

1 **HINESBURG SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 November 30, 2022

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Phil Pouech, Jen McCuin, Nick
4 Baker, Eric Spivak, Diane Barber

5 Attending remotely; Mike Loner, Alex Weinhausen

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

7 Agenda Additions or Deletions

8 none

9 Public Comment

10 none

11 Selectboard Forum

12 Phil reminded us that he will be resigning as of Town Meeting Day.

13 Merrily said tomorrow there will be a meeting with Richmond about sharing police services.

14 Recreation Budget Presentation – Jen McCuin

15 Jen said the two main increases are youth sports and July 4th. Both are due to increased costs. Jen said
16 NorthStar Fireworks notified her in October that the previously \$10,000 minimum is now \$12,000.
17 Rodney Putnam, member of the Recreation Commission is planning to organize a Calcutta as a fund
18 raiser. Maggie asked how much a Calcutta usually makes. Jen said it depends on the number of ticket
19 sales. Jen said the last one at Cedar Knoll between ticket sales and donations was close to \$8,000. In
20 addition to raising some money it is a fun community night.

21 Phil said the fields are fantastic and asked how field maintenance is going. Jen said it going well and the
22 work being done shows in the spring and fall when other fields are struggling and ours look great. Phil
23 asked if youth and adult programs are back to normal. Jen said youth programs are really coming back
24 but not so much for the adult due to lack of space. Phil also asked if there are any funds left from the
25 original fund raising. Jen said there are and they will be used toward constructing dugouts.

26 Planning & Zoning Budget Presentation – Alex Weinhausen

27 Alex said the big change is in the salary line. There is a decrease in the special projects line.

28 Alex is projecting additional revenue due to Haystack Crossing.

29 Phil acknowledged the fact that Alex has been with Hinesburg for 20 or more years. He was speaking
30 with other soon to be Representatives who said their towns have had a lot of turnovers which is
31 disruptive.

32 Alex said in January he would like to talk with the Board about the Town Common when we have more
33 information on the Fire Station. If the Town wants to do some work on the Common, we will need to
34 put funds in the budget for that. Alex said Todd mentioned possible use of some ARPA funds.

35 Fire Department Budget – Chief Nick Baker

36 Nick reviewed a proposal for staffing increases. Current staffing is 2 full time fire fighter / EMT's , 1
37 regular part time Chief and 31 non-regular part time members who are paid on call. They have been
38 getting busier over the past few years and have a harder time recruiting.

39 Nick proposed two new staffing options. One option is to add 2 full time fire fighter / EMT employees at
40 an increase of \$182,833. The second option is to add 1 full time fire fighter / EMT at an increase of
41 \$91,441.

42 Phil asked about the call staff pay line on the budget increase from \$35,000 to \$75,000. Nick explained
43 it a result of combining the EMS and Fire budgets, there is no real increase. Last year they did increase
44 the hourly wage.

45 Phil asked about revenue from billing for ambulance service. Nick said only the transporting agency will
46 get payment from insurance. The amount of money spent on EMS equipment and supplies used is
47 small.

48 Phil asked if the full time employees are able to do other tasks when at the Fire Station. Nick said they
49 do; they maintain equipment on a regular basis.

50 Merrily said in talking with surrounding departments they indicated when you start hiring full time
51 people you lose volunteers and soon you have an all paid department. She noted the exception is
52 Shelburne and Richmond. Nick said he had heard some concern from volunteers of being left out if
53 there is full time staff. When Hinesburg added full time staff it was integrated very well and the
54 feedback on this is good. He added the intention is not to phase out volunteers.

55 Maggie asked if the number of volunteers has changed in the last year now that there are full time
56 positions. Nick said some left and they have some new, the addition of having accommodations has
57 helped.

58 Dennis commented that the EMT's are the ones who save lives while waiting for an ambulance. He said
59 last year when working on budgets he felt we were coming to this point with a request for more help.
60 He does not think people can afford it; we need to cut somewhere. For example, there was talk about
61 how many police we need, can we make a cut there. Do we want more EMT's or more police officers.
62 Dennis suggests to wait and see what revenue the new developments bring in. Nick said it comes down
63 to what service the Town wants to provide.

64 Merrily asked if Nick has talked with Richmond and Shelburne to find out what they think helps maintain
65 volunteers. Nick said those are ambulance departments not fire departments, their fire departments
66 are having the same issues. Merrily said we have a lot coming up and we need to take it one step at a
67 time.

68 Nick said adding 1 full time is being reactive and 2 is being proactive. If we go to 4 total, they would not
69 be looking at more till we they would have an ambulance.

70 Lodging at the station was discussed, Nick said most local responders stay home it is the out of town
71 responders who use the dorms.

72 Diane Barber said on the budget they need to change ambulance service to first response coverage. It
73 was discovered she was looking at last years documents.

74 Diane asked about the EMS line noting ambulance agency fees. Nick said that was last year also.

75 Todd said he will put the proposed budget on the Town website.

76 Diane asked if we still bill St. George for fire and ambulance. Nick said Richmond sends the bills for
77 Hinesburg and St. George to Hinesburg for ambulance service which we pay and then are reimbursed by
78 St. George. For fire service we bill based on their use of our fire service.

79 Todd said at the Selectboard meeting next week they will warn a public hearing for the capital and
80 general fund budgets to be held likely in the beginning of January.

81 Capital Budget Overview – Todd Odit

82 Todd suggests using \$150,000 of ARPA funds as a down payment on the highway truck replacement.

83 \$125,000 for paving requested for next year which will be added to what was not used this year to give
84 us the \$250,000.

85 Added a communications line for the Fire Department for future radio needs.

86 Merrily asked about the Local Option Tax idea. This will require a charter for the Town which needs to
87 voted on at Town Meeting. Todd said it does but will not be happening at the coming Town Meeting.

88 Adjourn

89 Maggie moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

90 Respectfully submitted,

91 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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