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January 24, 2012

Town of Huntington
Selectboard Meeting
January 9, 2012
Town Office, Downstairs

MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Jim Christiansen, Chair; Ed Booth,
Roman Livak, Dori Barton, Dan Rissacher
Staff Present: Hank Lambert, Interim Town Administrator
Others Present: Heidi Racht, Town Clerk; Paula Kelley; Liz
Greenberg; Ruth Blodgett, Times Ink!

Call to Order Jim Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Minutes Livak moved and Booth seconded to accept the minutes of January 2, 2011 as amended. Approved unanimously.

Warrants The Selectboard signed one warrant.

Public Comment Barton read a prepared statement asserting that it is not her intention to recuse herself from discussions pertaining to the Town Hall Committee. She and her husband have been volunteers for years and have nothing personal to gain from being involved.

Library Budget Request/Review Paula Kelley and Liz Greenberg asserted that grant funds have diminished and they have less resources to work with. Donations are off and they would like to see an increased appropriation for book acquisitions. They also commented that hours of service are likely to be diminished due to lack of grant funding. The Board took their request under advisement, and thanked the Library Board for their service.

Administration

Certificate of Highway Mileage was signed by the Selectboard

Town Administrator Search On recommendations by Abby Friedman of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Board made minor changes to the job description, draft advertisement and advertising strategy, and timeline. They would like the new Administrator to begin April 1 if possible, and they recommend a salary range of \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps There is a January 18 deadline for applying for transportation related grants (paths, trails, and other community resources) using the VYCC. Board members were asked to offer suggestions for projects. Lambert will be talking with the Road Foreman and others.

Road Foreman Surgery Road Foreman Yogi Alger will be undergoing arm and shoulder surgery on February 6. Discussion arose about a fill-in person and the general management of the Highway Department. Alger will attend the next meeting to discuss.

FSA Increase (FSA) Racht requested a one-time Flexible Savings Account deposit of \$5,000 due to anticipated medical expenses. She provided a statement that acknowledges the deposit, a payback schedule, and assurance of reimbursement of any remaining balance to the Town in the event of unexpected circumstances. Booth moved and Livak seconded that the Town deposit \$5,000 in Racht's FSA with the repayment provisions outlined in Racht's letter. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting The Selectboard agreed to warn a meeting for January 23 at 7 p.m. to discuss Town Meeting items, articles, finalize the budget, determine the Olga Hallock Awardee, talk with Alger about Highway Department plans activities during his absence..

Budget Discussion After considerable discussion of the Town budget, Livak moved and Booth seconded to approve the 2012-2013 budget at \$1,399,931 as currently presented. Without the three money articles yet to be approved by the voters, the budget represents an increase .42%

Articles for Town Meeting The Board reviewed the draft articles and agreed to refine the draft and approve them at the next meeting. Articles include: establishing a paving reserve fund; asking voters to appropriate money into the paving reserve fund; purchase of a new plow-truck; and appropriation increasing the Town of Huntington's support of Richmond Rescue by \$11,000 above the Selectboard's budget.

Selectboard's Report Christiansen is working on a draft Selectboard report which he will distribute to Board members in a few days for their comment. The deadline for providing it to the Listers is January 18, and with budget numbers by January 25.

Town Hall Livak mentioned that, given the recent survey showing support for the Town retaining the Town Hall and, given the enthusiasm of Town Hall Committee's volunteerism, the Selectboard should consider an article next year asking citizens if they want to entertain continuing to move forward with improvements to the Town Hall.

Adjournment At 9:05, Livak moved and Barton seconded to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

Dates

Unapproved minutes sent to Selectboard: January 10, 12

Minutes Approved: Jan 23, 2012

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk for Record: