to see data on the calls the police are
19 answering. She questions the need for a budget increase and increase in the number of officers. Agrees
20 with the need for an oversight board.

21 Beth Danon said she is also asking to have data on the police calls and hopes to have this information
22 before the informational meeting on the budget.

23 Selectboard Forum

24 Phil noted he shared with Board members the manual from the Town of Bethel and would welcome
25 discussion on the possibility of Hinesburg doing something similar.

26 Phil said the ad hoc committee met regarding the needed repairs to the Town Hall building. The
27 immediate need is to address the fact that the roof is leaking.

28 Approve Minutes of 3/2/22

29 Phil moved to approve the minutes of 3/2/22 with any agreed upon changes. Seconded by Maggie and
30 approved with 5 yes votes.

31 Conservation Commission Interview – Kathy Beyer

32 Kathy has lived in Hinesburg for about 22 years. She feels it is important to pay attention to the needs
33 for where people live and where we conserve land as the two are connected.

34 Phil moved to appoint Kathy Beyer to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire in 2025.
35 Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

36 Consider Approval of Dugout Construction Proposal – Recreation Committee

37 Mike Webb, member of the Recreation Committee reviewed the proposal with the Board. The dugout
38 will be for the existing little league field at Bisonette Field. The Committee received 2 bid responses.

39 Phil said it would be good to know what the long term plans are with capital funds and what is left from
40 the fundraising funds and asked if will those efforts for fundraising will continue.

41 Phil moved to approve the spending of capital money toward the dugouts and to contract with White's
42 Fencing. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

43 Receipt of and Consider Warning Public Hearing on Contractor Yard Zoning Revisions

44 Alex said changes recommended by Chad and Arnold Hayden regarding screening resulted in a
45 compromise to allow limited processing of top soil only.

46 The vehicle repair service change is to allow limited repair done outside a structure.

47 Dennis asked about the setback requirement. Does it include areas used for the business purpose, for
48 example a pile of topsoil or parked vehicles. Alex said it is meant to include areas used for the business
49 for any purpose.

50 Phil thanked the PC and Alex for addressing the issues that sent it back it to the PC.

51 Maggie moved to warn a Public Hearing for April 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Phil and approved
52 with 5 yes votes.

53 Consider Warning Public Hearing on Revised Village Design Standard Regulations

54 Maggie said while she was a member on the PC when they worked on the revisions, she has no personal
55 or financial gain from the changes so she feels there is no conflict of interest for her.

56 Dennis said the same applies to him.

57 Phil asked about the density bonus change in parking requirements. Alex said they did not change the
58 parking requirements but changes to the bonuses relate to building height for commercial or mixed use
59 buildings. There was incentive for the buildings to be taller. The PC has now removed the ability to
60 build taller buildings.

61 Mike asked about single family home requirements. His concern is cost of construction connected to
62 some requirements for individuals building single family homes. He also asked about the requirement
63 for the home to be 1 ½ stories high, which he believes results in zoning preventing mobile homes as
64 mobile homes legally can not be more than one story in height.

65 Alex said the reason for the porch requirement is to continue the current village streetscape.

66 He is not sure about the mobile home question and will look into that.

Phil asked if there was good public input specifically from developers with ongoing projects. Alex said the PC reached out to developers and the community but there was very little input.

Phil moved to schedule the Public Hearing on the Revised Village Design Standard Regulations on April 20, 2022. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Discussion of Police Department Budget

Todd and Chief Cambridge worked on a reduced budget which is included in tonight's packet.

Merrily said the reduced budget removes the administrative position which is currently not filled with the idea that the officers could cover those tasks as well as reducing the per diem offerings. Todd clarified the budget includes 6 full time officers. A change in the administrative or non-sworn personnel position from .625 to .5 hours (a reduction from 25 hours a week to 20). A per diem budget for officers to come in and fill in shifts reduced to \$15,000 (based on assuming 12 hours per week). Todd thinks from all the comments he has heard a more significant public input and education process can't be done in the time the Board has to put out a revised budget. We need to gather opinions and establish some facts as well as community benchmarks. Todd discovered the strategic plan done for the Police Department in 2007 which led to the addition of an officer in 2009 through a COPS Grant.

Todd recommends the Selectboard put forth a budget that does not eliminate anyone at the full time officer level with a commitment that we have another in depth community process and come up with a new strategic plan.

Todd said he also prepared a budget with 5 full time officer and maintains the administrative position. The per diem budget is significantly more than it would be with 6 officers. Due to the COPS Grant in FY 23 and FY 24 there would not be a big benefit to cutting that position as we lose the offsetting grant revenue.

Todd shared a memo from VSP regarding problems relying on them for coverage. Also noted was that we have reached out to Charlotte to see if they would be interested in contracting for some coverage from us and Chief Cambridge met with Shelburne who expressed an interest in the possibility of Hinesburg helping with coverage.

A budget needs to be passed by July and voting will continue till a budget is approved. Todd said he found out that you only need 7 days' notice of a vote and 5 days' notice of the informational meeting.

If a vote results in reducing the size of the department down to 5 officers the Town has to relinquish the COPS Grant position.

Merrily said she feels we need to proceed cautiously and not make a rash decision to cut the department and later find out crime increases as a result.

Phil said when the COPS Grant opportunity came along the decision to apply for the grant did not include public input. The grant was awarded and an officer hired. He feels, from his experience in previous years, the grant comes first and then you decide how big the department should be. When the budget failed, he believes others as well as himself were asking if this is the right size for Hinesburg. He thinks the way the budget was presented, the way we added an officer as well as the environment we are in today about policing caused enough people to want to push back. He felt we would need to cut a

105 position but feels we might be able to sell the revised budget keeping 6 officers if we do another
106 strategic plan and people feel assured the Town will do the right thing. We need open statistics and
107 information so everyone can see what is going on.

108 Maggie said when she first looked at the revised budget, she thought it was not much of a cut. When
109 she was on the Police Advisory Committee in 2014, they did some comparisons with other towns and
110 thought it would be good to do that again. After looking over the last strategic plan she feels that is
111 what we need to have done. We need community input done by an independent organization.

112 Mike agrees going in the direction of the revised budget. While not a significant budget cut, he does not
113 think two months is enough time to have the conversations that need to be had to determine what is
114 right for Hinesburg. Put forth the budget with the promise to do the strategic plan and include public
115 comment.

116 Dennis said he appreciates all Todd has done and what he has said. If we are looking at going in the
117 direction of looking to work with other towns, he suggests to come up with a master plan that would
118 include the fire department. He is all about compromise and looking to save money in different areas.

119 Merrily said the Board will not make a decision tonight but will carry it over to the next meeting with a
120 firmer budget to decide if that is what the Board wants to put forth for a vote and have a public meeting
121 where voters can discuss the revised budget.

122 Andy Starman said he supports having 6 officers in light of the growth that is coming. He feels it is
123 important to have all the information and hopefully when the Board shares that at the next meeting it
124 will help people make that decision.

125 George LeClair, local business owner, said he is happy with what we now have and does not understand
126 why the Board would want to make a cut. The part time people are not getting paid if not working. He
127 noted the money just approved for a dugout and does not see why this cut is being discussed.

128 Christy Brown, manager of Jiffy Mart, said people do not think they need police till something happens.
129 She has worked at Jiffy for 29 years. Before Hinesburg had officers on call at night when she had a
130 problem at the store, she could not get an officer. Now with on call night coverage she has never had a
131 problem with response to a situation. To make a cut would hurt the business.

132 Consider Rejecting all Police Vehicle Bids and Readvertising

133 Merrily the Board reject all bids received for the out of service police vehicle and readvertise it for sale
134 via sealed bids. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

135 Consider Approval of Local Emergency Management Plan

136 This will come back to the Board at the next meeting after some necessary changes.

137 Consider Approval of Liquor Licenses

138 Phil moved to convene as the Board of Liquor Control. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes
139 votes.

140 Phil moved to approve all the liquor license applications in tonight's Selectboard packet. Seconded by
141 Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

142 The following applications were approved:

143 First Class: Two Z's Inc., DBA Papa Nick's Pizza and Restaurant / TC Hospitality, LLC DBA Good Times
144 Café / Frost Beer Works, LLC / Bucky's Pub, LLC / BT Catering, LLC DBA Parkside Café / Back to Basics
145 Vermont, Inc. DBA Hinesburg Public House / Ayer Golf, Inc. DBA Cedar Knoll Country Club.

146 Second Class: Global Montello Group, Corp. DBA Jiffy Mart #446 / Jolley Associates, LLC / K.B.
147 Enterprises Inc. DBA Lantman's Best Yet Market / KPH Drugs, Inc. DBA Kinney Drugs, Inc. #103 / Global
148 Grapes & Spirits LLC, DBA 116 Wine & Spirits / Frost Beer Works, LLC / Bushel Market Inc.

149 Third Class: Two Z's Inc., Papa Nick's Pizza and Restaurant / Bucky's Pub LLC / Back to Basics Vermont,
150 Inc. DBA Hinesburg Public House / Ayer Golf Inc., DBA Cedar Knoll Country Club / TC Hospitality LLC, DBA
151 Good Times Café

152 Outside Consumption: TC Hospitality LLC, DBA Good Times Café / Frost Beer Works, LLC / Bucky's Pub,
153 LLC / Back to Basics Vermont Inc., DBA Hinesburg Public House / Ayer Golf Inc., DBA Cedar Knoll Country
154 Club / Two Z's Inc., DBA Papa Nick's Pizza and Restaurant.

155 Phil moved to adjourn as the Liquor Control Board. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

156 Consider Readoption of Selectboard Operating Guidelines

157 This will be addressed at the next meeting.

158 Approve Warrants and Payroll

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

161 Town Manger

162 Todd noted we are down one full time Fire Department employee.

163 Adjourn

164 Maggie moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

165 Respectfully submitted,

166 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board