

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 December 15, 2021

3 Attending the meeting in person: Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Phil Pouech, Dennis Place,
4 Todd Odit, Joy Dubin Grossman, Ben Avery, Mitch Cypes, Denver Wilson.

5 Attending the meeting remotely: Alex Weinhagen, Scooter MacMillan, Andrea Morgante, Lenore Budd,
6 Kate Kelly, Phillip Stolz, Val Spadaccini.

7 Meeting called or order at 7:00 p.m.

8 Agenda Additions or Deletions

9 None

10 Public Comment

11 Val Spadaccini asked the Board to keep in mind when setting the budgets that each small amount of
12 increase adds up. An example from the last meeting of this was discussion of the Administrative
13 Assistant for Planning and Zoning which is no longer filled. It was not clear if the position was still
14 needed but the money is still in the budget. All those small amounts added together over time can
15 result in a substantial increase in the overall budget. Even a small increase should receive the same
16 scrutiny as a large increase. Merrily asked Todd about the Administrative position. He said it is
17 advertised and they have applicants.

18 Selectboard Forum

19 Dennis said he would like the library to come to a meeting to explain their budget.

20 Phil said Green Mtn Transit sent their assessment to the Town in the amount of \$48,000. He still plans,
21 at the meeting next week, to have a discussion regarding reduced service with them.

22 Phil noted there are Selectboard positions up for election.

23 Approve Minutes of 12/1 and 12/8

24 Phil moved to approve the minutes of 12/1/21 as amended, seconded by Mike and approved with 4 yes
25 votes. Dennis abstained.

26 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 12/8/21 as amended, seconded by Mike and approved with 5
27 yes votes.

28 Discuss Order #'s 14 & 20 with BlackRock Construction re: Haystack Preliminary Plat Approval

29 -Possible approval of plan for development of the 1.22 acre- lot 45 Central Green

30 Dennis recused himself on this issue.

31 Todd explained there are two issues for the Board's consideration.

32 Ben Avery of BlackRock Construction was present to review the request. He noted that order #14 was
33 planned as an HOA component with public access. The homes backup closely to that green and a

34 protentional for liability led to the decision to keep that parcel for Haystack residents. BlackRock would
35 then give the Town land adjacent to the Bissonette Fields and land for a future public park on the
36 eastern portion and money towards improvements. BlackRock is asking for a letter from the Board
37 stating they have satisfied the requirements of the DRB.

38 Merrily noted that area by the field is important for absorbing water and would like to avoid any
39 impermeable surfaces in the area. Todd said it would be the Town's decision on what is put there.

40 Maggie said this fulfills the community facility requirement.

41 Mitch said from the DRB perspective when dealing with dedicating land they can't make a decision on
42 what type of land the Town will take over.

43 Mike asked if lots 19 and 20 are already being dedicated to the Town. Ben said those are the "add on"
44 lots being given.

45 Andrea Morgante added that in terms of land that would be useful to the Town, the land West of the
46 ballfield where the stream is located is important to protect the integrity of the ball fields.

47 Todd said it would be good to get a consensus of the Board if they support the change so Ben can have
48 the legal documents drafted. Board members were in favor of accepting the plan.

49 The second issue concerned order #20 addressing fire safety for the three story building. Ben said he
50 had a conversation with Nick Baker who said there would be no problem with the current fire
51 equipment and he will provide a letter to the DRB.

52 Consider Request to Fund Creation of a Lot 1 "Town Common" Conceptual Plan

53 Dennis rejoined the Board.

54 Alex reviewed the work on a plan for lot 1 space. There are some funds in the Capital Budget to pay for
55 some improvements but they are requesting the Board to fund the remainder of the cost to hire a
56 landscape architect.

57 Maggie said she feels it is important to have this long range plan and having a plan will help with grant
58 applications.

59 Dennis asked if this is something we would add to the ballot and have the voters vote on? Phil said it
60 could be put in the budget or voted on. Todd said there is \$5000 in the capital budget for lot 1. This
61 year's transfer will add \$2500. The question is, does the Board want to use that for this project and if
62 so, where will the other \$3500 come from?

63 Phil asked about the previous plan that was done and would that be incorporated into this. Does the
64 proposal meet the Town requirement for seeking proposals for work done in the Town? Alex said there
65 are two other plans neither of which were acted on. The old plans don't match what the community is
66 looking for now. The process followed in getting the proposal does meet the Town's requirement for
67 seeking bids.

68 Dennis asked about the fact that Brett Grabowski was supposed to make improvements on the lot. Alex
69 said there was a proposal but it was not accepted.

Phil said he feels this is a good idea but is concerned in using funds for the plan and then have no money to implement it. Or find out, as in the last one, the cost is prohibitive.

Maggie feels this is important for the Village.

Dennis suggests to put the developers' donations for green space into a fund and the Town decides what parks to put the funds toward.

Mike said he thinks a plan is important and is disappointed to hear there were two that were not acted on, especially when spending resources to obtain those plans. Could we take the completed plans to use as an initial step to be more attractive for grant funding and include in the grant a plan update.

Phil would hate to see using the money we have set aside just to do the plan. He noted like Todd said we could use money from the fund balance.

Lenore Budd said phasing is an important part of getting a plan.

Todd will put together a list of some options of possible funding for the Board to review.

Consider Adoption of Local Mask Mandate

Merrily will put together a statement to be posted on FPF addressing the Board's recommending face coverings in all indoor spaces, noting that we are grateful to local businesses and residents for their ongoing efforts to keep everyone safe.

Denver Wilson, Hinesburg resident, shared information on research on the topic. He agrees masks work to the extent they stop a portion of the aerosols we exhale. He added that masks provide a false sense of security as studies have shown mask wearing does not prevent spread of the virus. The request for a mask mandate comes from those who say we have to do something. He agrees with Hinesburg making the effort but wanted to share the information he had for consideration.

Continued FY 23 Budget Discussion and Warn Budget Public Hearing

Todd noted some budget updates since the last meeting;

- GMTA draft assessment has increased to \$48,576.00
- CUSI request reduced to \$6,848.00
- VLCT increased by \$136.00
- Affordable Housing Committee requested an additional \$3,000 to update the housing needs assessment. Todd thinks this can be accomplished with help from CCRPC and recommends not increasing their budget.
- Health Officer requested an increase from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Phil P has been in the role of Health Officer and said the stipend does not cover all the hours the job entails and feels it is reasonable to increase this. Phil P said it would be good to find out what other towns are doing. Phil Stoltz, Health Officer, said one case last year was a rental dispute that he spent 20 to 30 hours alone on. The Board agreed to the increase.

Mike moved to warn the Public Hearing on the budget for January 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

106 Approve Grand list Errors & Omissions

107 Phil moved to approve the proposed Errors & Omissions as submitted and changes to the grand list

108 resulting in a reduction of \$160,800. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

109 Consider Approving the Warrants

110 Phil moved to approve the warrants signed by Merrily and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by

111 the Town Treasurer. Second by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

112 Town Manager Report

113 Joy reported the post closure plan for the landfill has been approved by the Vermont DEC. The POET

114 system at the Town Garage is now also installed. There a few tests still to be done.

115 Todd is preparing the Town Manager Report for the Town Report.

116 There are applicants for the administrative position for Zoning to be interviewed.

117 Date set for the contractor to look at the Town Hall roof is 12/21.

118 Adjourn

119 Phil moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

120 Respectfully submitted,

121 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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