

Town of Huntington — Selectboard Meeting

Monday, December 17, 2012—7:00 pm

Town Office Building – Lower Level

APPROVED MINUTES

RECEIVED

DATE January 13, 2013

<p>Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes/Warrants • Public Comment • Selectboard Budget Working Session • Administration (Updates, Correspondence, Other Business) • Executive Session
<p>Selectboard members present</p>	<p>Jim Christiansen (Chair), Dori Barton (Vice-Chair), Doug Graver, Everett Lewis, Roman Livak</p>
<p>Staff/Officials present</p>	<p>Yogi Alger (Road Foreman), Barbara Elliott (Town Administrator), Heidi Racht (Town Clerk), Dan Stoddard (Town Treasurer)</p>
<p>Others present</p>	<p>Ruth Blodgett (Times Ink), Tate Jeffrey (Fire Chief), Town Hall Committee Members: Barbara Felitti, Linda Fickbohm, Eliot Lothrop, Terry Boyle</p>
<p>Call to order</p>	<p>Christiansen called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.</p>
<p>Minutes - MOTION</p>	<p>Livak moved and Graver seconded to approve the minutes of 12/10/2012. Passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Warrants</p>	<p>3 warrants were signed as presented.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Town Hall Committee Below is a brief summary of issues/comments raised at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Project: Committee members attended to advocate support for their proposed solar panel project which would help offset the cost of repairing the Town Hall roof. The Committee is requesting Selectboard support for an Article at Town Meeting. If the Selectboard is not going to support the article, then the Committee is requesting that the cost to repair half of the building's roof be included in the Town Hall section of the General Fund budget. Committee members noted they had worked hard to come up with a creative solution for funding building maintenance. • Town Hall Survey: Different opinions were expressed regarding conclusions that can be drawn from the survey that had been conducted in 2010. There were 155 responses to the survey – with 87.7% of those who responded being in favor of restoring and developing the building for use. 43.2 % felt it would be okay to use Town funds for restoration and 38.8% felt restoration should happen only if no Town funds are used. Concern was raised about whether or not the survey responses are representative of the overall Town sentiments. The survey results are available on the Town website. • Funding issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town Hall Insurance Fund: It was stressed by Committee members that this fund should not be used for maintenance projects. These funds came from an insurance settlement for a contractor who skipped town. Rather than hire another contractor with the insurance settlement money, Committee members solicited donated materials and volunteered their own time to complete the project. They strongly feel these funds should be used at the Committee's discretion and that they not be 'appropriated' by the Selectboard. ○ Insurance Fund/General Fund: Christiansen proposed that one

	<p>alternative for funding roof repair would be for ½ the money to come from the Insurance Fund and ½ to come from the General Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Property Tax Funding: Graver stated that he is not in favor of spending additional property tax money on the building, as it is not an 'essential Town service'. ○ Barton stated she is in complete disagreement with the funding options offered by Christiansen and Graver for the routine repair and maintenance of the Town Hall. ○ Conservation Fund: Livak noted that the Conservation Fund is an appropriate resource that could be used to assist with Town Hall building restoration and maintenance. <p>No final conclusion was reached regarding the Town Hall solar project or roof repair. NOTE: The Selectboard agreed to start their January 7th, 2013 meeting an hour early (at 6:00pm) in order to reach a final determination regarding this issue.</p>
Budget Working Session	<p>The Selectboard reviewed the budget line-by-line, with particular focus on the areas from their 12/10 meeting that had been in question. Among the issues addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Flags: Racht clarified that the Cemetery Committee is considering the possibility of a central lighted flag pole – but that for now they still need annual funding for individual flag replacement. • Fire Department Overages: Selectboard requested Chief Jeffrey keep an eye on potential budget overages and that he give them a heads-up in advance of exceeding budgeted amounts. The \$12,000+ Fire Department overage from last year was covered out of the General Fund. • Highway: The Selectboard conducted an informal 'vote/poll' about whether to propose an article to replace Truck #3. They unanimously endorsed a plan to put forward an article at Town Meeting asking voters to support purchasing a new truck to be funded, in part, with General Fund surplus dollars and money from the equipment reserve fund. It was also noted that we need to develop a sign maintenance plan. • Planning Commission: The Selectboard conducted an informal 'vote/poll' regarding funding to support a part-time one-year administrative support person to assist the Planning Commission with special projects such as next steps in the Water/Wastewater assessment and Form Based Code. 4 Selectboard members were against adding funds for this position (Christiansen, Graver, Lewis & Livak) and 1 member was in favor (Barton). As it stands now, funds are not being included in the budget for this position.
Executive Session	<p>Livak moved and Graver seconded to go into Executive Session in accordance with: 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) 'The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee.' Passed unanimously at 9:06 pm.</p> <p>Livak moved and Graver seconded to come out of Executive Session, with no action having been taken, at 9:50 pm. Passed unanimously.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Livak moved and Lewis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 pm. Passed unanimously.</p>
	<p>12/17/12 – Meeting date 12/21/12 – Preliminary draft minutes to Selectboard / Clerk, Treasurer & Auditors 01/07/13 – Final minutes approved by Selectboard 01/10/13 – Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk</p>