

SELECTBOARD MEETING **APPROVED**

August 2, 2023

Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Paul Lamberson, Joy Dubin Grossman, Bill Scott, Lenore Budd

Attending remotely; Todd Odit, Scott LaValley, Becky Alford, Margaret McNurlan

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. via zoom

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Nathan Fry is unable to attend the meeting. His interview for the Town Common Committee will be moved to the next meeting.

Public Comment

none

Approve Minutes of 7/19

Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 7/19 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Selectboard Forum

Maggie announced the Fall Festival is back and will be held September 23rd at the Town Common.

Conservation Committee Interview – Bill Scott

Bill said he moved to Hinesburg in 2017 and became a member of the Energy Committee. He had to leave the committee after several years because of work commitments. He has been participating in Conservation Committee activities such as water sampling, tree plantings, removal of invasives and the amphibian survey. Bill has attended several meetings.

Merrily moved to appoint Bill Scott to the Conservation Commission for a term ending April 2026. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Town Common Committee Interviews – AJ Driscoll, Nathan Fry, Lenore Budd

AJ Driscoll was not present and will be interviewed at the next meeting.

Lenore Budd has been involved in the Town Common Park for years and would like to see it start to happen. She said she wants to see this as an attractive feature for Hinesburg not just empty space.

Merrily moved to appoint Lenore Budd to the Town Common Committee for a term ending April 2025. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Planning Commission Appointments – John Little and Becky Alford previously interviewed

Merrily moved to appoint Becky Alford to the Planning Commission for a term ending April 2026. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Merrily moved to appoint John Little to the Planning Commission for a term ending April 2025. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Howard Center Community Outreach Overview – Scott LaValley

Scott said they are interviewing for a new team leader and asked Todd and Chief Cambridge to let him know if they have any ideas on improvement. Their focus is on a definition of outreach which is to bring services to people who might not have access to those services. Their first priority is safety and harm reduction.

Paul asked what the Howard Center does in Hinesburg. Scott said they respond to crisis, do street outreach and community outreach.

Paul asked why this is not included in the agency review. Maggie said their relationship is specific to the PD. Todd added we have a contract with Howard Center this is not an annual appropriation request.

Merrily asked how often Howard Center does work in Hinesburg. Scott said he will be sending data to Todd this week on their activity.

Review of Draft FY 24 Water and Wastewater Budgets

Todd explained the purpose tonight is to review the budgets and rates. At this point separating water and sewer does not affect the rates. The reason for the increase on bills is the rates are going up.

Water budget is up 10%. Wastewater budget is up 27%, cost of sludge disposal is a significant increase.

Review of Draft FY 24 Water and Wastewater Rates

WW recommended rate for FY 24 is to leave the flat fee unchanged and increase the use fee.

Water recommended rate for FY 24 quarterly flat rate fee of \$95.00 per unit and usage fee of \$0.40 beginning with the first cubic foot.

Mike asked if notice has gone out clarifying that the split of the two departments is not the reason for the increase. Todd said he will do that.

Town Manager Report

- Highway Forman position filled and a candidate possibly filling the 4th highway crew position
- Village South sidewalk is 98% complete. A spring was discovered in one area and a solution for that is being worked on
- The contract with the Richmond PD is going well. They were billed about \$2200.00 for the period from May 27 to June 27. We may be looking at extending the contract for a longer term and we may hire temporarily a 6th full-time officer to help fulfill the contract and provide coverage for Hinesburg. If that is done the contract will more than cover the cost of the officer and other expenses. Dennis asked if we can use Richmond's vehicles. Todd said that has been discussed. Paul asked if we are still providing on call only or also patrol. Todd said we have done both but mostly on call.
- Todd is working on completing the department head evaluations.
- He will have the information for the Board to set the tax rate at the next meeting
- There will be an ACT 250 hearing at Town Hall on August 23. An application for the blockade at the connector road by the PD will be submitted to ACT 250 to allow us to continue use of the blockade.

Joy gave an update on the Public Safety Plan; we should have a draft by the end of the month. They noted they were happy with the responses received.

Joy also reported on the plan to shir- up the walls of the big room and roof of Town Hall. The recommendation is to contract with Apex Consulting for preconstruction services.

Approve Warrants

Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by herself, Maggie, and Paul, including payroll as submitted by the Town Treasurer. Second by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Adjourn

Paul moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board