

SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard is elected to oversee all day-to-day operations of the municipal government not designated by state law to other officials. The Board works with an appointed town administrator to manage the highway department, fire department, and general government operations with oversight of contractual agreements for police, ambulance and various support agencies. The Board also cooperates with the Lanpher Memorial Library Trustees and the Village of Hyde Park Trustees on various matters including the budget and economic development planning. We work with all town staff to ensure accountability to the taxpayer through our adopted policies and procedures while identifying areas for improvement on an on-going basis.

In 2016, the town's Grandlist continued to be stagnant at less than 1.0%, and the projection for 2017 continues that trend, averaging 0.5% growth for the last 9 years. The flat growth in the Grandlist and stable non-property tax revenue receipts result in an expense budget increase having a direct increase in the tax rate. If the Grandlist increased more than 1.0%, ideally 2.0% or greater, then the tax rate could be better stabilized as new capital and operational costs would then be shared by more property taxpayers. The Board will continue to work on expense budgets that result in tax rate increases of 3.0% or less while also planning for capital expenditures and maintaining public services at their current levels. In the 2017 Town Meeting Warning, in addition to the annual questions to elect town officers, the operating budget and the tax collection dates, there are two special funding articles; one for \$500 to support the Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD) and an increase to the current \$1,705 provided to Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County of \$695, bringing the FY2018 support to \$2,400 if both requests are approved. The fourth year of a \$3,000 request to continue a town-wide effort to purchase and install E911 house number signs is now included in the annual budget article, where in the past it was a special article. If the town budget and special funding articles are approved, the FY2017-2018 municipal tax rate is projected to increase 2.37% over the current FY2017 rate. This rate is only possible if the voters approve the use of \$38,400 from the General Fund balance (\$22,000 was approved last year to reduce the current FY2017 tax rate). The rate increase results in an additional \$16.30 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

In 2016, the Board accomplished the following:

- Appointed Kim Moulton as Delinquent Tax Collector following resignation of Marvin Locke
- Requested that State lower speed limits on state highways; approved lowering of VT100 speed in North Hyde Park, and rejected request to lower 50 MPH on VT15 east of Centerville Road
- Settled claim for road damage with Tyler Maynard; town to be paid \$1,700 and two new highway access permits to be issued without application fees
- Approved use of portion of Garfield Road roadside for VAST snowmobile trail
- Recognized Town Clerk and Treasurer Kim Moulton for achieving Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks
- Approved a conceptual plan to connect McMahan Chevrolet to future East Main Street path
- Discussed with NEMS ambulance service ways to manage increasing use of mutual aid to assist Morristown
- Agreed to set up two plow trucks with computer controls to reduce winter salt usage
- Toured the new Vermont National Guard facility in North Hyde Park; the facility could be designated the town's emergency shelter once completed

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- Approved replacement of culvert on Cleveland Corners Road for Rodman Brook at an estimated cost of \$250,000; the town would partner with Lamoille County Conservation District to seek grants and complete the work in late summer 2017 with the anticipated local match being \$30,000
- Revised the job descriptions for all highway positions and hired Mark French as Road Foreman, and Michael Griggs as Equipment Operator. Mike Dubie resigned and Ken Alexander reduced his hours to seasonal in anticipation of Spring 2017 retirement
- Accepted a \$20,000 grant award for reconstruction of Bornemann Road to reduce erosion
- Purchased new backhoe / loader for the highway department from Nortrax Equipment for \$115,082; after trade of the 2006 backhoe, the cost was \$85,582
- Supported the Village of Hyde Park's application for planning funds to AARP's Community Demonstration Project
- Set the annual salary for the Delinquent Tax Collector at \$2,500 and for one DTC assistant at \$750 per year
- Signed the town-wide reappraisal contract with NEMRC for \$124,800; project completion to be the updated April 2018 Grandlist and grievance hearings through June 2018
- Signed the online mapping contract with Cartographic Associates, Inc. for \$4,900; parcels maps and additional town data is now available at the town website
- Signed the annual contract for lawn mowing with Department of Corrections
- Continued to work with regional planning on funding to clean up the brownfield area proposed for the Hyde Park trailhead facility at the end of Depot Street Extension
- Signed the annual tax map maintenance contract with Cartographic Associates, Inc. for \$1,800
- Accepted the resignation of Animal Control Officers Brian Murphy and Heather Murphy; the Selectboard hired Crystal Maxham and Diane Stoney to fill the two ACO positions
- Accepted the resignation of Brian Murphy from the Town Health Officer position; the Selectboard appointed Keith Ulrich to fill the THO position
- Amended the town Personnel Policy to allow employees working at least 32 hours to receive pro-rated benefits for short-term disability and life insurance
- Approved a tax stabilization agreement with McMahan Chevrolet; agreement allows no municipal tax (school tax will be paid) for the 1st year (FY2018), then 25% to be paid in FY2019, 50% in FY2020 and 75% in FY2021 with 100% of municipal taxes paid in FY2022. The estimated tax savings to McMahan, or taxpayer investment, was estimated at \$45,000
- Amended the town Facility Use Policy to allow alcohol at the library and recreation fields
- Agreed to mow the LVRT shoulders one time prior to the ribbon-cutting on June 23rd, and until LVRT representatives clarify their own maintenance plans for the trail
- Adopted the 2016 Town Unified Land Use and Development Regulations (Zoning Bylaw)
- Accepted the North Hyde Park Stormwater and Streetscape Scoping Report from Dubois-King; plans for a sidewalk on the west side of VT100 and south side of Ferry Street
- Accepted the High Risk Rural Roads grant for new signage along Centerville Road (starting at East Main Street and extending to Center Road) and for the entire North Hyde Park Road
- Updated the Town Administrator job description and set the annual salary at \$63,000 for FY2017.

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- Appointed Jay Hersh, Marilyn Zophar and Denise Green to the Town Energy Committee
- Approved a retiree health benefit extension where the town would continue health coverage for employees after retirement at the pro-rated amount (now 89% town, 11% employee). The term of the extended benefit is 2 months for employees working at least 10 consecutive years; 3 months for 20 year employees and 6 months for 30 year or more employees
- Supported the Village of Hyde Park with a grant application for planning assistance to seek designation of the Village of Hyde Park as a “Downtown”; application was not approved
- Approved submission of a grant application with LCCD to complete a ‘Stormwater Master Plan’ for the Village of Hyde Park; award decision expected in early 2017
- Accepted unclassified Mason Road and Hemingway Drive as Class 3 Town Highways
- Purchased new cyclone blower attachment to clear roads and roadsides of leaves and debris
- Began investigating improvements to the town highway garage; energy, addition of a work bay to the west end, new floor drains and new siding are on the initial list
- Approved “Hummingbird Lane” off North Hyde Park Road as a new private road name

In Calendar Year 2017, the Board expects to work on the following:

- Consider and adopt revisions to the 2012 Town & Village Comprehensive Development Plan
- Monitor legislative activities and communicate with state representatives, as needed.
- Review proposed amendments to the 2016 Town Unified Zoning Bylaw.
- Complete the planning for a town highway garage renovation with one new work bay
- Receive recommendations from the Village Roads Working Group on village capital improvement priorities
- Continue work on unclassified town highways; Crabapple Lane and Sylvan Drive
- Adopt new Town Road and Bridge Standards

The Board respects all community members input and encourages residents to contact any member with questions, suggestions or concerns.

David Gagnier, Chair

Brian Jones, Vice-Chair

Roland Boivin

Roger Audet

Lucy Hankinson