

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 December 20, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Paul Lamberson, Todd  
4 Odit, Steve Martin, Charlie Baker, Rob Broder, Susan, Mary Jo Brace, Tom Giroux, Tyler Dawson, Anthony  
5 Cambridge, Susan McClure

6 Attending remotely; Joy Dubin Grossman, Margaret McNurlan, Anne Sullivan,

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

8 Additions and Deletions

9 none

10 Public Comment

11 Steve Martin, resident on Palmer Rd, said there is a problem with the installation of the culvert which  
12 causes water to run into his driveway. Todd said he will get together with Rick Bushey to come up with a  
13 solution till the culvert can be re-set.

14 Approve Minutes of 12/6

15 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 12/6 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes  
16 votes.

17 Selectboard Forum

18 Merrily said she, Maggie, Todd, and Anthony met with Richmond about sharing police services. She said  
19 it was a very positive meeting.

20 Paul said he spoke with Anthony last week. He noted the Police fb page did not call it the Hinesburg  
21 Community Police. Anthony told Paul they still embrace community style policing but are not able to  
22 change the fb page.

23 Maggie said there was better attendance at the individual resident budget question meetings than last  
24 year.

25 Presentation of Regional Planning Commission Annual Report – Charlie Baker

26 Charlie reviewed the report noting the page that showed specific projects done with Hinesburg.

27 Paul said in relation to sidewalk scoping he would like consideration of gravel paths along with paved  
28 sidewalks. Charlie said it would be good to have more flexible options and he will talk with the  
29 commission about that. Merrily said that could help get a sidewalk/path on Richmond Rd. Charlie said  
30 they could look at an alternative.

31 Merrily asked about EV chargers in Town. Charlie said they can help with that. Merrily said she will get  
32 that information to the Energy Committee.

33 Presentation of Proposal FY 25 Carpenter – Carse Library Budget – Rob Broder

34 Rob, library director, reviewed activities of the library in 2023.

35 Susan, library trustee, reviewed the proposed budget. She noted COVID relief funds are ending. The  
36 Town contribution is to support salaries and payroll expenses, the library portion will be to support the  
37 programs and all other library expenses. They are asking for a 5% increase from the Town.

38 Maggie said she noticed the increase in wages but also benefits are going down. Susan said that is  
39 because new staff are not taking benefits.

40 Merrily said the Board is looking toward level funding to keep the increase in taxes as low as they can.  
41 She finds it hard to accept the 5% increase. Susan said they are doing all they can with fundraising and  
42 income from rental to keep the budget down.

43 Mike asked about sustainability with deficit spending again and asked about the cash reserves. Susan  
44 said they can carry a small deficit. Mike asked why they don't rely on grants more. Susan said they are  
45 limited, the plan is to continue to expand private fund raising.

46 Dennis asked about other towns use of our library. Rob said it is mostly St. George who are also asked to  
47 contribute. Dennis asked if they have thought about charging a membership. Rob explained about the  
48 "home card" program which allows patrons from one town to borrow from a library in another that is a  
49 member home card library.

50 Paul, who was a member of the library board for 9 years, said he is glad they were able to quickly replace  
51 the tenant. He also commented that Susan has done grant writing in the past and has brought in funds  
52 through grants to the library. He feels they have a great job in using investment funds and endowment  
53 funds.

54 Mike asked if there is a reason the ask to St. George is only \$1,000.00 for funding. Rob explained  
55 compared to other libraries St. George residents use we have much less to offer. Dennis said that is part  
56 of his question of charging someone for a library card. Susan said a library is free public service. They  
57 work to be sure no one feels pressured and at the same time make it available for those who wish to  
58 contribute.

59 Consider Approval of Resolution for Bond Vote Validation

60 Todd explained this is needed to correct an error in warning the vote to borrow funds.

61 Paul moved to approve the Resolution for Bond Vote Validation. Seconded by Maggie and approved  
62 with 5 yes votes.

63 Consider Approval of First and Third Class Liquor Licenses for Black Radish Catering

64 Maggie moved to convene as the Local Board of Liquor Control. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5  
65 yes votes.

66 Todd explained they do catering and will need to get a license for each event catered.

67 Mike moved to approve the first- and third-class liquor license for Black Radish Catering. Seconded by  
68 Paul and approved with 5 yes votes.

69 Maggie moved to adjourn as the Local Board of Liquor Control. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5  
70 yes votes.

71 Consider Approval of Grand List Errors and Omissions

72 Todd noted most of the changes are due to changes in current use.

73 Maggie moved to approve the Grand List Errors and Omissions as provided by the assessor. Seconded by  
74 Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

75 Consider Approval of Dale and Betty (Lyman) Dawson Cemetery Endowment Fund Agreement

76 Mary Jo said Tyler and his sister Beth have generously made an offer of an endowment fund. Following  
77 the terms of the agreement Mary Jo hopes to get the Village Cemetery in better shape.

78 The Board thanked Dale for this generous offer.

79 Paul moved the Selectboard approve the Dale and Betty (Lyman) Dawson Cemetery Endowment Fund.  
80 Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

81 Discussion of Draft FY 25 Capital and Operating Budgets

82 Todd said regarding the change to employee contribution to health insurance previously discussed, he  
83 sent an email to employees about the discussion and what he thought was the financial impact to  
84 employees. It turns out his calculations were incorrect. The correct amount is around \$1,900 a year for  
85 a family plan. He subsequently sent a second email with the correct financial impact. Comments from  
86 Heather Roberts was concern if this was to be implemented all at once, and if in increasing the  
87 contribution towards health insurance would there be a corresponding decrease in percentage for the  
88 opt out. Todd said yes, the opt out would decrease. He spoke with John, who is the union steward, and  
89 asked him why the different percent contribution for union employees. John did not recall why but did  
90 say the contribution change was spread over three years. Todd suggests if the Board wants to make the  
91 change it be done in steps of 2%, 2% and 1%.

92 Todd said if adding the full library request, increase the employee contribution to health insurance by 2%  
93 and reduce the opt out payment by 2% it would mean an increase in amount raised in taxes by 5.5% and  
94 change estimated increase in tax rate to 4.3%

95 The Board agreed to the two changes to be part of the final draft budget.

96 Discussion of Williston Community Justice Center – Chief Cambridge

97 Anthony said in the past it was optional to use the center and Hinesburg did not refer cases to it. He  
98 explored having our own as in the past but realized we were getting services from Williston under grant  
99 funding and so established a relationship and used it more. He is now required to send things directly to  
100 the CJC.

101 Todd said the issue is that the State grant to support the CJC will be decreasing. \$5,000 was put in the  
102 budget and over the summer there will be work done to come up with a formula that will reflect use.

103 Maggie asked if small towns that use it are paying. Anthony said it is the towns with police departments  
104 that are being asked for funding. The towns with police are Richmond, Williston, and Hinesburg. Maggie

105 said this sounds like an unfunded mandate. Maggie said there was a list of all they offer but sounds like  
106 Hinesburg is not using much. Todd said we are now starting to use CJC more.

107 Mike said there a lot of reasons to use the service

108 Town Manager Report

- 109 • GMTA will be the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> to present their budget. Todd advised them the Board will  
110 want a broader discussion at a later date about funding.
- 111 • Work on Town Hall roof is starting
- 112 • WW treatment plant appeal – the attorney hope it can be settled without going to court.

113 Approve Warrants and Payroll

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

116 Consider a Motion to Enter Executive Session Under Provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)

117 Merrily moved the Board go into executive session under Provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) including  
118 Anthony Cambridge. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

119 Merrily moved to exit executive session at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

120 Mike moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Merrily and approved with 5 yes votes.

121 Respectfully submitted,

122 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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