

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 December 8, 2021

3 Attending the meeting in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Phil Pouech, Mike Loner,  
4 Todd Odit, Joy Dubin Grossman.

5 Attending remotely; Briana Connel, Scooter MacMillan.

6 Meeting called to order at 7:00p.m

7 Agenda Additions or Deletions

8 None

9 Public Comment

10 None

11 Selectboard Forum

12 Dennis said the Hinesburg Record needs to add his name as a Board member and change the name of  
13 the Chair from Phil to Merrily.

14 Phil said he wanted to clarify his position at the meeting with the Energy Committee last night. He is not  
15 against an EV charger but he is not in favor of the Town spending the \$7,000. He reached out to Cathy  
16 Ryan and Chuck with some ideas. Mike said he thinks he heard that there is money coming specifically  
17 for chargers to Vermont via grants.

18 Phil thanked all who voted and thinks everyone was educated and a decent vote turn out.

19 Dennis asked about the EV chargers. Phil explained the different chargers and how they work.

20 Merrily addressed what it means to support affordable housing. She said she was not intending it to be  
21 monetary support but that the Board supports the goal.

22 FY23 General and Capital Budget Work-session

23 Todd said if the budget is approved as it stands now there is a 3.5% increase in the estimated tax rate.

24 Starting with revenue: Todd suggests assigning \$201,000 of surplus to the capital budget. Phil asked  
25 what percent of the fund balance will remain. Todd suggests to carry a minimum of 10% and up to 15%.  
26 His proposal will leave more than 10%.

27 Phil asked if the large fund balance is in part because we did not fill open positions? Todd said that is  
28 correct and also receipt of some COVID related grants.

29 Highway Aid – sinking fund revenue is what is left from the bond.

30 EMS -slight increase in patient billing. This will be active once we have the ambulance on line.

31 Expenses:

32 Town Manager wages increased to reflect actual vs estimated.

Approved 12/15/2021

33 Dennis asked about attorney fees line in the Selectboard budget. It was explained that the \$4,000 figure  
34 was low and the cost has been in the \$30,000 range since FY20.

35 Police salaries includes keeping the 6<sup>th</sup> officer.

36 Fire includes the new salaries for the two full and one part time position. Phil asked if it is planned to be  
37 warned as one budget for Fire and EMS. Todd said the plan is to warn as one budget. There is overlap  
38 and it is not really possible to 100% separate the budgets.

39 Highway increase in striping line to paint the fog lines. Increase in salt line is due to increased cost for  
40 salt.

41 Phil said the highway crew does an excellent job on the roads. At some point we may look at how much  
42 salt we want applied to the roads. It cost a lot, causes environmental damage, and damage to people's  
43 personal property as well as our bridges and infrastructure. As a Town we could decide to use less salt.

44 Town Hall technology increase is the contract for the computer network.

45 Landfill closure is up significantly to fund what we are required to do for monitoring and testing.

46 Recreation includes an increase to partially fund the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and an increase for work on the  
47 fields.

48 Green Mtn Transit – Todd plugged in an amount as he has not heard from them. Phil noted the fact that  
49 during COVID they stopped running the 116 commuter. Phil said he will ask if the Town can receive a  
50 break in cost due to reduced service.

51 Capital Transfers;

52 Fire and Rescue – Todd noted there is a savings as the ladder truck is no longer proposed. Maggie asked  
53 about impact fees being set aside for the truck. Todd said fees have been collected for the truck. The  
54 impact fee study is currently being updated. The ordinance will need to be changed to address the fees  
55 collected for the ladder truck.

56 Highway – main increase is for bridge repair and replacement as well as replacement of some of the  
57 older trucks.

58 Recreation – to set aside funds to finish Bissonette fields as well as improvements to land the Town  
59 receives from the Hay Stack development.

60 Review of the Budget Overview:

61 Merrily asked about the Howard Center Community Outreach, she has heard mixed reviews on how it is  
62 working. Todd said he does not have enough information to know if it is worth continuing with the  
63 program. Todd suggests keeping funding whether it be used for that or something similar. We can look  
64 at it when the contract is up.

65 Dennis said as sees it the budget is going up \$405,000. Mike noted with the last change made the  
66 amount is \$420,000. Todd said the amount of that increase that is supported by tax dollars is \$163,000  
67 which results in a tax increase of \$60.00 for a \$300,000 home. Of that \$420,000 we are using \$200,000  
68 of fund balance toward capital and \$75,000 fund balance toward the operating budget.

69 Dennis said he has questions about the police budget. He wants the Town to be able to afford what  
70 they want to do, for example support affordable housing. We should make it affordable to live in Town,  
71 he is aware that the school tax is the biggest problem when it comes to the high cost of taxes. Dennis  
72 asked what difference a 6<sup>th</sup> officer would have made in the late night call Caleb referred to at the last  
73 meeting. Phil said he understands it to be that during normal shift times without the 6<sup>th</sup> officer there  
74 will be more times an officer is responding by themselves.

75 Phil said it is a level of service question too, as he noted with his question of amount of salt applied to  
76 the roads.

77 Todd will make the changes discussed tonight and bring it back to the Board next week to review for  
78 warning on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

79 Mike moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

80 Respectfully submitted,

81 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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