

HINESBURG SELECTBOARD DRAFT

January 18, 2023

Attending in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Todd Odit, Travis Counter

Attending remotely; Joy Dubin Grossman, Jennifer Decker, Jason Booth, Phil Pouech, Alex Weinhausen

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

Agenda Additions or Deletions

none

Public Comment

none

Approve Minutes of 12/21/22 and 1/4/23

Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 12/28/22 and 1/4/23 with any needed changes. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

Selectboard Forum

Mike said the DEI workgroup met last night and continue to work on a draft charter as well as adjustments to applications for committees' members. They hope to have this to the Selectboard by 2/1.

Maggie brought up Town Meeting which will be hybrid with those meeting in person at CVU. She encouraged committees to set up displays to share current projects. Maggie will organize a sign up for those who want to bring snacks to share.

Merrily noted the Selectboard received two letters. One from a resident of Orchard Commons who has been having a problem with some vicious dogs. Merrily said the Board will work with Town staff to resolve the problem.

The other letter was from Kira Bergeron, CVU student and resident of Richmond Rd about the need for the sidewalk in that area.

Dennis said he received a call about the landfill and the contaminated wells. He thanked Joy for getting right back to them on their concerns. Dennis feels we need to get this on the agenda for the next meeting to look at what the Town is going to do. Mike said the Board received a letter from a resident about the wells too.

Phil said about 6 months ago when Dennis mentioned having Town water brought up to the area, he said it was so expensive and could not happen. Now knowing that additional wells are at risk he would be looking for the Town, and maybe Joy is working on this, to get some consultants in to help us understand the problem and also get some estimates to bring Town water to that area.

Mike asked about the possibility of the State having additional money for landfill closures and recertifications. Todd said he will check into that.

35 Todd said he and Joy have talked about the request to have a feasibility study done to look at
36 alternatives for water in that area.

37 Economic Development Committee Interview – Travis Counter

38 Travis is a resident of St. George and a local business owner. Travis shared his experience in the
39 hospitality industry. Maggie moved to appoint Travis Counter to the Economic Development Committee
40 for a 1 year term expiring 4/1/24. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

41 Consider Appointing Selectboard Vacancy Until Town Meeting

42 Merrily moved to appoint Phil Pouech to the Hinesburg Selectboard until Town Meeting Day. Seconded
43 by Dennis.

44 Phil said he appreciates this and noted the reason he wanted to do this was to continue the process up
45 to Town Meeting. He said he will be sure to take the oath before the next meeting so he will officially
46 be a member for the meeting on the 24th.

47 Motion voted and approved with 4 yes votes.

48 Consider Approval of Step III Engineering Services Agreement for the WWTF Replacement

49 Todd said this is the engineering contract with Aldrich and Elliott that covers the bid phase, construction
50 phase, resident project inspection and special services.

51 Jason Booth said this is the next phase working with the contractor and building the project. He
52 explained what services are included in this phase.

53 Todd said to move forward the agreement needs to be approved. The update total project cost
54 increased from \$11,700,000 to \$16,602,006. The Town will be applying to the State for a Community
55 Revitalization Grant to help offset some of that cost.

56 Merrily said this is additional services as well as increased construction cost and it is not clear why this
57 was not in the original contract.

58 Todd said part of it is the additional sludge removal cost.

59 Dennis pointed out the estimate was off by \$5,000,000.

60 Phil said this is quite shocking, he thought there might another 20% in additional cost. He would like
61 Wayne to give the Board a clear explanation of what is driving this increase.

62 Jason said the construction phase services are not added at the beginning of the project.

63 Mike moved to accept amendment #1 to the Step III engineering services agreement to cover the bid
64 phase, construction phase, resident project inspection and special services in the amount of \$973,000
65 with Aldrich and Elliot. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

66 Consider Approval of Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Application – Alex Weinhausen

67 Alex explained this is for the Village South Sidewalk project and this grant if awarded will help to cover
68 increased construction costs.

69 Phil wanted to note the Town is helping the developer and this will not cost the Town more money.

70 Maggie moved the Town submit a Downtown Transportation Fund application for \$105,600 in grant
71 funds to support the completion of the Village South Sidewalk project, and approve the required
72 resolution regarding matching funds. Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

73

74 Final Review of Draft FY 24 Operating and Capital Budgets

75 Merrily wanted to note that in an effort to keep budget increases at a minimum several committee
76 requests were not granted.

77 Phil thanked Todd for his work on the budget and noted despite a smaller than inflation increase we
78 have not cut any services.

79 Dennis thanked all who worked on the budget but said in consideration of all the issues in Town, the
80 wastewater increases and the schools, and the Town being just a portion of residents taxes he cannot
81 support this budget. He feels we do need to cut some services. Merrily asked Dennis if he had any
82 specific suggestions. Dennis said he has asked before how much the budget would need to be cut to not
83 raise taxes at all. Todd said about \$180,000. Dennis said he believes we should use ARPA funds to
84 lower the taxes. Mike said his concern using ARPA funds to lower taxes is it is a one-time thing. Todd
85 said he feels the Town is at its taxing capacity till we get more new development. Mike said hopefully
86 the survey will give us some answers. We are at capacity, what services do we want to do without.

87 Review of Draft Town Meeting Warning and Articles

88 The Board reviewed the warning as written and discussed the change to Town Clerk being an appointed
89 position as well as availability of the Town Report. Todd said these questions can be addressed in a
90 Q&A.

91 Consider Approval of Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage

92 Maggie moved to approve the annual Certificate of Highway mileage. Seconded by Mike and approved
93 with 4 yes votes.

94 Consider Approval of Resolution of Necessity for Fire Engine Replacement

95 Maggie moved to approve the Resolution of Necessity for Fire Engine Financing Project Town of
96 Hinesburg, Seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes votes.

97 Consider Action of Mail Delivery in Hinesburg

98 Merrily drafted a letter for the Board to consider sending to Federal Representatives, Senators and
99 Representative regarding issues of mail delivery in Hinesburg.

100 Maggie said she is concerned about crossing boundaries. The Selectboard has governance over the
101 general affairs of the Town and not over federal entities. Maggie said she has talked with people who
102 have written. She feels numbers matter and would like to encourage people to write letters. Merrily
103 said the Selectboard is responsible for what happens in Hinesburg and the Selectboard is responsible to

104 do what they can to help the people in Hinesburg. The letter is a request. She feels sending as the 4
105 members of the Board will make a difference.

106 Dennis said he liked the letter asking for help.

107 Mike said he agrees some with Maggie. He sees there is an issue and it is not just our post office. He is
108 concerned it may be an overreach for it to be from the Selectboard.

109 Phil said he is all right with the Selectboard sending a letter but thinks also it should be put in the
110 Selectboard highlights on who to write to if you are concerned with mail delivery.

111 Merrily moved to approve the letter from the Selectboard to our Representatives in Washington
112 requesting help with our situation with mail service. Dennis seconded. Merrily, Dennis and Mike in
113 favor. Maggie opposed. Motion failed.

114 Town Manager Report

- 115 • Working on grant applications for the revitalization program for well #6 and wastewater
- 116 • Working with the clerk's office to update the clerk / treasurer job description
- 117 • One Town employee took advantage of the new high deductible health insurance plan
- 118 • Both water systems had sanitary inspections and the few minor issues have been corrected
- 119 • Lyman Meadows Association is on the agenda for 2/15 for discussion on being part of the water
120 district
- 121 • Reappraisal work will begin this summer, this will be a two year process
- 122 • Todd and Joy had the kick off meeting on the Public Safety Strategic Plan
- 123 • Todd will meet with the Town Attorney next week prior to contract negotiations

124 Approve Warrants and Payroll

125 Mike moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, signed by Maggie and Merrily as submitted by
126 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

127 Adjourn

128 Mike moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

129 Respectfully submitted,

130 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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