

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2016**

SELECTBOARD: David Gagnier, Brian Jones, Roger Audet and Roland Boivin

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: Kimberly J. Moulton

TOWN MODERATOR: Christine Hallquist

Selectboard Chair, David Gagnier called the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 9:00am. D. Gagnier read the Hyde Park Town Meeting Warning including Article 1.

Article 1 To elect Town and School District Officers as required by ballot.
Selectboard Member for a term of two years – Roland Boivin
Selectboard Member for a term of three years – Lucy Hankinson

During the reading of Article 1, D. Gagnier was naming the people running for office. K. Moulton stated that we should not be naming people appearing on the ballot as this could be construed as campaigning during the meeting. The naming of candidates stopped after the reading of the second available Selectboard seat.

Lister for a term of three years – Deanna C. Judkins
School Director for a term of two years – Chasity Fagnant
School Director for a term of two years – Richard Bailey
School Director for a term of three years - Patti Hayford
Lamoille Union District # 18 School Director for a term of three years – Mallory Jones

Article 2 To elect the following Town Officers from the floor:

Moderator for a term of one year: Selectboard Chair Gagnier asked for nominations for moderator. W. Kaulbach nominated Christine Hallquist for Moderator and the nomination was seconded by J. Anderson. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to nominate Christine Hallquist as Moderator. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier turned the meeting over to Moderator Christine Hallquist. C. Hallquist requested a salute to the flag by leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was explained that, if there were no objections, the meeting would be run using Roberts Rules of Order. There were no objections. C. Hallquist asked for a show of hands of people not registered to vote in Hyde Park. C. Hallquist asked, if there were no objections, the non-residents would be allowed to speak during the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting continued.

Town Clerk for the a term of three years: E. Clancy nominated Kim Moulton for Town Clerk and the nomination was seconded by J. Anderson. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to nominate Kim Moulton as Town Clerk. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Treasurer for a term of three years: J. Rohleder nominated Kim Moulton for Treasurer and the nomination was seconded by S. Anderson. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to nominate Kim Moulton as Treasurer. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year: C. Fagnant nominated Stacey Boivin for Collector of Delinquent Taxes and the nomination was seconded by G. Deuso. M. Moulton nominated Kim Moulton for Collector of Delinquent Taxes and the nomination was seconded by J. Rohleder. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. A paper ballot was called for by a show of hands of at least 7 people. Chairman D. Gagnier stated that the results of the paper ballot resulted in a tied vote of 48-48. C. Hallquist asked if both candidates were present and wanted to speak to why they are running. Both candidates

addressed the crowd. The results of the second paper ballot was reported as 68 votes for Kim Moulton and 54 votes for Stacey Boivin. Kim Moulton was elected the Delinquent Tax Collector by paper ballot.

One Town Grand Juror for a term of one year: J. Anderson nominated Edward French Jr. for Town Grand Juror and the nomination was seconded by P. Trudell. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Ed French Jr. was elected by a voice vote.

Town Agent for a term of one year: J. Clark nominated Edward French Jr. for Town Agent and the nomination was seconded by J. Anderson. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Ed French Jr. was elected by a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: J. Lanphear nominated Robert Foss for Cemetery Commissioner and the nomination was seconded by N. Houston. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Robert Foss was elected by a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: W. Kaulbach nominated Christine Cooney for Cemetery Commissioner and the nomination was seconded by L. Barry. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Christine Cooney was elected by a voice vote

Library Trustee for a five year term: K. Geiersbach nominated Melanie Dickinson for Library Trustee and the nomination was seconded by J. Rohleder. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Melanie Dickinson was elected by a voice vote.

C. Hallquist stated that during the paper balloting process, it was brought to her attention that there was another person running for the open Selectboard seat on the Australian ballot. Since other people running for the write-in position were acknowledged during the reading of Article 1, C. Hallquist asked if there would be objections to hearing another name not previously acknowledged. The crowd responded with no objections. W. Kaulbach addressed the crowd to state that Lucy Hankinson was running for the vacant 3 year Selectboard seat.

Article 3 To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers

D. Gagnier spoke for the Selectboard and introductions for all Selectboard members were given. D. Gagnier recognized Marvin Locke with the reading of House Concurrent Resolution 226 for his contributions and dedication to the Town of Hyde Park as Delinquent Tax Collector. Marvin retired December 31, 2015. D. Gagnier asked Dawn Slayton to come to the stage. Dawn was recognized for 30 years of service with the town. D. Gagnier presented a bouquet of flowers to Dawn and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the town. D. Gagnier recognized Kim Moulton for her recent achievements of becoming a Vermont Certified Clerk and a Certified Municipal Clerk through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. D. Gagnier asked K. Moulton to address the crowd explaining the achievements, what it took to achieve the certifications and how those achievements would help the residents of the town. K. Moulton spoke about her recent certifications indicating that it had taken approximately 7 years of trainings and attending educational opportunities with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, the Vermont Municipal Clerks & Treasurers Association, Vermont Department of Taxes, Election Division trainings and other trainings throughout New England. These trainings allow clerks and treasurers to stay on top of the laws that are always changing and new laws that are being put into place. These laws affect clerks and treasurers in local government as well as asking clerks and treasurers to take on more work that used to be handled at the state level. D. Gagnier introduced the Selectboard and recognized Pete Couture for his three years on the Selectboard. Pete recently retired and is not seeking re-election to his Selectboard office. D. Gagnier recognized the 100th anniversary of the Lanpher Memorial Library. D. Gagnier asked Matt Reed to provide the voters with an update of the new VT Army National Guard facility in North Hyde Park. D. Gagnier recognized other town staff present: Julie Rohleder, Lister, Ryan Nolan and Mark Lehouillier, Highway Crew and Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator. D. Gagnier asked Sheriff Roger Marcoux to provide a report to the voters. Sheriff Marcoux stated that it has been somewhat quiet in town this year but the heroin epidemic is still going on. He reported that the registered sex offender is still in town and working for the LCSO five days a week. The offender is still attending regular therapy sessions. Jeff Beattie spoke about the Hyde Park Youth Mentoring Program. He thanked current and former mentors and indicated there was still a need for more mentors.

Article 4 Shall the voters appropriate \$3,000 for the purchase and installation of E-911 house and business number signs?

There was a motion by G. Cook and a second by D. Szlachetka to move the article. George Cook spoke for the article. He thanked the voters for continuing to support the installation of the E911 reflective signs. You can see them in different places around town. There is still more work to be done. S. Morse asked about the cost of the signs and posts. G. Cook stated it was \$15-20 per sign and post. S. Morse asked why taxpayers are paying for this and why aren't non-complying taxpayers being billed for the installation of the signs. G. Cook stated that after conversion to the E911 street addresses, it was voluntary for taxpayers to purchase and install their own. Very few people did. The lack of reflective signs creates possible delays in responding to emergencies. G. Cook also stated that an unexpected benefit of the signs is that UPS and FedEx delivery people are not having trouble locating homes to deliver to. G. Cook also stated that they are looking for volunteers for the Fast Squad and Fire Department. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 5 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651(d)?

There was a motion by P. Loomis and a second by D. Roy to move this article. D. Gagnier explained that we have an opportunity to bring the delinquent tax collection in house after the term of the new delinquent tax collector ends next year at town meeting. Bringing this in house streamlines the process of collecting taxes and gives the Selectboard control over the delinquent tax collection policy. P. Loomis questioned the number of delinquent tax payers this year compared to last year. K. Moulton showed last year's town report so people could see that the number of delinquent tax payers have been approximately the same year to year. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters compensate the Town Collector of Delinquent Taxes by paying an annual salary, as determined by the Selectboard, in lieu of any statutory fees and commissions allowed by state law?

There was a motion by L. Barry and a second by J. Clark to move this article. M. Wickenden asked when this would take place. D. Gagnier stated as soon as possible. D. Szlachetka questioned where the income would be coming from. K. Moulton stated that it would be coming from the penalty income already collected with delinquent taxes. Statutorily, the delinquent tax collector gets the 8% penalty for doing the job. With the Selectboard setting the salary, the salary will come from the collected penalty with the rest of the penalty money staying as revenue to the town. G. Cook questioned if the Selectboard had thought of what that salary might be. D. Gagnier states yes and no. It depended on the outcome of today's vote. The salary would be dependent on if the job was done within the office during office hours, using office equipment and office supplies or if it was done as Marvin had done it, in his home paying for his own equipment, supplies and postage. C. Fagnant asked if K. Moulton would be doing this job during the normal course of office hours and would she be getting 2 salaries. D. Gagnier stated yes, the job would be done during the course of normal business hours. Kim is currently paid 20 hours for clerk and 20 hours for treasurer. The delinquent tax collector salary would be extra. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 7 Shall the voters establish a Recreation Reserve Fund to be under the control and direction of the Selectboard for any public recreation purpose, to be funded by surplus recreation funds in any fiscal year, donations and any town appropriation to this fund approved by voters? (24 V.S.A. § 2804)

There was a motion by R. Archbold and a second by D. Roy to move the article. D. Judkins asked what this was for. D. Gagnier explained that any surplus money for the recreation part of the budget by statute goes back into the general fund. This allows the Recreation Committee to keep unspent money in this fund to use for projects in future years. D. Judkins asked a question that could not be heard by the minute taker as the microphone was not being used. D. Gagnier responded that it was because it was under the direction of the Selectboard. D. Judkins recommends giving them back the checkbook that was closed and this fund wouldn't be needed. K. Moulton stated the auditor had recommended the closure of the Recreation checkbook for many years and it was just done recently. Another comment was made but unable to be heard by the minute taker due to the lack of use of the microphone. R. Rodjenski had permission to speak from earlier in the meeting. He wanted to make two points. One being that unspent money is lost to the Recreation Committee year to year as it is returned to the general

fund by statute. The creation of this fund is similar to votes in prior years to create funds for reserve funds for fire or highway and funds put into this fund would be restricted to use for recreation. The other point was that what K. Moulton stated about the closing of the account by the CPA Auditor was true. The Selectboard should have control over town funds and if there is unspent money in future years, money could be transferred to this fund and still be in compliance with state law. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 8 Shall the voters establish a municipal library under 22 V.S.A § 141 with a five-member board of trustees elected at town meeting, each trustee with a 5-year term?

There was a motion by D. Szlachetka and a second by C. Szlachetka to move the article. J. Rohleder made a motion to amend the article to a 7-member board of trustees. K. Geiersbach seconded the motion to amend. Voted by voice in the affirmative to approve the amended article. S. Searles spoke to the purpose of this article. This is really a formality required by the State of Vermont. History is clear that the Lanpher Memorial Library has always operated as a municipal library. Money was donated to the town to create the library and voters accepted the gift. But there is no record of a formal vote to establish the Lanpher Memorial Library as the municipal library of the Town of Hyde Park. Therefore, to celebrate 100 years of being Hyde Park's library, the library is proud to have a proclamation made through a vote at town meeting. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amended article passed.

Article 9 Shall the voters appropriate a one-time amount of \$7,500 for a 50% matching funds grant from the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services for an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant accessible entrance to the Lanpher Memorial Library?

There was a motion by J. Rohleder and a second by P. Loomis to move the article. S. Searles made a motion to amend the article to appropriate \$7,500 from the general fund balance so they don't have to wait until the new fiscal year to start the work. J. Rohleder seconded the motion to amend. Voted by voice in the affirmative to approve the amended article. There was a question from the floor asking if the library was already ADA compliant. The answer was that it was not. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amended article passed.

Article 10 Shall the voters approve, in addition to any other appropriations approved in prior articles, a total general fund expenditures amount for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 of \$2,285,700 of which \$1,904,280 shall be raised by taxes and \$381,420 by non-tax revenue?

There was a motion by G. Cook and a second by C. Szlachetka to move the article. D. Gagnier spoke to changes in different line items that make up the proposed budget. There was a note that the Lamoille County Sheriff's Patrol budget went from \$357,400 as printed in the budget down to \$355,000 and the Communication budget went from \$71,500 as printed in the budget down to \$70,600. S. Morse questioned the paving budget, unable to hear complete question due to not using the microphone. D. Gagnier indicated that he couldn't answer the question because they don't have any bids in yet. T. Yarrow asked for an example of the \$381,420 non-property tax revenue. D. Gagnier stated that it is all the revenue that comes in that is not property tax revenue. For example, liquor license revenue, fines, building permit fees, recording fees and revenues from the ball fields. Hearing no opposition to amending the article because of the changes to the LCSD budgets, the amended article will be: Shall the voters approve, in addition to any other appropriations approved in prior articles, a total general fund expenditures amount for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 of \$2,282,400 of which \$1,900,980 shall be raised by taxes and \$381,420 by non-tax revenue? Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amended article passed.

Article 11 Shall the voters approve the payment of property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four equal installments (32 V.S.A. 4792), as listed below; with delinquent taxes and assessments have charged against them an eight percent (8%) commission after the fourth installment (32 V.S.A. § 1674) and interest charges of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months; and thereafter, one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax? Such interest shall be imposed on a fraction of a month as if it were an entire month (32 V.S.A § 5136). Payments are due in the hands of the Treasurer by 4:00 P.M. on the below due dates. Only official U.S.P.S. cancellation marks will be accepted if postmarked on or before the due date (32 V.S.A. § 4773).

First installment to be paid on or before Monday, August 31, 2016
Second installment to be paid on or before Monday, November 15, 2016
Third installment to be paid on or before Monday, February 15, 2017
Fourth installment to be paid on or before Monday, May 15, 2017

There was a motion by C. Szlachetka and a second by S. Anderson to move this article. T. Yarrow asked if this was the same language as the prior year. K. Moulton stated that it was. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed

Article 12 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Marc Gilbertson thanked the Cricket Hill volunteers for all their work during this winter.

S. Searles thanked the Selectboard for their support and discussed the events that will be occurring during the year to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the library.

A. Kontos stated the Think Spring: Puppets & Plants event sponsored by the Hyde Park Community circle will be held March 19th.

D. Gagnier stated there are volunteer opportunities available with the town and to see Ron Rodjenski at the Town Clerk's office for more information. D. Gagnier noted that dog licenses are due by April 1 and are being sold by the Clerk's staff in the lobby today.

There was a "Straw Poll" regarding how to distribute town reports in future years. The town is looking at ways to save money and one way is to not mail them to every voter in town which is one option under state law. A change to postcard notices would have to be made by an article on next year's town meeting warning. There was support for the Selectboard trying to save money where they could especially with town reports. You can see where reports aren't even looked at and thrown in the recycling bin at the post offices. A majority of those present liked the idea of a post card sent to voters to let them know the reports are available at locations around town.

C. Szlachetka commends the board for seeking ways to save money by not mailing town reports.

K. McPherson stated another way to save money was to reduce what is included in the books. Postage would be less.

D. Gagnier thanked the taxpayers and voters of Hyde Park for coming to town meeting.

C. Szlachetka thanked the Selectboard for their efforts.

C. Hallquist thanked Warren Dompierre and Hayden Peters for running the microphones

There was a motion by C. Szlachetka to adjourn that was seconded by J. Anderson. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate report of the votes taken at the Hyde Park Annual Town Meeting held Tuesday, March 1, 2016.



Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

These minutes have been approved by the following two Town Officials:



Christine Hallquist, Moderator



David Gagnier, Selectboard Chair

