

1
2 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

3 October 12, 2022

4 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Dennis Place, Maggie Gordon, Todd Odit, Kathy Newton, Chuck
5 Reiss, Jane Clifford, Chris Conant, Shannon Wheeler, Ray Mainer, Pat Mainer.

6 Attending remotely; Phil Pouech, Carl Bohlen, Dale Wernhoff, Mary Jo Brace, Kate Kelley, Shannon Kelly
7

8 Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. via zoom

9 Agenda Additions and Deletions

10 none

11 Public Comment

12 Kathy Newton read a letter regarding the Town budget:

13 Letter from Kathleen Newton

14 *I am here with a plea for you as a board to be mindful of all citizens of this town during the budget*
15 *process.*

16 *You are a privilege group of people. I am a privileged person. I am not living paycheck to paycheck. We*
17 *have wiggle room for choices of how we spend our hard earned money. Many people in this town do not.*

18 *I have had the privilege of living in Hinesburg and working many years at school. Working there opened*
19 *my eyes to the many struggles families are having financially. Many are working two jobs and still are*
20 *feeling the financial strains. Hard working people that are trying to do their best for their families.*
21 *Stressing beyond belief.*

22 *On the other side of the spectrum I have concerns for the seniors in our town. I have also have had the*
23 *privilege of living in this town all my life. Many of the old time families are finding they can't afford to*
24 *live in Hinesburg when they retire. They are selling their homesteads and retiring elsewhere.*

25 *Each and every person in this town is important as the next! It used to be everyone looked out for each*
26 *other... we need to get back to that in a big way!*

27 *So I am asking you to be mindful of all citizens when you are considering each line item during the*
28 *budget process. Every study, every additional employee every piece of equipment approved effects all*
29 *people. Please be frugal this year! Use what equipment and resources the town has now to maximize its*
30 *use and minimize the budget.*

31 *Thank you for listening*

32 Kathy gave the example of the water leak on the road she lives on being fixed by an outside vendor
33 when the Town has the equipment to do so. Merrily said the need to hire it out could have been from
34 lack of staffing in Town.

Approved November 2, 2022

35 Affordable Housing Committee FY 24 Budget Request

36 Carl Bohlen presented the budget for the committee. He noted the discussion around creating a fund to
37 use to assist making units affordable in Town. They are asking for \$10,000 to be put in a reserve fund
38 and \$2,000 in the normal operating budget. Carl understands the Housing Needs Assessment is being
39 updated by the CCRPC so they do not need funds for that in their budget.

40 Maggie asked how this request compares with last year. Carl said he thinks the \$2,000 is less than last
41 year and the reserve fund is an increase of \$10,000.

42 They are also requesting \$100,000 in ARPA funds be put into the housing fund.

43 Dennis asked Carl if all the regulations and changes in zoning are making it more difficult to have
44 affordable units? He is also concerned with developers' affordable projects being rentals only. Carl said
45 a priority for the money in the reserve fund would be for assisting those who would be homeowner's vs
46 renters. If the Housing Needs Assessment update show a need for more rentals than ownership that
47 could change. Carl said he is not an expert on the regulations but as Dennis said the price of land is a
48 driving force. Maggie said it is not helping that the Village has been zoned for density and builders are
49 not taking advantage of that. They need to build smaller houses and more of them.

50
51 Cemetery Commission FY 24 Budget Request

52 Mary Jo submitted a level funded budget request. Merrily asked about the \$600 for a coordinator and
53 asked if that was Mary Jo. Mary Jo said it was and Merrily thanked her as that is a very small price for the
54 work she does. Work on the road was discussed and as this is a Town road Merrily said it should not have
55 to come out of the cemetery budget but should be a highway item. Mary Jo said she has spoken with
56 Mike Anthony about it but nothing has been agreed upon.

57 Conservation Commission FY 24 Budget Request

58 Kate Kelly reviewed the request with the Board.

- 59 • Educational materials are level funded.
- 60 • Maintenance is increased as a result of the quote for mowing from Wahl.
- 61 • General operating budget remains the same.
- 62 • The Natural Resources Inventory is an ongoing expense and has increased bason on the
- 63 contract they have.
- 64 • Land Preservation request is for \$15,000.
- 65 • New request of \$1,980 for parsnip control.

66 Merrily asked if this is the final year of the Natural Resources plan. Kate said there are more units that
67 can be done the cost would be \$7,000 to \$8,000 for each unit.

68 Phil joined the meeting at this time. He asked if it made sense for the Town to have one mowing
69 contract for all the areas in Town being mowed. Phil will ask Joy or Todd to they feel there is an
70 opportunity to do this.

Phil asked what the balance was in the Land Preservation fund. Kate did not know. He noted it had been discussed to keep balance that would be a good cushion of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for projects. If we currently have a good balance \$15,000 may not be needed but it could be a smaller amount such as \$5,000.

Lewis Creek Association FY 24 Budget Request

Kate also explained the Lewis Creek request. They are requesting \$2,203.60 They have received \$550 annually from the Town and last year received an additional \$1,653.60 for water quality sampling program.

Merrily asked if the Association also requests funding from Charlotte and Shelburne. Kate said they also equally fund the water quality program.

Phil asked where this item is in the budget. Merrily said it had been in the Conservation budget previously. Kate will check where it is noted. Phil suggested checking with Todd and Joy on where the best place to put this item is.

Energy Committee FY 24 Budget Request

Chuck said there are two items on their budget request. One is funding toward an electric vehicle charger unit. There are possible incentives that could be put toward this. Merrily said to her it does not make sense for this to be located at Town Hall unless the Town has a fleet of electric vehicles. She asked Chuck if he has approached Lantman's about this. People could charge their car while shopping. Also, the Mobil gas station. Chuck said he feels the Town Hall is a perfect spot and it would be on Town owned property. The Town has to monitor it and be the administrator of it.

Phil said this is the future, and he feels in a few years the Town could be looking at owning an electric vehicle. He feels we should be putting some money in the budget, which is not available for another nine months, as seed money and see what additional funds are available is a good thing.

Merrily questioned the second request for funds to hold informational meetings. Chuck said they would hold workshops such as the program to get houses at zero net energy and outreach to get people involved in community solar.

Lake Iroquois Association FY 24 Budget Request

Chris and Shannon Kelly reviewed the work of the Association and the budget request. Chris shared the good news that no aquatic invasives management was needed this year. There was some minor hand pulling in the southwest corner of the Lake. The budget includes funding for an aquatic plant survey. They conducted two surveys this year.

- The greeter program continues to be successful
- Eight new properties along the lake were awarded the Lake Wise Award. Currently we at the threshold to receive Gold Status and would be the third lake in the State to achieve that.
- Shannon addressed Stormwater improvement project of the LIRD. They have received grant funds toward work on Beebe Lane.
- They were awarded a watershed action plan grant and have hired a contractor to do field assessments.

109 • Another successful year with the Loons breeding.
110 • They plan to do the “ice out” challenge again.

111 Maggie asked how many are in the Association. Shannon said they gained about 100 last year. Jane
112 said total there are around 300. Maggie asked if there are dues. Jane said yes and also donations.
113 Maggie asked about the wake boats. Shannon they were also asked to write a supporting letter but did
114 not take a position on the issue.

115 HCRC FY 24 Budget Request

116 Shannon Wheeler said the ramp for the building has been completed and paid for from the capital
117 funds. In addition to regular visits to the food shelf they are again providing a Thanksgiving meal to
118 about 70 families. Vacation snack bags are an addition to their services.

119 Merrily asked about maintenance increasing to \$28,000. Shannon said that is the money for the ramp.

120 Town funding from Hinesburg is the same as last year.

121 Town Forest FY 24 Budget Request

122 Pat explained there are two funds. The stewardship fund provided by the Addison and Conservation
123 Project and a Regular account funded with logging revenue.

124 The Committee has discussed investing a portion of the funds in the stewardship fund.

125 The Board suggested to have guidelines on what spending can be done by the Committee alone and
126 what needs approval of the Board. Speak with Todd and Missy on how to manage the funds.

127 For the investing, Phil suggested speaking with VLCT to find out what other towns have done.

128 Trails Committee FY 24 Budget Request

129 Ray said the Committee is again asking for \$1,500. Most of the money is spend for buying pressure
130 treated lumber used to deal with muddy spots.

131 Adjourn

132 Maggie moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Dennis and approved with 4 yes votes.

133 Respectfully submitted,

134 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

135

136

137

138