

1 **SELECTBOARD MEEETING DRAFT**

2 January 19, 2022

3
4 Attending the meeting in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Joy Dubin Grossman,
5 Todd Odit, James Mangrum, Nick Baker.

6 Attending the meeting remotely; Phil Pouech, Mike Loner, Anne Sullivan, Kelsey Barklund, Pat Mainer,
7 Kathleen Newton, Scooter MacMillan, Katie, Mike Webb, Tyler Lebrrie, Alex Weinhagen.

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

9 Agenda Additions or Deletions

10 None

11 Public Comment

12 None

13 Selectboard Forum

14 Phil thanked Todd for all the budgets adjustments he made after the feedback from the last meeting as
15 well as showing the long term debt which he asked for. He addressed the comments about paving Pond
16 Brook Rd stating there is no formal policy on when the Town decides to pave a dirt/gravel road. It might
17 be worth it to develop a policy on what the decision making process is for paving roads.

18 Approve Minutes of 1/5/22

19 Maggie moved to approve the minutes from 1/5/22 with any agreed upon changes. Seconded by Phil
20 and approved with 5 yes votes.

21 Town Forest Committee Interview – Kelsey Barklund

22 Kelsey said she moved to Hinesburg about a year ago, though she has been a long time user of the Town
23 trails. She became interested in the Town Forest Committee when the Carse property acquisition was a
24 topic. She has attended meetings for the past 4 or 5 months. Pat Mainer said Kelsey will be a good
25 addition to the Committee and has volunteered to work on the new Town Forest Management Plan.

26 Phil moved to appoint Kelsey Barklund to the Town Forest Committee for a term to end in 2023.
27 Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

28 Trails Committee Interview – James Mangrum

29 James said he has lived in Hinesburg for a little over a year. He has walked all the trails in Town
30 including the Town Forest. He has grown up riding horses and is now getting into mountain biking and
31 understands the discipline of multi-use of the trails. He volunteered with Fellowship of the Wheel this
32 year with their work on maintaining trails. He has attended one committee meeting.

33 Merrily asked if he has an opinion on horseback riding / pedestrians / and bikes interacting and how
34 compatible it is. James said bikes and horses are not very compatible as the horse could spook so he

thinks the trails need to be separated. Hikers and horses are not a problem sharing a trail. Hikers and bikes on the same trail can be a problem on a downhill as mountain bikes travel at a speed which makes braking a challenge. He feels educating hikers is important.

Maggie moved to appoint James Mangrum to the Trails Committee for a term that expires January 1, 2023. Seconded by Phil and approved with 5 yes votes.

DRB Interview – Michael Webb

Michael is currently on the Energy and Recreation Committees. His professional background is in development and he sees being an alternate on the DRB as a learning opportunity to learn all the things that go into the DRB process.

Merrily asked if he has time for three committees. Michael replied as the alternate position he would be meeting every other month. The bulk of the work on the Energy Committee is complete. Phil said he expects the DRB will be very busy in the future with expanded development and had the same thought as Merrily, he has seen the work Mike W has been involved in and is excited he applied and will leave it up to Mike W how he will fit that time in and learn that critical role.

Phil moved to appoint Michael Webb for the alternate position on the DRB for a term to expire January 1, 2025. Seconded by Maggie.

Merrily said she is not in favor of someone being on three committees and suggested Mike W step off the Energy or Recreation Committee so there is a space for someone else to step forward. She feels it is unrealistic for Mike W to give his all to all three committees. She is appreciative Mike W is willing to do that but feels it is not healthy for him or the Town.

Phil said if Mike W feels he has the time he supports his applying.

Mike L said being in the alternate position it is a good opportunity for someone to learn about the Board without having to participate in every meeting. He supports the nomination.

Merrily said she is not questioning Mike W's ability, but thinks it is good to get different people involved on committees and not one person on three. Maggie looked up the Energy Committee and if Mike W steps down they will not have a quorum.

Dennis said the DRB has some big projects coming along with members on the Board that would likely have to recuse themselves. Mike W may be busier than he anticipates.

The motion passed with Maggie, Dennis, Phil and Mike L voting yes and Merrily voting no.

Consider Approval of Engine #3 Replacement

Nick said the current engine #3 is a mini-pumper with the intention of being able to access narrow driveways and roads.

The purchase being presented to the Board is a similar truck but designed more toward only structure fires. The quote is \$378,779.00 from Desorcie Emergency Products in St. Albans which they have used for a number of years.

Dennis asked if they will give a trade in for the current engine #3. Nick said the Town owns the vehicle so there are options, one is to seek a retail vendor that will post the sale. Typically trading in a used fire truck will only get you bottom dollar. Dennis asked about Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS). Nick said it is not widely used. The three current trucks all have the system. He feels for this replacement truck it is not a good investment.

Merrily asked if this was in the budget. Todd said there is \$100,000 in the current year capital budget, the budget for FY 23 has \$80,000. If ordered now it would not be here till FY 23. The balance could be financed over a three year period. The Town could also choose to use ARPA funds.

Dennis asked if there is an opportunity to negotiate on the price and can we purchase it somewhere else? Nick said a truck can be purchased from a variety of dealers. They decided to go to Desorcie because of the Town's history and service record with them. Nick gave an example of Williston trucks purchased through a different dealer which is in Connecticut so when the truck needs servicing it takes longer for the dealer to get here.

Maggie asked about the comment of servicing narrow roads, how do they know which roads need the smaller truck. Nick said they have an electronic dispatching system that allows information for roads to be input.

Mike asked if the CAFS system could be removed from our current truck and put on a new one. Nick said it can not as basically you build the truck around that system. Mike noted usually a purchase of a large cost has a three bid minimum and suggests we get one or two more bids. Todd said we can do that. The reason, as Nick said, for going to one source is the proximity of service and ease of service. We could do a sealed bid but the same factors would go into the choice of savings vs location.

Phil supports moving forward for a new truck, this has been discussed for the past two or three years. This is a critical vehicle to have as we need to get anywhere at any time in Hinesburg. He understands the relationship with this dealer and that is worth something. He does think it is a good idea to get some more bids. He was curious if should have the CAFS but will trust the Chief on that. He asked if the foam is a source of PFAS contamination. Nick said the foam they use does not contain PFAS, he has records from 10 years and is not aware of any use of it before that.

Selectboard members asked Todd to get one or two other quotes, do not need to be sealed bids.

Nick shared a new proposed logo for the Fire Department. They wanted to update the logo and the new one includes a modified version of the Town seal. He is looking for the approval of the Board to go ahead with use of the new design.

There was discussion on allowing others to see it and get some feedback on it. Is it something that needs a Board vote? This was not on the agenda so there was no notice for people to give input.

This will be on the Feb 2nd agenda.

Consider Approval of Kelley's Field Neighborhood Development Area Application

Alex explained this is connected to a proposed expansion to the Kelley's Field senior housing development. They are looking for approval from the Board in applying to be considered a

109 Neighborhood Development Designation Area. If granted the permitting fees for the project will be
110 reduced. It also helps leverage some grants the Town might apply for.

111 Tyler L, from Evernorth, which is partnering with Cathedral Square on the project explained the project
112 to the Board. There are proposing an additional 24 units of affordable senior housing in a separate
113 building.

114 Dennis recused himself at this time as this project is before the DRB.

115 Merrily asked if there is a possibility of an EV charging station being included. Tyler said they could
116 definitely explore that option as they will also be expanding the parking area.

117 Phil moved to approve the application to designate Kelley's Field for a Neighborhood Development
118 Designation Area. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

119 FY 23 Draft Budget Discussion

120 Dennis re-joined the Board at this time.

121 Merrily addressed the proposal to level fund the salary line in the Police Department budget. She said
122 she discussed this with the other Board members who all were in favor of this reduction. Dennis
123 brought up the 4 part time positions in the PD. Todd said for budgeting purposes there are 7.625 full
124 time equivalents. There are 6 full time officers plus 40 hours per week for part time help, plus the
125 admin assistant at 25 hours a week. By the Board level funding the salary line it is instructing the
126 department to work within that dollar amount by adjusting staffing hours. The intention is they would
127 still receive the 3% but the total line is level funded.

128 Todd said he has discussed the change with the Chief.

129 Phil, Dennis, Mike, Maggie and Merrily were all in favor of the adjustment.

130

131 Consider Adopting Local Mask Mandate

132 Merrily pointed out the information Todd put in tonight's packet.

133 Merrily said she received a message from Al and Diane Barber that they are both vaccinated, have
134 booster shots and always wear masks but both have COVID. They are in favor of a mandate.

135 Maggie said she is not in favor, basically we are talking about 3 stores in Town and a good 90/95 % of
136 the people are masked. She does not want to add the burden of enforcing this onto businesses who
137 have struggled the entire year.

138 Merrily liked what Essex has done, there is no enforcement included to the rule. She does not see it as a
139 burden on business, she does not see it as creating more conflict, she sees it as a gesture of support for
140 all the residents who have asked for this.

141 Mike said he agrees with Merrily but he does not see this as having an impact. How will having a
142 mandate make people feel more comfortable knowing it is not going to change anything. It will create
143 conflict between people in public spaces. He feels most people in Town are doing the right thing.

144 Dennis said a relative of his is in favor of a mandate and provided Dennis with information from several
145 businesses around Town that would appreciate a mandate. He sees both sides but is not in favor of a
146 mandate. Merrily pointed out this has no enforcement it is a gesture that is a rule not a mandate.

147 Phil said he sees both sides of this, forcing mask wearing will not change anything. A rule would only be
148 a comfort statement in his opinion.

149 Merrily said we are not forcing anyone to do anything, she sees it as being a comfort gesture. In her
150 view with 9 of 10 messages sent to the Board asking for a mandate and a mandate not doing any harm
151 or creating controversy she is in favor.

152 Anne Sullivan said what is being proposed is fair, scientific, common sense and is right. She does not go
153 anywhere or see anyone. She said the Board needs to pass the rule even if it is not followed, because it
154 needs to be done. She stated she will not vote for members when they run again if they do not take the
155 action of passing this.

156 Mike asked if the Board passes this rule would she go into public places. Anne replied she would not go
157 to any of the places she does not go to now even if the rule is passed.

158 Mike said he would like to take action by sending a letter to the legislature and representatives that they
159 take up a mask mandate at the State level.

160 Merrily moved that the Hinesburg Selectboard pass a rule requiring wearing a face covering indoors in
161 public spaces. Seconded by Phil. Phil asked specifically what rule is Merrily referring to? Merrily said
162 the rule that is titled; Town of Hinesburg Vermont, Rule Requiring Face Coverings Indoors in Public
163 Spaces that is in tonight's packet. Motion voted; Merrily, yes / Phil, no / Mike, no / Maggie, no / Dennis,
164 no. Motion failed.

165

166 Town Manager Update

- 167 • RFP for auditing services was sent out
- 168 • New rule on use of ARPA funds – department heads will be meeting to discuss this
- 169 • No contractor is interested in phase 1 roof work – will continue to monitor any deterioration of
- 170 the structure
- 171 • July 4th fireworks price has doubled
- 172 • Reminder to fly Black Lives Matter flag beginning February

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174

175 Approve Warrants and Payroll

176 Phil moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, signed by Merrily and Maggie as submitted by
177 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

178 Adjourn

179 Maggie moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

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181 Respectfully submitted,

182 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board

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