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Town of Huntington Selectboard Meeting

Monday, January 15, 2018

6 pm – Special Selectboard Meeting, Town Office (lower level)

APPROVED MINUTES

<p>Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selectboard’s Legislative Roundtable Discussion with State Senators and Representatives ● Public Comment ● Committees & Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning Commission – CCRPC Technical Assistance Grant ● Land Use Regulations – review public comments & determine next steps ● Town Meeting Article – energy related ● Correspondence & Communications ● Finance, Administration & Highway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q2 Budget Summary ● Highway Reporting: Complete Streets, Certificate of Highway Mileage ● General work, project & grant updates ● Warrants ● Minutes approval (1/8/18) ● Upcoming Calendar ● Other / New Business ● Capital Plan, General Fund Budget, Town Meeting Articles & Town Report Narratives ● Other New Business
<p>Selectboard Attendees</p>	<p>Dori Barton (Chair), Andrew Hendrickson, Roman Livak, Dan Rissacher, Nancy Stoddard (Vice-Chair)</p>
<p>Legislators Present</p>	<p>Senator Claire Ayer, Senator Christopher Bray (via speaker phone), Representative Tom Stevens, Representative Theresa Wood</p>
<p>Others Present</p>	<p>Yves Gonnet, Karen Horn, Duncan Keir, Everett Marshall, Heidi Racht</p>
<p>Staff Present</p>	<p>Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator)</p>
<p>Call to Order</p>	<p>Dori Barton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.</p>
<p>Legislative Roundtable : Senator Claire Ayer Senator Chris Bray Rep. Tom Stevens Rep. Theresa Wood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Selectboard was pleased to have Huntington’s 4 state legislators participate in this year’s annual discussion of topics that are of particular concern to Huntington. The informal dialogue covered a number of areas as noted below.

<p><i>Follow-up: Elliott will draft letter to Forest, Parks & Rec</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Municipal Stormwater Per-Parcel Fees:</u> Senator Bray explained that a bill he has introduced would fund phosphorus reduction efforts through a per-parcel fee. Bray noted that establishing a long-term funding source is a high priority. The bill currently calls for a \$1 per parcel per month charge to be applied to the 360,000 property parcels in the state, raising approximately \$4.5 million annually. Selectboard members expressed concern about municipalities being asked to handle the collection of per-parcel fees. Some Selectboard members oppose the per-parcel fee concept all together. Concern was expressed that the cost for pollution clean-up is not being assessed against the major polluters and sources of phosphorus. • Selectboard members stressed that highway costs are already 60% of our municipal budget and that additional stormwater efforts will strain an already overburdened municipal tax rate. Concern was also expressed that transportation funding for bridges, paving, and other projects should not be siphoned off for funding for stormwater projects. • <u>Property Tax Burden:</u> Concern was expressed that reliance on the property tax is forcing people out of their homes and out of the state. One Selectboard member stressed preference for having all property and investments (including personal property such as boats, trailers, etc.) and not just real property be subject to property tax. • <u>State Park Impact on Local Residents:</u> Selectboard members noted that the increased use of Camels Hump State Park causes roadside parking and speeding problems for residents and adds road maintenance costs to the Town. The Camels Hump Management Unit long range plan does not address these issues. Rep. Wood will follow up with Mike Snyder, the Secretary of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Selectboard will also send official comments to Snyder. Rep. Wood also noted that since the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) formula was changed a year ago, it is not likely to change again soon. • <u>Policing:</u> Sen. Ayer noted that the amount people pay for law enforcement services is not equitable across the state. Some towns rely solely on the Vermont State Police (VSP), which all taxpayers contribute to. Other towns also fund their own police force, and therefore ‘pay double’ for law enforcement (local and state).
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Property Tax:</u> Duncan Keir noted that he is not in favor of dropping property taxes all together and relying solely on income tax. Instead, he believes a better formula would be to include all personal property. • <u>Education Fund:</u> Keir noted that considering the talk of needing to raise the State Education Tax by 7%, he wondered how much of that increase was due to the “incentive” of reduction of property taxes given to

	<p>towns who are merging school districts. Livak stated that it has been reported that the statewide cost for education merger incentives is \$31M.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Village Traffic: Keir requested the Selectboard make the stretch of Bridge Street that runs from East Street to Brooklyn Street one-way. This would be a simple and low-to-no-cost improvement to traffic routing in the Lower Village. He suggested exceptions be made for school busses, emergency vehicles, and Town equipment. Implementing this solution would require installation of a one-way sign.
<p>Committees & Correspondence</p> <p>MOTION: HPC GRANT</p>	<p><u>Planning Commission (HPC) – CCRPC Technical Assistance Grant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPC Chair Everett Marshall and Clerk Heidi Racht attended to request the Selectboard support the HPC’s application to the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) for a technical assistance grant for help redrafting the Huntington Town Plan. • <u>MOTION – GRANT APPLICATION:</u> Livak moved and Stoddard seconded to approve the Huntington Planning Commission’s CCRPC grant application as presented and that the Selectboard Chair sign the letter of support as presented. Passed unanimously with all members present and voting. <p><u>Land Use Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott distributed a summary of all written comments submitted to the Selectboard and comments shared at the Selectboard’s public hearing. • Elliott will send the comment spreadsheet to the Planning Commission (HPC). Marshall indicated that the HPC will review the comments, consult with CCRPC, and get back to the Selectboard with a recommendation regarding next steps. Racht noted that Zoning Administrative Officer Ed Hanson has pointed out a number of items that are missing from the new regulations which should be added into the spreadsheet. HPC will add those and forward back to Elliott. HPC will also let Elliott know what their recommended next steps are. <p><u>Correspondence & Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Proposed energy-related article:</u> Yves Gonnet updated the Selectboard on the petitioned article that Lisa Barrett has circulated regarding VT’s Comprehensive Energy Plan. This petitioned article was not vetted by the Energy Committee (HEC) prior to circulation. The Selectboard indicated that they would like to know the HEC’s thoughts on the article prior to Town Meeting. • <u>Energy Coordinator:</u> Yves Gonnet submitted a letter to the Selectboard requesting appointment as the Town’s Energy Coordinator. The Selectboard concurred that a recommendation on the appointment should come from the HEC, especially since the HEC has become such

	<p>an active committee. It was stressed that there would need to be strong collaboration and coordination between the Energy Coordinator and the HEC, in the event HEC does put forth a recommendation for an appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments to the Energy Committee: Elliott received a letter of interest from Nicholas Allgaier for appointment to HEC. This has been forwarded to the HEC for their recommendation to the Selectboard.
<p>Highway, Administration & Finance</p> <p>WARRANTS <i>(signed)</i></p> <p>MOTION – MINUTES <i>(passed)</i></p>	<p><u>Q2 Budget Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott reported that neither she nor Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark noted any 'red flags' to bring to the Selectboard's attention. <p><u>Warrants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 warrant, as presented, was signed by all members. <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MOTION – 01/08 MINUTES:</u> Livak moved and Hendrickson seconded to approve the Selectboard minutes of January 8, 2018 as presented. Passed unanimously with 4 members voting in favor and 1 abstention (Stoddard). <p><u>Upcoming Calendar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation Commission is holding a visioning workshop on January 30th at the Town Hall (6-8pm). • The Energy Committee is holding a Cold Climate Heat Pump Forum on January 31 at Brewster Pierce School (6:30pm).
<p>Capital Plan & General Fund Budget, Town Meeting Articles & Town Report Narratives</p> <p><i>Follow-up: SB to review Town Report narratives</i></p>	<p><u>Town Meeting Articles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectboard reviewed and agreed on 13 articles to put forward at Town Meeting. After a lengthy discussion regarding the merits of having an appointed versus an elected Town Treasurer, the Selectboard concurred to include the article proposing the position be appointed. • At the next meeting the Selectboard will determine who will introduce each article. <p><u>Town Report Narratives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliott circulated draft narratives for the Town Report. Selectboard members agreed to review the draft narratives and send Elliott any inputs by 8am Thursday 1/18/2018.
<p>Other / New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton shared with the Selectboard an email she received from Jim Christiansen regarding additional conflict of interest concerns related to her involvement with the Gillett Pond dam project. The email was reviewed and discussed by the full Selectboard with all members confirming they do not believe there was a conflict of interest and that

	no further action on this matter was warranted.
MOTION: ADJOURNMENT <i>(passed)</i>	MOTION: Livak moved and Rissacher seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm. Passed unanimously with 5 members present and voting.
	01/15/18– Meeting date 01/18/18 – Draft/unapproved minutes distributed and posted on website. 02/05/18 – Final/approved minutes approved 02/06/18 – Approved minutes to Town Clerk for recording & web posting