

1 **Selectboard**
2 January 3, 2019
3 **SPECIAL MEETING**
4 FY2020 Budget Worksession

5 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for*
6 *approval of these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access*
7 *Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

8 Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roger Barry, Roger Audet, Roland Boivin and Dave
9 Gagnier
10 Members Absent: None
11 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Sigh Searles, Susan Hayes, Emily
12 Dearborn, Jim Heath, Monica Heath, Liz Courtney, GMATV did not videotape

13 Susan opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

- 14 1. Welcome – Agenda Review, Public Comment ~ No changes. No public comment.
- 15 2. FY2020 Budget – Review Draft – Ron handed out the 01/03/2019 draft with a 7.44% expense
16 increase and 6.70% tax rate increase with no changes anticipated on the revenue side but
17 review is needed on the expense side. Dave discussed the option of borrowing one million to
18 accelerate road reconstruction on paved roads. The Board agreed to investigate what specific
19 roads needed attention and notify taxpayers that a bond may be coming next year. Because of
20 this, the proposed \$50,000 increase in paving could be eliminated and \$225,000 for paving kept
21 the same as FY2019. A revised budget with the deductions discussed should result in less than
22 a 4% tax rate increase.
- 23 3. Guest: Library Trustees – Sigh Searles, Susan Hayes and Emily Dearborn appeared to propose
24 an article to create a library capital reserve fund with a phasing out of the \$12,000 per year that
25 is now sent to the town to offset property taxes. The phase out plan would be to reduce the
26 \$12,000 by \$3,000 per year with no funds provided as town revenue in year four (FY2023).
27 Susan B. explained that when you know costs are coming in future years, setting aside funds
28 is a good way to get ahead of it and reducing the current library revenue is a good way to fund
29 the library reserve fund. The Selectboard agreed to place the article on the town meeting annual
30 warning.
- 31 4. Guest: Historic Sites Committee – Grange Roof Information - Jim Heath explained that planning
32 for the roof repair on the Grange is moving forward and a draft business plan handout was
33 provided to the Selectboard with possible reuse of the building by the Historical Society and for
34 various community events, possibly serving the community like River Arts does now in
35 Morrisville. Jim explained that parking is being explored with the neighbor to the north of the
36 Grange and the small house to the left of the Grange is foreclosed and maybe that property
37 could be used for parking. Bids will be needed for the roof work and legal work is needed to
38 clarify the ownership and an easement is needed for the fire escape stairs before applying for
39 grants. Greg Paus is working on drawings to show voters how the building could be re-used,
40 and Jim will meet with the State Fire Marshall to go over any state public building permit
41 requirements. Liz lives across VT100 from the Grange and has drafted a list of potential partners
42 and activities to serve all ages, using River Arts as a model, focusing on home-steading
43 activities to connect with the Grange history. Later this month the Selectboard will consider an
44 article for town meeting to approve borrowing for the Grange project up to \$50,000, as this will
45 allow time to secure grants and donations to lower the borrowing amount. Jim explained that
46 the roof repair is needed now, so the repair work should go forward as soon as possible.
- 47 5. Policy: Emergency Sanding & Plowing Policy Discussion – deferred to January 14th agenda.
- 48 6. Possible Executive Session: Personnel & Contracts per 1 VSA 313 – Motion by Roger A. to
49 move into executive session to discuss personnel and pending contracts. Seconded by Roland.
50 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 7. Other Business: Discussion on how to present the budget in the town report – should taxpayers
- 2 see all costs for each department in one total instead of the current presentation which removes
- 3 and consolidates payroll expenses, insurances and capital to the administration budget. The
- 4 Board discussed meeting some mornings to discuss town policies and procedures outside of
- 5 the monthly meetings, with the first meeting to be held Valentine's Day at 9 a.m.
- 6 8. Adjourn