

SELECTBOARD MEETING **APPROVED**

August 17, 2022

Attending in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Phil Pouech, Joy Dubin Grossman, Gil Coates, Nick Baker

Attending remotely; Todd Odit, Alex Weinhausen, Tony St. Hilaire, Jenna Baker, Anthony Cambridge, Michelle Jimmo, Lenore Budd

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

Agenda Additions or Deletions

Merrily said the request for the NDA designation has been withdrawn. Item 12 (executive session) is moved to the end of the meeting.

Public Comment

Gil Coates asked the Board, in light of all the comments on FPF, if the Board will be going ahead with the plan to have a 4 way stop at Texas Hill / Richmond Rd / North Rd intersection. Merrily said this has been included in the budget that was voted on and approved for at least the last two years. The basic plan is a 6 month trial period of removing the slip lane and having a 4 way stop for the intersection.

Phil said there was a study done and the change to a 4 way intersection was recommended to slow traffic and make the intersection safer.

Joy said the study is posted on the Town website.

Approve Minutes of 8/3/22

Merrily moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes and Mike abstaining.

Selectboard Forum

Phil said he contacted CVSD to ask if there are any plans for a crosswalk by HCS. He said they are interested but are reluctant to put any money toward Town or State infrastructure but would work with us in any way they could. He would like funds for a flashing crosswalk included in the Town budget.

Merrily reported there is still work being done on the exploration of collaborating with Richmond for Police service. The Richmond SB will have a lawyer give a presentation on forming a new municipal district at their meeting on the 29th.

Phil reviewed the discussion on affordability housing and reduced impact and water and sewer fees. If the Town decides to reduce the impact fees that effect is Town wide. If the allocation fees for water and sewer are reduced only the users of the system are impacted. He said it did not seem fair that water and sewer users would have to be the ones to support affordable housing. The next issue was which affordable housing projects would be eligible. All affordable or just the ones that are above what is required for the density bonus. Phil said one possibility would be to start a fund with ARPA funds and

also include to fund it in the general budget. Lastly was the sliding scale which perhaps could be simplified.

Alex advised that both the flashing crosswalks by the church and HCS are part of an RPC study the Town has been approved for. This should give us conceptual level plans.

Consider VMERS Plan D for Police and Fire Employees

Chief Cambridge wrote a memo outlining the changes from plan B which is what is currently offered. Most departments have switched to plan D which allows for earlier retirement.

Phil said he supports the change which gives a better and more competitive benefit. Both the Town and employee contribute more in this plan.

Maggie noted this is a much higher cost to the employee and asked Nick and Anthony if employees are interested. Nick said the fire employees are very interested in this option.

Todd added current employees have the option to keep what they now have. New employees would have to take plan D if that is the plan the Town has chosen.

Phil said the Board has previously discussed this and asked when it would become effective if approved. Todd said he believes if approved before Sept 30 it would be available by Jan 1st.

Tony said in his experience as a negotiator plans C and D are offered.

Anthony said having the same plan as Richmond, plan D, would help with discussions of combining departments.

Merrily asked Anthony about plan C. Anthony said it would add another 5 years to the retirement benefit. The department has investigated plan D and that seems to be what they are interested in.

Mike asked if we can offer C and D to give employees more choice. Todd said plan C would include the rest of the Town employees and would be a bigger discussion. Todd added that plan B while requiring more years of service also provides the highest possible pension benefit.

Phil moved that as a Town we offer VMERS group D to those qualified employees, with the goal of starting coverage January 1, 2023. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Discuss Local Election with General Election Regarding Election of Clerk and Treasurer

Todd addressed the past discussion with the Board regarding appointing the position of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer rather than it being an elected position. To do this the Board would need to warn a special election that would coincide with the general election to ask voters if they would approve the change to an appointed position.

Merrily said her understanding was we would be asking the Town about having a vote regarding this on the ballot for the March Town Meeting. Todd said he thinks we can do this at a special meeting and would be effective at the end of the term of existing officer. Todd will check into the required procedure about the vote.

Maggie is in favor of making the change and said if the Board decides to do this, they need to start the discussion now so people have the opportunity to get information and express their opinions.

Phil and Dennis both support this.

Mike asked what the Town would do if a position such as this would suddenly be vacant. Todd said if an elected position is vacated the Board appoints a replacement till the next election.

Todd will get back to the Board about the procedure.

Consider Cemetery Access Offer

Roger Kohn, resident on Silver St., is building a new driveway to access his property. The DRB is requiring the old driveway be blocked off. There is an old cemetery that uses the old driveway for access. Roger has given Wahl landscaping permission to access the cemetery by way of the new driveway to maintain the cemetery. Roger said he is willing to give the Town a license to use so people visiting the cemetery could go in on that driveway and exit on his new one.

The Board is interested in pursuing this. Todd will do the necessary work to bring this back to the Board for a formal decision.

Consider Approving Application to VLCT's Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort

Joy said this is an opportunity for Hinesburg to apply to participate in an "E.P.I.C. Journey" (ethical performance improvement campaign) through the VLCT.

Phil moved to support the application for the E.P.I.C. Journey from VLCT and select Joy and Mike to represent Hinesburg. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Review Budget Survey Results

There were 77 responses to the survey. Todd suggested two members of the Board look carefully at the survey data and report back to the Board with a summary and suggestions for going forward

Maggie suggested each Board member report back with three things they want to take from the survey and apply toward the budget discussion. Phil said he would be willing to do that.

Further discussion on the survey will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Consider Appointment to Development Review Board – Mike Webb

Phil moved to appoint Mike Webb for the remaining open term as full time DRB member. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes. Dennis recused himself.

Town Manager Report

- We did not get the grant for the Richmond Rd path. Todd asked for the reason but has not heard back yet.
- The Sergeant position in the Police Department has been filled by Brett Flansburg.

- Bids for work on the Texas Hill intersection will be brought to the Board and Todd said the work should be able to be done before winter.
- Two individuals from Lyman Meadows questioned why they pay the same water rate as others when they are not connected to the Town system. This can be added to a future agenda for discussion.
- He and Joy met with the architect about the Town Hall and Nick met with them about the Fire Dept.
- Todd was contacted by the CVU central office asking about the warming hut, tennis courts, gazebo and other things the Town may have helped install at HCS. Their position is the Town owns them and has the responsibility to maintain them. Todd has not been able to find any documentation about them.
- The Town received an invitation to be a member community of the State's "ideal Vermont" program. This is similar to the VLCT proposal on understanding of equity and inclusion. Todd has accepted the invitation and said there is no cost to be a part of it.

Approve Warrants and Payroll

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

Merrily asked for any additional comments from those attending the meeting.

Michelle Jimmo commented to try and not spend money.

Tony thanked the Board for considering the three applicants for the PC.

Todd noted Joy has the documents that need signatures from Board members. The VCDP Grant Application and the reappraisal agreement.

Consider a Motion to Enter Executive Session Under Provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss appoint of Public Officer

Merrily moved the Board go into executive session under provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss appointment of a public officer. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Phil moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Maggie made a motion to appoint Alison Lesure to the open seat on the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mike.

In favor Phil, Mike, Maggie and Merrily. Opposed Dennis. Motion passed.

Merrily agreed to contact all 3 candidates to let them know the results.

Mike moved to adjourn at 8:47p.m. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board