



**INFORMATIONAL MEETING - MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 (Via Zoom)
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE (Including Budget) - TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021**

EARLY BALLOTS MUST BE REQUESTED. Go to mvp.vermont.gov or call 802-482-2281, ext. 1.

MARCH 1 - INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING:

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the budget and other items will be voted on by Australian ballot. However, an informational online public meeting via Zoom will be held prior to the vote on Monday, March 1 at 7 pm. At this meeting, residents will be able to ask the Hinesburg Selectboard questions about all the ballot items and discuss general Town business. The link for this meeting will be available on the www.hinesburg.org website. Residents are encouraged to submit questions in advance to the Town Administrator: jdubingrossman@hinesburg.org.

See quick, general information about key ballot items on the right. **The impact numbers are based on the average home value in Hinesburg, which is \$400,000.* Go to the www.hinesburg.org and click on the [Town Meeting 2021](#) link for more detailed information on each item. The Annual Report will also be delivered soon. Early voting is encouraged. **Request a ballot be mailed to you or a family member via mvp.vermont.gov or 802-482-2281, ext. 1 or mross@hinesburg.org.**

Please attend the meeting on Monday, March 1 and vote on or before Tuesday, March 2. See the Town Meeting Warning on page 2. You may contact Hinesburg Selectboard members anytime with questions and concerns.

Hinesburg Selectboard Members:

- Phil Pouech, Chair 802-482-2060 ppouech@hinesburg.org
- Jeff French 802-551-9091 jfrench@hinesburg.org
- Merrily Lovell 802-482-5655 mlovell@hinesburg.org
- Mike Loner 802-309-5032 mloner@hinesburg.org
- Maggie Gordon 802-482-4216 mgordon@hinesburg.org

KEY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE ITEMS:

Article 4: FY22 General Government Budget

The proposed Fiscal Year 2022 general government budget of \$1,946,828 (as a section of the total Operating Budget) maintains current level of service but adds benefits for a new police officer and emergency responder.

- ⇒ Increase of \$95,592 over FY21
- ⇒ Find tax impact numbers on page 3

Article 3: Town Manager Form of Government

Why change from Town Administrator to Manager?

- Goal is to reduce turnover in Town administration
- Town’s growth issues require experienced, professional leader
- Town Manager more empowered to hold staff accountable
- Professional managers can identify cost saving opportunities
- Board has more time for implementing vision and policies
- Less liability exposure with personnel issues
- Improved internal and external communications
- 73% of municipalities over 2,500 population have managers

Issues to consider under change to Town Manager:

- Professional Town Managers may cost more short term
- Selectboard less involved in day to day
- Selectboard less aware of minor personnel issues
- Selectboard will work through manager to communicate to staff
- A well crafted contract needed to protect Town and Manager
- No vote means Administrator will continue to lead town

Article 8: Hinesburg Ambulance Service

Why are we voting on this issue again? Hinesburg needs to approve a budget for a new ambulance service before 7/1/21 when St. Michaels will discontinue service.

Why Hinesburg Ambulance?

Issues to Consider:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transport time • One-time opportunity for ambulance donation ⇒178,149 budget ⇒\$72,389 in revenues expected in FY22 ⇒\$94,870 was added to FY21 budget in anticipation of service change. ⇒Total tax impact on average home* estimated in FY21 to be \$118.80/yr. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing equipment & building budget will be needed • Must attract, hire/manage/pay fulltime salaries and benefits for EMTs • If no vote, could contract with Charlotte or Richmond ⇒\$45,694 added to budget ⇒Tax impact on average home* estimated in FY21 to be \$34/yr. |
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TOWN MEETING WARNING

Informational Meeting March 1, 2021 via Remote Access

The legal voters of the Town of Hinesburg, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet remotely in said Town of Hinesburg, on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. for an informational meeting on the articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

This Informational Meeting will be held remotely. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

- Join the Zoom online platform: information will be available on www.Hinesburg.org
- View remotely by streaming on VCAM
- Join via conference call (audio only): information will be available on www.Hinesburg.org
- For the purpose of recording minutes, you will be asked to provide your first and last name.
- When listening to the meeting, please keep your phone or computer on mute to prevent interruptions during the meeting. Voters are encouraged to email jdubingrossman@hinesburg.org in advance to ask questions. Questions may be submitted via the “chat” function or by calling into the conference call.
- **HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:** There is no deadline to register to vote. You can register by going to olvr.vermont.gov to register on-line, by going to the town clerk’s office and filling out a paper registration form, or on election day at the polls.
- **HOW TO REQUEST AN EARLY BALLOT:** You or a family member can request an early ballot by visiting mvp.vermont.gov and signing in to your voter page. You may also request a ballot by phone, in person or via email at mross@hinesburg.org or hroberts@hinesburg.org.

ARTICLE 1: To hear the reports of the officers of the Town of Hinesburg.

Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2021 via Australian Ballot

The legal voters of the Town of Hinesburg, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall at 10632 Vermont Route 116 in Hinesburg, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 to transact the following business by Australian ballot. Said voting by Australian ballot will begin with the polls opening at 7:00 A.M. and closing at 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 2: To elect the necessary Town and School District officers by Australian ballot Tuesday, March 2, 2021:

- Selectboard member for a term of 3 years
- Selectboard member for a term of 2 years
- Selectboard member for a term of 1 year remaining of a 2-year term
- Town Moderator for a term of 1 year
- Cemetery Trustee for a term of 3 years
- 3 Library Trustees for terms of 3 years each
- Peck Estate Trustee for a term of 3 years
- Champlain Valley School District Director for a term of 1 year remaining of a 3-year term

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town of Hinesburg adopt the town manager form of governance in accordance with the provisions of chapter 37 of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated? (Amended 2019, No. 67 Section 21.)

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town approve a General Government budget of \$1,946,828 with the estimated sum of \$1,411,403 appropriated from property taxes to defray the general government expenses of the Town?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town approve a Highway Department budget of \$979,902 with the estimated sum of \$841,902 appropriated from property taxes to defray the highway expenditures of the Town?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Community Police Department budget of \$686,970 with the estimated sum of \$596,470 appropriated from property taxes to defray the police expenditures of the Town?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town approve the Hinesburg Fire Department budget of \$376,295 with the estimated sum of \$336,295 appropriated from property taxes to defray the fire expenditures of the Town?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town approve a new ambulance transport service budget of \$178,149 with the estimated sum of \$105,760 appropriated from property taxes to defray the ambulance transport service of the Town?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town approve the Carpenter-Carse Library allocation from the Town of Hinesburg of \$225,487 with the estimated sum of \$225,487 appropriated from property taxes to defray the library allocation from the Town?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$37,700 with the estimated sum of \$37,700 appropriated from property taxes, to be distributed as specifically designated to the following agencies and organizations?

Hinesburg Community Resource Center	\$23,100
UVM Home Care & Hospice (VNA)	\$6,500
Agency on Aging (CVAA)	\$2,000
VT Family Network	\$1,000
American Red Cross	\$400
Hinesburg Senior Meal Site	\$650
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$200
Steps to End Domestic Violence	\$2,350
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$500
COTS	\$1,000

(If voters approved Articles 4 through 10 as presented, total general fund expenditures of \$4,431,331 will be required, with the estimated amount of \$3,555,017 to come from property tax revenue.)

ARTICLE 11: Shall voters authorize the payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, payable in full to the Town of Hinesburg in one (1) installment, with the due date being November 15, 2021 and to be collected by the Town Treasurer? Any and all payments received in the Town Treasurer's Office later than midnight on November 15, 2021 will be considered delinquent and will be subject to the collection of interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof for the first three (3) months and thereafter at the rate of 1.5% per month or fraction thereof.

Overview Fiscal Year 22 Proposed Budget

If all ballot items pass, the total Proposed Operating Budget will be \$4,431,331. This would be a total increase of 3.18% over last year. See the municipal property tax impact, calculated by assessed property value, in the table on the right.

Major changes from last fiscal year include:

- **Highway Department:** A decrease of \$61,982 due to the use of paving reserves and capital budgeting.
- **Police:** An increase of \$80,187 which includes funds for 1) the Howard Center Community Outreach program, where social workers partner with police to address social service needs at a cost of \$7,365 - for the remainder of this calendar year; 2) a new officer for community policing and shift/coverage backup - partially grant-funded for the first three years - at a cost of \$45,000 (plus benefits) this year; 3) a \$5,000 increase in dispatch services; and 4) equipment repair/replacement for \$2,000.
- **Fire Department:** A decrease of \$58,209, which was transferred from Fire First Response to the Ambulance Service budget.
- **Ambulance Service:** An increase of \$83,279 over the amount budgeted in FY21 plus benefits for a full-time employee, which is estimated to be about \$35,357 (reflected in the General Government ballot item).

Capital Funding:

The tax rate is also impacted by previously authorized, voter approved taxes to support capital items. In FY22, a total of \$558,984, or 12.61% of the overall general fund budget, is proposed for capital projects, vehicle/equipment replacement or planned savings for the future, according to the capital improvement plan. Capital funding decreased by \$63,336 or 11.3% from last year.

If All Ballot Items Pass, Tax Rate:

With an estimated one half of one percent growth in the Grand List, and \$100,000 of unassigned fund balance applied to FY22, the

- proposed property tax rate is \$0.5642
- It is an increase of \$0.0191 or 3.38% over last year

Estimated Fiscal Year 22 Property Tax Impact

Budget	Assessed Value \$200K	Assessed Value \$300K	Assessed Value \$400K
General Government	\$494.23	\$741.32	\$988.44
Community Police	\$176.02	\$264.04	\$352.05
Fire	\$95.91	\$143.87	\$191.82
Ambulance	\$45.13	\$67.60	\$90.27
Highway	\$249.37	\$374.05	\$498.74
Social Services	\$10.16	\$15.23	\$20.31
Library	\$57.55	\$86.32	\$115.09
Total Municipal Tax	\$1,128.37	\$1,692.43	\$2,256.72

Fiscal Year 22 Expenses

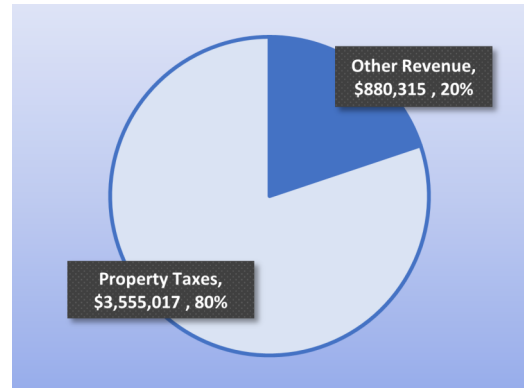
Department	Proposed FY22	FY21	% Change from FY21	\$ Change from FY21
Selectboard	90,432	85,801	5.40%	4,631
Administration	156,271	133,173	17.34%	23,098
Clerk, Treas., Elections, Del. Taxes	131,183	137,724	-4.75%	(6,541)
Planning & Zoning	205,720	200,593	2.56%	5,126
Assessor	37,750	37,750	0%	0
Buildings & Facilities	125,051	120,589	3.70%	4,462
Police	686,970	606,783	13.21%	80,186
Fire	376,295	434,503	-13.40%	(58,209)
Ambulance	178,149	94,870	87.78%	83,279
Highway	979,902	1,041,884	-5.95%	(61,982)
Recreation	104,524	112,951	-7.46%	(8,427)
Library	225,487	225,487	0%	0
Social Services	37,700	39,800	-12.57%	(2,100)
Debt Service	303,418	308,261	-2%	(4,843)
Other Expenses*	792,479	714,394	10.59%	78,085
Total Expenses	4,431,331	4,294,563	3.18%	136,769

*For other expenses, see full budget spreadsheet at www.hinesburgvtinfo.com.

Recent Town Milestones

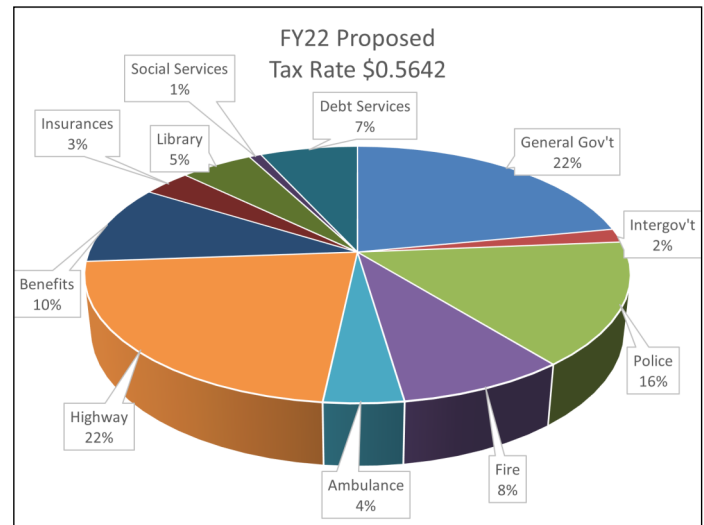
- Town voters approved adding the cost of an Ambulance Service to the ballot for consideration.
- Town voters approved a bond to build a new wastewater treatment facility. Construction begins in 2021 with an expected completion by 2025.
- Town Administrator, Renae Marshall, stepped down to take a new role. While her outstanding service to Hinesburg is sorely missed, her positive impact will be long-lasting.
- The Energy committee solicited a number of solar projects for Town land and buildings. A couple of these proposals are moving forward to help Hinesburg move closer to a renewable energy future.
- The Chittenden Solid Waste District returned to the Hinesburg Highway Garage property with an upgraded drop off center.
- Hinesburg applied for and was awarded a grant to fund a new police officer for three years. This will minimize single officer shift coverage. The Town also contracted with the Howard Center's successful community outreach program, which embeds social workers in police departments to help with unmet social service needs.
- The Development Review Board has been working through two large development proposals, which will expand the village center in accordance with the Town Plan.
- The expected village water supply deficit may be solved with the development of a new well, initially explored by the Haystack property developer. A future bond will be needed to bring this well online.

FY22 Revenues

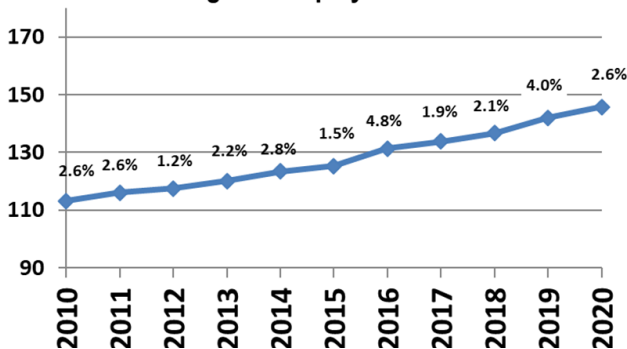


Projected non-property tax revenue is \$880,315 (\$4,000 is used solely for records restoration) leaving \$3,555,017 to be raised by property taxes.

FY22 Department (or service) Percent of Budget

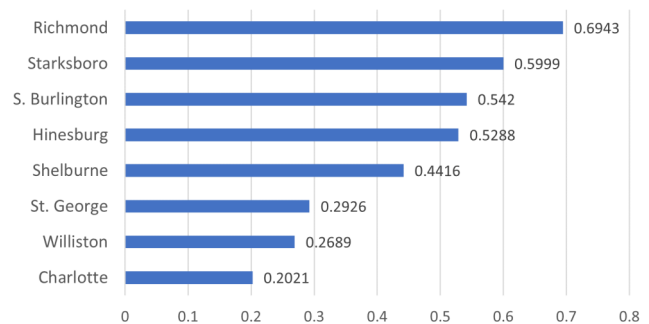


New England Employment Cost Index



The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is a quarterly measure of changes in total labor costs and their wage-and-salary and benefits components by region. Hinesburg's labor costs are similar to the New England average. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/>

Municipal Neighbors - Tax Rate Comparison



Source: State of Vermont Department of Taxes Property Valuation and Review Division 2020 Annual Report <https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/PVR%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>