

1 **HINESBURG SELECTBOARD**

2 February 15, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Todd Odit, Joy Dubin
4 Grossman, Andrew Miller, Enrique Peredo, Bill Lippert, Kate Webster, Miles Hickok, Nicole Doner,
5 Maggie Plante, Karen Tronsgard- Scott, Stephen Cote, and Sheri Hanlon

6 Attending remotely; Phil Pouech, Amy Marra, Tim Parent, Linda Parent, Kathy Coughlin, James Jarvis,
7 Natacha.

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

9 Agenda Additions or Deletions

10 Merrily said item 16 would be moved to before the Town Manager update and item 10 is removed from
11 the agenda.

12 Public Comment

13 none

14 Approve Minutes of 2/1/23

15 Phil moved to approve the minutes of 2/1/23 with any agreed upon edits. Seconded by Mike and
16 approved with 5 yes votes.

17 Selectboard Forum

18 Maggie said there are a number of committees and groups that will be setting up displays at CVU for the
19 March 6 informational meeting. There will be some food available and we will be celebrating Missy Ross
20 for her service to Hinesburg. There will be posts on Front Porch Forum with information about the
21 meeting.

22 Dennis said he has received several phone calls about the landfill problems. He was asking if there was
23 an update on this. Todd said he will give an update with the Town Manager report. The plan is to have
24 that item scheduled on the March 1 Selectboard meeting.

25 Phil said he talked to the Trails Committee and asked them what they might do with ARPA funds if they
26 were awarded some. He would like to have that discussion when the Board talks about ARPA money.

27 Phil thanked Todd and Joy for sending out information on the landfill and seeking some grants. He feels
28 it is imperative as a Board and Town to do more testing rather than less to reassure people

29 Affordable Housing Committee Interview – Andrew Miller

30 Andrew said he is trained as an architect and is an affordable housing developer. He feels he could
31 provide some insight on what it takes to get affordable housing built.

32 Maggie asked Andrew if he has attended any committee meetings. He said he has not but has
33 interacted with some of the members.

34 Mike asked given his work in affordable housing and the fact that the Town hopefully will be working
35 with CHT does he have any concern about a possible conflict of interest. Andrew said not from his
36 perspective, if something the firm he works for was proposed in Hinesburg he would recuse himself.

37 Maggie moved to appoint Andrew Miller to the Affordable Housing Committee for a term that ends
38 4/1/25. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

39 Consider Approval of Revised Committee Application

40 Merrily said she looked at surrounding towns and found their applications to be minimal. She feels the
41 revised application is better than the previous one used. It does what she hoped which is to ask the
42 person to connect with the Town.

43 Phil moved to revise the committee application form to be the one presented in the Selectboard packet.
44 Seconded by Maggie.

45 Maggie said she also appreciates the work on the application. She noted that in question 2 attending
46 meetings could be added as an option to educate the applicant about the committee.

47 Phil amended his motion to read as presented in the packet with the addition of attending meetings.
48 Maggie accepted the amendment. Motion voted as amended and approved with 5 yes votes.

49 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee Interviews

50 a) Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Kate Webster, Miles Hickok, Enrique Peredo, Mike Loner

51 Karen was asked by Maggie; in working with a group of people what does she feel is most helpful. Karen
52 said to her it is about listening and the relationship built with listening. Phil asked what is one or two
53 things she wants the committee to sink their teeth into. Karen said for her there are two levels, work
54 that is similar to what was done revising the application. The other thing it to think about what we want
55 Hinesburg to look like in 25 years. We know there will be many new families and want them to feel
56 acceptance, a sense of community and knowing there is space for all kinds of people here. Merrily said
57 she agrees the most important thing is listening, it is hard to get that quality into words working with
58 policy. Does Karen see the committee working in an advisory capacity. Karen said she would hope so.
59 The members of the committee have a variety of experiences and expertise that can be shared in an
60 advisory capacity.

61 Phil moved to appoint Karen Tronsgard-Scott to a three year term on the Equity Committee. Seconded
62 by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

63 Kate said this is a passion project for her and the group has developed a trust and are collaborators.

64 Merrily moved to nominate Kate Webster to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee for
65 a term of three years. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

66 Miles said for him this is somewhat personal. He has supported girls in STEM for over 20 years and
67 recently has focused more on adding race to the STEM program. The work of the committee should be
68 integrated into everything the Town does.

69 Merrily moved to nominate Miles Hickok for a two year term on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion &
70 Belonging Committee. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Enrique said the work of the committee impacts him as a gay man of color. He noted he was the one person in the survey who was gay and the pacific islander. He said doing DEI work in small populations anonymity is something you have to cherish. He also noted he was hesitant in becoming part of the committee. In the beginning they were trying to do things that did not make sense to him as a person of color, but overtime there has been growth with the help of a consultant and can speak with a common voice without being disruptive of one another.

Merrily moved to nominate Enrique Peredo to a two year term on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Mike – Merrily thanked him for taking this on and noted he was involved from the start. Mike said for the Town this is a really good growth moment and to focus on some historical issues we have in policy to become more welcoming. He feels part of the charge for the committee is to look at policy and take time to remove barriers to access.

Merrily moved to appoint Mike Loner to a two year term on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

Committee members thanked Joy and said she is the driving force behind the committee.

Joy acknowledged that Joy Dubin Grossman is also a member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee.

Discussion of Lyman Meadow Water System

Merrily said she knows they have water issues; the Board is not expecting to make any decisions tonight. The main goal is to listen to what the residents have to say.

Nicole said they are looking for action before the fiscal year begins and wanted to be transparent about that. She said Lyman Meadow's has historically been charged by the Town for water and sewer. Lyman Meadow's has a well, they are not on the Town water system. They don't benefit from any infrastructure that is being put in for the new homes, they don't benefit from the reverse osmosis. There is nothing in terms of water that they get from the Town. The well is maintained by the Town after being sold to the Town. Her water costs are almost \$1,000 for a year for a single person household. She is being charged for water from the Town she does not use as they have a well. They would like this looked at, reviewed and some sort of action for compensation before the next fiscal year. She has received notice that her water meter is not working and needs to be fixed. She has not responded as she feels it does not need to be fixed because the water is not metered from the Town, the water comes the hill behind her condo.

Sheri, resident of Lyman Meadow's, said the nano filtration system supplies good quality soft water to the Town. The pump house well at Lyman Meadow's, also owned by the Town, is good quality water but is hard water. The 80 units have to put in water softeners and maintain them. Residents in Town have soft water. They are paying the same amount as Town residents but the quality is not the same.

Steve said he is confused. He understands that the Town owns the well. He asked if they are paying to the Town at a different rate. Sheri said no the rate is the same. He said but they consider it different water, he noted he lives in Town and feels his water is terrible. Sheri said both are good quality water just that they are paying for good hard water.

110 Mike said the wells in Town go through the filtration system but Lyman Meadow does not.

111 Phil said it is reasonable to come in and complain about the fact that the water is different. A few things
112 to note are; Lyman Meadow came to the Town with the request to take over the well, at any point
113 Lyman Meadow can say they want to take over the system again and pay for all that involves. Nicole
114 said they are not willing to do that. Phil added it is important that every user is metered, people who
115 use the minimum amount pay a certain amount and those who use more pay more. The Town could
116 look at what the cost would be to combine all the wells, including Lyman Meadow, but he feels the cost
117 would be too much to make it work. It may be reasonable to say the fee should be lower as they don't
118 get treated water. He added in the past none of the Town water was treated, it was only recently
119 treatment was added.

120 Todd said basically they are asking to be treated as their own water system and billed a rate that reflects
121 the cost of maintaining that system. He does not know if it would be cheaper or more expensive.

122 Amy said the bond vote stated only people paying for the bond would be the people who benefit from
123 the system. They don't benefit but are paying.

124 James J said he had the same feeling as Amy at the time of the vote. He did not recognize Lyman
125 Meadow would be responsible for supporting the general improvement for the rest of the Town water
126 system. As a result, his water and sewer bill increased from \$180 to \$260 a quarter. He just installed
127 \$2500 worth of water treatment. He feels there is inequity.

128 Amy added that Lyman Meadow is not the only one on the well. Lyman Park and an apartment on Rt
129 116 are also on the well.

130 Steve asked what is being done by the Town for users at Lyman Meadow. He feels it is a slippery slope
131 for the Town to take over a water system, he does not think the infrastructure is up to standard. The
132 Town supplies water to several of the trailer parks with one meter. What is the expense of Hinesburg
133 hooking up to their system and discontinuing that well and supplying them water? Todd said there is a
134 lot to figure out with that. There are the costs as well as the capacity issue.

135 Phil agrees with Todd in going forward and looking at the actual overall cost. It is important to take out
136 the sewer portion of the bill. Right now, if there is a problem with the system, the Town bears the cost
137 to fix it.

138 Mike said this was a decided in 1998 and we can't make decisions to change what was done. The
139 question is how to move forward equitably. Mike added if we find an equitable solution, he assumes the
140 residents are still willing to pay for the water.

141 Maggie said one of the reasons in 98 Lyman Meadow asked the Town to take over the well was to bring
142 it into compliance with the State, she does not know what work was done to do that. The Town has
143 done that and maintained it since then. She noted if the well fails it is the responsibility of the Town.
144 The cost of maintenance is substantial. She feels it is important to think back about why the Town was
145 asked to take this over. There may have been a thought that the well would help serve development.
146 The Town is not benefitting from the Lyman Meadow well in regards to new development. She said we
147 could look at the costs.

148 Sheri said for 25 years the Town has been building up revenue to support repairs. It is just in the recent
149 years they have been paying the additional costs.

150 Steve said he is a licensed water operator. He thinks Lyman Meadow's is getting short changed if the
151 Town is charging them the same rate as everybody else on the system, but their system is not
152 chlorinated, fluoridated or softened. They are looking to be charged fairly for the water they are being
153 supplied with.

154 Nicole said she understands the well is now the Town responsibility and she is not blaming anybody here
155 but would it not have made sense that the people in charge would have been putting money aside just
156 like the homeowner association dues where a certain amount of money goes into reserves. Merrily said
157 the repair of the road to the tank is a good example of the Town taking on the expense for the system.

158 Merrily said she is hearing they want the Town to look at the possibility of charging them a lower rate.
159 Todd said he would not say a lower rate but a rate that reflects the cost of the system. He does not
160 want anyone to assume that will be a lower rate.

161 Consider Approval of Certificate of Approved Location – Burnett Scrap Metal

162 Merrily moved to approve the Certificate of Approved Location for Burnett Scrap Metal for the next 5
163 years. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

164 Consider Approval of Contract to Update Fire Impact Fee

165 Dennis questioned spending \$13,000 to decide what the impact fee should be. Todd said it is
166 complicated and no one on staff has the expertise to do this. Todd also noted the need to have an
167 impact fee that the Town can defend if needed.

168 Dennis asked about a possible conflict interest for Jonathan Slason who will be contracted to do the
169 impact fee work. The Board felt he was not personally benefitting from the impact fees more than any
170 resident in Town and so there was no conflict.

171 Phil moved the Selectboard approve the contract to complete the updated Fire Impact Fees for the
172 estimated cost of \$13,000 to come out of our impact fees. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes
173 votes.

174 Consider Warning Public Hearing on Energy Standard Zoning Regulation Amendments

175 Maggie moved to warn a Public Hearing on April 19, 2023 for the proposed zoning and subdivision
176 regulation amendments regarding energy standards approved by the Planning Commission on January
177 25, 2023. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

178 Consider Approval of Resolution in Support of Regional or Statewide Public Transit Funding

179 Phil said this has been an issue for a number of years and there are a number of studies looking at the
180 way we pay for public transportation. Communities that are members pay an assessed amount which is
181 funded with property taxes. Studies have shown alternate and more equitable ways to fund this.

182 Merrily moved to approve the resolution to strengthen regional / statewide funding for public transit.
183 Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

184 Copy of the resolution is in the Selectboard packet for this meeting.

185 Town Manager Report

- 186 • Have the cost estimates for the two options for the fire station – each in the \$9,000,000 range
- 187 • Addition to the Town hall estimate is \$5,000,000
- 188 • Wayne Elliot will be on the March 1 agenda for further discussion on the update to the ww
- 189 treatment facility
- 190 • Grant applications have been submitted for the Community Revitalization programs for the well
- 191 • Received notice from CGR, company working on the public safety plan, they will be in town 3/6
- 192 and 7 and will want to meet with Selectboard members
- 193 • Met with residents who live near the landfill who expressed concern and are looking to get their
- 194 wells tested
- 195 • Also, at the meeting on March 1st Stone Environmental will be present regarding the report on
- 196 well testing

197 Tim Parent said the Town is past the 60 days for the report as noted in the closure agreement.

198 Hopefully there will be some indication of what will be recommended before the meeting on March 1st.

199 Phil said as a Board he hopes we push Stone Environmental, when they recommend based on their
200 science where we test, to lean toward the maximum testing. Even if we come up with a lot of negatives
201 which is what we hope people can feel relieved. If we have to take some ARPA money to do this, we
202 need to get it done.

203 Phil asked Todd if with the new well the cost includes the new treatment train. Todd said it does.

204 Tim added the Town is testing wells they know are contaminated and can use that for a formula. But if
205 not testing wells that were not contaminated a year and half ago it is hard for him to see how that gives
206 the needed information. Todd said he and Joy shared the concerns noted at the meeting

207 Approve Warrants and Payroll

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

210 Consider a Motion to Enter Executive Session Under Provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B)

211 Merrily moved to enter executive session under Provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations
212 with employees. Meeting will include Selectboard members, Todd and Joy. Seconded by Mike and approved
213 with 5 yes votes.

214 Mike moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

215 Mike moved to adjourn, seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

216 Respectfully submitted,

217 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board