

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING DRAFT**

2 March 1, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Todd Odit, Joy Dubin Grossman,
4 Wayne Elliot, Colleen MacKinnon, Rene Sanchez, Stephen Cote, Henry Benis, Dennis Febert, Pricilla
5 Reidinger, Robert Mello, Janet Francis, Jason Turner, Ashley Turner, Ken Hurd, Terry Francis, John and
6 Sally Mead, Mary and Gary Donaldson.

7 Attending remotely; Phil Pouech, Sarah Amatruto, Jennifer Decker, Jason Booth, Tim Parent, Charles
8 Kogge, Jeff Parent, Laura Wisniewski, Lou Colasanti, Libby Parent, Jeff Stein, Renee Mobbs, Jim and
9 Kathy Rohde, Krista Willett, Dominic, Annamarie Cioffari, Andrea

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

11 Agenda Additions or Deletions

12 none

13 Public Comment

14 none

15 Approve Minutes of 2/15

16 Tabled till the next meeting

17 Selectboard Forum

18 Merrily wished Maggie a happy birthday and have a lovely bouquet of daffodils for her.

19 Merrily also had daffodils for Phil as this is his last actual Selectboard meeting. He will be at the
20 informational meeting for Town Meeting.

21 Update on WWTF Replacement Project – Wayne Elliot

22 Jason Booth said the project went out to bid as of last week. There is a 45-day projected bid period.
23 3/15 is the pre bid meeting at the site and bids will be opened on 4/4. In mid May they will hold a pre-
24 construction meeting. Wayne said they do not expect the facility will be fully operable until summer of
25 2025. Once fully operable the Town has a one year warranty.

26 Todd addressed the point that we have to do a financial analysis for the bond bank. In tonight's packet
27 is completion of the financial analysis but the bond bank still needs to approve the loan. The Town will
28 also need to secure a bond anticipation note since the loan program is reimbursable.

29 Merrily said she is surprised there is only a one year warranty. Wayne said that is standard. Merrily
30 asked Wayne, since he had built these before, how do they work. Does past experience indicate
31 breakdown after the one year. Wayne said no, part of this is the running a new facility and working out
32 any bugs. What they are doing in Hinesburg isn't anything that has not been done in other locations.
33 Merrily asked about Wayne's experience with facilities after the one year period. Wayne said it is
34 incredibly rare to have problems.

Maggie asked about the bond bank reservations. Todd said they while they had some reservations, they were very complimentary of the Town. Wayne added this is not unique to Hinesburg, communities are dealing with the fact they are debited heavily.

Wayne reviewed the project and the reasons for the choice to build this type of facility.

Jennifer D asked if the facility will have state of the art equipment for removing PFAS. Wayne said it does not, the State is continuing to assess that. It is not a requirement; PFAS is in everything and a big challenge to remove. Jennifer asked the Selectboard, given the high cost would it be better to pause on this project and wait till we can have state of art PFAS removal equipment. Merrily said that is a good point and recommended she write to the State.

Phil said we cannot delay the project as we have requirements from the State to meet the permits. To remove PFAS from a wastewater treatment plant would likely be a complete redesign.

Wayne addressed the sludge removal disposal costs. The estimate was significantly low. Land application has been stopped. There is no place in Vermont to take the sludge. Also increasing costs are inflation and short supply of equipment.

Steve asked about future costs of sludge removal, he questioned why a de-watering plant was not included in the project. He also asked if there was an engineering study done on the area of the facility before we began and got this far finding the ground is not stable enough to support the facility.

Merrily said that was known beforehand and it is the reason for choosing the tile drainage.

Phil said they did look at the option of de-watering early in the process. The Town spent a number of months considering all the places we could put the wastewater treatment and in the end that was the best place despite the added cost.

Dennis asked if in the contracts at the beginning of project about the sludge removal was there a bid submitted. Wayne said that was not the process. This was handled as a small purchase and there are not a lot of people who do that type of work. The Town had to contract directly with Senesac. Todd added that was the only bid received. Wayne said it was factors out of everyone's control that caused the increases.

Merrily asked about the notice from the DEC about the permit. She said it sounds like the amount acceptable to be discharged is going down. Wayne said he also just got that notice and we do not know at this time. There is not a concern that the new plant would not meet those limits.

Presentation on FY 24 School Budget – Colleen MacKinnon

Colleen and Renae reviewed the presentation (copy is in the Selectboard packet).

Colleen said the budget is stabilizing existing programs, nothing new has been added.

Renae said they have been receiving ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) grant funds for the last few years. They are now in the 3rd phase which is to help students with social and emotional learning. Funds are being used to train teachers and bring in additional services of social workers and counselors. Colleen added this is Federal money meant to support students.

72 Coleen said the 7% increase represents inflation.

73 Phil acknowledged and thanked Colleen for her many years of service on the school board.

74 Phil asked about the bus fleet and possible transition to electric. Renae said they are two to three more
75 times expensive. The new busses proposed will be gas rather than diesel which should help keep them
76 on the roads during extreme cold weather

77 Phil also asked about universal free lunch. Renae said the position of the district is they want to keep
78 doing it, he wants to be able to keep doing it over the summer.

79 Phil asked about school facilities regarding the new development coming. Renae said they conducted a
80 demographic analysis last year which predicts significant growth in Hinesburg and Williston over the
81 next 10 years. Currently they are still having to make upgrades. He addressed the issue of possible PCB
82 and radon testing.

83 Jennifer D said she is going to vote no on the budget as it is a prohibitively large increase. She totally
84 agrees with retaining talented staff but has heard that families of color have experienced racism and
85 students in special education are not satisfied. There was the issue this year with the student who was a
86 team captain who had to step down from her role because of a racist action. The schools need to do a
87 better job of educating responsibilities when it comes to diversity, equity and inclusion. This could be
88 done by expecting the school leaders to accept the same types of responsibility. It might be that
89 someone would volunteer to make less money because they care so much about the school and the
90 education of the students. She asked if there any ideas on how to further reduce the budget.

91 Coleen replied to Jennifer that she raised so many important topics in her comment that they cannot do
92 justice to reply at the moment. They accept the comment and will work with it. Renae asked Jennifer to
93 send her comments to him in an email and he will respond to her.

94 Discussion of Fall 2022 Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Project

95 Merrily addressed those attending who are concerned about their water noting the Town is doing
96 everything we possibly can to address this issue. We did not create the issue but found out about it and
97 now are doing everything to address this issue in the best way we can find.

98 Katrina M, of Stone Environmental, reviewed the recommendations and findings of the monitoring.
99 Copy of the report is in tonight's Selectboard packet.

100 Phil asked what is expected date to have definitive results from the tested wells. Katrina said if they
101 sample in March they would have results in April. Phil asked what the cost to add wells for testing in.
102 Katrina said about \$500 per location.

103 Maggie asked how the location of the original compliance wells were chosen. Katrina said they looked at
104 a ¼ mile radius from the landfill. There are 15 wells, 9 of which have been sampled with no detection in
105 2021. Then based on the direction of groundwater flow point of compliance wells were tested.

106 Dennis asked about the 4 new wells they are looking to test. If they come back negative, how do we
107 know two years from now they would not test positive. Katrina said they will continue to monitor the
108 compliance wells semi-annually.

109 Janet Francis was present to make some remarks on behalf of the neighborhood group of residents from
110 Forest Edge, Beecher Hill Rd, North Rd, and Observatory Rd. They appreciate movement in the right
111 direction but need to find a long-term solution. More needs to be done to assure all the houses meet
112 the safe water standards. Adding 4 more homes is good but does not include the 5 properties that
113 adjoin the most recent home that exceeds the PFAS limit. Properties that do not adjoin that property or
114 the landfill also need testing. They will serve as background monitoring indicating a clear margin.
115 Regular ongoing testing is needed to not only identify rapid changes but to monitor the levels before
116 they get to the exceed level. No one can predict exactly where the contaminates are flowing
117 underground. As a first step they are asking the Selectboard to authorize the Town to conduct and pay
118 for immediate, comprehensive ongoing water testing by list of 18 households (list provided to the
119 Board).

120 Merrily said she understands and noted the budget was just put together. It is a huge cost to do what is
121 requested which is why the Town is following the recommendations of Stone Environmental. They trust
122 the science and recommendations of Stone.

123 Janet responded about the location of the property being added vs other properties near the
124 contaminated well.

125 The Dente and Hurd wells are considered a compliance well as they are right at the allowed levels.

126 Phil said he has mentioned before to the Board and is going to stick with it. He understands Stone is
127 going to follow the science and the Town is going to follow everything according to the State standards.
128 But he feels these are our Hinesburg citizens and he would be willing to put in a bit of ARPA money to
129 test more wells and it is reasonable to slightly over test based on what Stone Environmental suggests.
130 We want to get to a point that people feel the Town has a handle on the problem.

131 Ken H wanted to note in the Stone report there is a mention of the likelihood of fracturing. He said
132 when water hits fracking in bedrock it is an unknow where it is going. The Stone report from the spring
133 of 2021 refers to the landfill being closed because the bedrock under the landfill was subject to be highly
134 fractured. In the spring their PFAS was under the limit and six months later it is over the limit.

135 John Mead said they have a shallow well that is downgrading from the landfill but are not on the list for
136 testing.

137 Ken added there are few on the southwestern side of the landfill that are being monitored and more
138 should be monitored.

139 Laura W said although the report states the contaminates flow with the groundwater to the south east,
140 that would make sense because that is the steepest gradient. However, the report states there are a lot
141 of fractures in the area, once we have these fractures it makes the prediction off. She asked Katrina
142 what level of confidence she has that Laura's well is not contaminated and can she quantify that level of
143 confidence as a percentage. Katrina said she cannot give a percentage. Laura said she understands this
144 is an expensive report, is the Board willing to save the \$500 for her house or her neighbors houses that
145 could possibly become contaminated to see if down the road she has been drinking contaminated
146 water. Merrily asked Katrina if Laura's water is possibly contaminated right now. Katrina said it is
147 possible. She added there are other sources of contamination besides the landfill.

148 Lou said there are numerous references in the report Stone did for the re-certification for closing the
149 landfill. There are numerous references in the most recent report that consistently reference close to
150 the south west, south and south east. He does not understand why there is no need to test wells to the
151 south west. He said all the regulations are more than can be dealt with in a 30 minutes segment and
152 asked the Board to set up a special meeting around this issue. He said even if there is a certification for
153 closure the Town is still liable. We know the landfill was not capped properly and there is overgrowth
154 currently on the landfill.

155 Jennifer said she is a member of the Vermont PFAS and military poisons coalition and she shared some
156 resources. PFAS tests from Cyclopure are relatively inexpensive. She uses reverse osmosis at her home.
157 She agrees with Lou that another meeting is needed. She feels if ARPA funds are used the Town should
158 take the entire amount to supporting people, we are responsible as a Town to take care of the medical
159 costs and property values.

160 Todd said the Selectboard has a report from the Town's consultant with recommended steps going
161 forward. There is a request from some residents to do something different from that. He felt this might
162 be appropriate for mediation to get all the sides to come together and reach a solution.

163 Lou mentioned "preventive action level" and asked how that might be considered in mediation, he is
164 not sure what that is. Katrina said preventative action level is for permitted facilities that accept waste.
165 If the preventative action level is exceeded you have to stop that activity. The landfill has been
166 completed and not accepting any waste.

167 Laura said she is confused about the suggestion of mediation. She does not think this is two groups not
168 being able to agree with each other but a question of getting to the bottom of this. There are enough
169 discrepancies in the report and need all the wells tested.

170 Terry F noted he his job is in community risk reduction. He asked about the term non-detect. To him it
171 means there is nothing there, or are we referring to the current water standard. Katrina said non-detect
172 is at the laboratory reporting limit, so it is the lowest the lab can celebrate their instruments at.

173 Henry B submitted documentation he asked to be a part of the meeting minutes.

174

175 Consider Approval of Grand List Certificate of No Suit Pending

176 Maggie moved to approve the Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending. Seconded by Phil and approved
177 with 4 yes votes.

178 Consider of Loan Agreement for Lead Service Line Inventory

179 Dennis moved to approve the Revolving Loan Fund Agreement in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by
180 Phil and approved with 4 yes votes.

181 Consider Approval of Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Application

182 Dennis moved to approve the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Application. Seconded by Phil.

183 Jason Turner noted they had the POET system installed at his residence. They had a break through on
184 their POET system. The first tank reached its pollution level, there is supposed to be a second tank to

185 stop pollutions from getting to the drinking water. There was an error which meant for some period of
186 time they were drinking polluted water. He supports this application as someone effected by it and as a
187 member of the Town.

188 Motion voted and approved with 4 yes votes.

189 Acting as the Board of Liquor Control Consider Approval of Tobacco and Second-Class Liquor Licenses

190 Maggie moved to convene as the Local Board of Liquor Control. Seconded by Phil and approved with 4
191 yes votes.

192 Dennis moved to approve the second-class liquor licenses for Jolley Associates, LLC and KPH Drugs, Inc.
193 dba Kinney Drugs, Inc. #106. And the Tobacco Licenses for Jolley Associates, LLC and Global Montello
194 Group Corp. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

195 Dennis moved to adjourn as the Local Board of Liquor Control. Seconded by Maggie and approved with
196 4 yes votes.

197 Town Manager Report

198 • On March 29 there will be a presentation on all the work and the recommendation for the Fire
199 Station and Town Hall options.

200 Approve Warrants and Payroll

201 Maggie moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, signed by herself and Merrily submitted by
202 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

203 Possible Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreement with
204 employees

205 Merrily moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations
206 agreement with employees, including Todd and Joy. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

207 Merrily moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

208 Adjourn

209 Maggie moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

210 Respectfully submitted,

211 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

212

213

214

215