

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2013**

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

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: Kimberly J. Moulton

TOWN MODERATOR: David Hallquist

Selectboard Chair, David Gagnier called the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 11:15am

Article 1 To elect Town and School District Officers as required by ballot.

Selectboard Member for a term of two years – Brian Jones

Selectboard Member for a term of three years – Pierre Couture

Lister for a term of three years – Deanna C. Judkins

School Director for a term of two years – Maxine Adams

School Director for one year remaining of a two year term – Raymond Mascolino

School Director for a term of three years – Patti Hayford

Lamoille Union District # 18 School Director for a term of three years – Carl Szlachetka

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District Supervisor for a term of two years – Harold Bailey

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

Moderator for a term of one year: The nomination of David Hallquist for Moderator was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot for David Hallquist for Moderator for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier turned the meeting over to David Hallquist. Moderator Hallquist asked for audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Hallquist proceeded with the rest of Article 2.

Town Clerk for a term of three years: James Heath nominated Kim Moulton for Town Clerk and the nomination was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Chairman of the Selectboard to cast one ballot for Kim Moulton as Town Clerk for a term of three years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Treasurer for a term of three years: James Heath nominated Kim Moulton for Town Treasurer and the nomination was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Kim Moulton as Town Treasurer for a term of three years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Marvin Locke. James Heath asked if Marvin still wanted to be the Delinquent Tax Collector. D. Gagnier answered yes. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Marvin Locke for Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

One Town Grand Juror for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Edward French Jr. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Edward French Jr. for Town Grand Juror for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Agent for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Edward French Jr. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Edward French Jr. for Town Agent for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: There was a nomination and a second for Anthony Gates. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Anthony Gates for Cemetery Commissioner for a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Cemetery Commissioner for the remaining of a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Mary Foss. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Mary Foss for Cemetery Commissioner for the remaining of a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Ken Geiersbach. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Ken Geiersbach for Library Trustee for a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

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

George Cook, from the FAST Squad, talked about page 58 of the Town Report that discusses E911 signs. He showed an example of the house number sign that can be ordered and installed at homes in Hyde Park. G. Cook indicated that residents need to install E911 signs so they are quickly locatable in an emergency. He stated that order forms for the number signs are available. He also mentioned that the FAST Squad is looking for volunteers.

D. Gagnier asked if there were any questions regarding the Selectboard report. Carl Szlachetka asked questions of the Selectboard. He wanted to know if employees of the Town had participated in VLCT's Sexual Harassment training. D. Gagnier answered that all Town employees attended a training last year. C. Szlachetka wanted to know if the training was on an annual basis and were appointed and elected officials attending these trainings. D. Gagnier stated that was something we were working on. C. Szlachetka asked if there was a management letter of some kind issued to the Selectboard from Glenna Pound, CPA. Kim Moulton, Treasurer states that yes, there was a management letter issued to the Selectboard.

Loraine Goodhue questioned an item in the Town Clerk report that mentions digitizing and indexing the land records. She wanted to know why local vendors such as her company were not contacted. She also stated that there was no back up for these digitized documents and that these documents were not a permanent record. K. Moulton, Town Clerk, explained the new system and that the digitized documents were actually backed up multiple times and two back ups were created and stored at 2 different sites. L. Goodhue indicated that she hoped the town would not regret its decision to go this route. K. Moulton stated she had talked to multiple Town Clerks throughout the state who have been using the same system that the Town will be using and all Towns responded that they were extremely pleased with the service provided by ACS, the company we have signed on with. The Town did not contract with ACS to microfilm the Town's records but to provide software and hardware to digitally record the incoming land records.

Carl Szlachetka wanted to know if the Town has considered printing the Town Reports and have people pick them up at the office. D. Gagnier explained that the Town tried this a few years ago and it didn't work.

There was a motion and a second to accept the reports of the Town Officers. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 4 Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be under the control and direction of the Selectboard for the purchase of fire vehicles to be funded by an appropriation of \$20,000 in FY2014, and funded in the future by appropriations approved by the town voters? (24 V.S.A 2804)

There was a motion and a second to move the article. James Heath asked why this needed to be established. D. Gagnier noted that fire vehicles have a shelf life and when either of the Hyde Park Fire Chiefs comes to the Selectboard for a new fire vehicle, there will be some reserve money to assist in the capital purchase, just like we have for the Town Highway Trucks.

Tim Yarrow wanted to know if the Selectboard has looked into sharing equipment within a larger community as a cost effective way of addressing these large capital costs. D. Gagnier says we already have this with our Mutual Aid System and we are fortunate to have two fire departments in our Town that back each other up and have a good response within our township. Other than that, no, the Selectboard has not looked into this. Something like that may work with someone like the Town of Morristown but if you get a structure fire on Centerville Rd, it would be a while for departments from Johnson, Stowe or Cambridge to get there.

Mark Roberts wanted to know if this limits the fire departments ability to come to the voters for money when a vehicle is needed or is this where those monies are going to be when those kinds of purchases are needed. No, this fund will help with scheduled or emergency replacement rather than spring the expense on the voters all at one time.

Marilyn Zophar wanted to know if this article is approved, does that mean \$20,000 will automatically be added into the budget every year. D. Gagnier stated not necessarily, that the amount of money added to this reserve fund will be determined by what is available in the budget. This amount could change each year.

Jeff Beattie asked who makes the decision to use this money when needed. The article states the money is under the control and direction of the Selectboard or will it come to the voters at Town Meeting as it has in the past. D. Gagnier stated they would come to the voters because they wouldn't spend that much money without going to the voters. D. Gagnier states it is the same process that we use for the Town Highway trucks right now. This fund will just defray the amount of money needed to make the purchase.

John Rohleder questioned page 39, under Hyde Park Fire Department, the statement printed "Capital Expenses are included in the general fund with highway capital funding" by asking how this \$20,000 is different from what is described in that paragraph. D. Gagnier stated that this fund will be used solely for fire vehicles.

Steve Morse states that the way the article is written, the Selectboard has sole discretion to spend the money any way they see fit without going to the voters.

Tim Yarrow wanted to know if the Selectboard could describe the current status of the equipment and their anticipated replacement cycle. Also wants to know if there is a vehicle already ordered and scheduled to come into service. D. Gagnier stated the ordered vehicle was voted on at the last town meeting and that the replacement schedule for the fire vehicles is on page 39 of the Town Report.

James Heath stated that this is good, sound fiscal management. New fire trucks can cost upwards of \$300,000 to \$350,000 and establishing this fund would help offset that cost. The fire department works diligently to maintain equipment. He strongly urges voters to support this article.

Moderator Hallquist asked if there was anyone opposed to non-resident, Ron Rodjenski, speaking and there was none. Ron Rodjenski introduced himself as Town Administrator for Hyde Park. He wanted to clarify that the Selectboard's authority would be to spend the reserve fund as the article is worded, if the article passes. The reserve fund would come off the top of the cost of a new vehicle and then likely, there would be some lending or other funding that might have to come to voters for approval. He states that this fund is similar to the Sidewalk Fund that was approved and established last year in that in future years, money added to the reserve fund will be in the budget and not a separate article.

Carl Szlachetka wanted to know if the fund purpose is to completely offset the expense or reduce the cost of the purchase. D. Gagnier stated it is to reduce the cost of purchase.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 5 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park appropriate the sum of \$1,900 to support the Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit?

The motion by James Heath was seconded. D. Gagnier asked Sheriff Roger Marcoux to address this article. Sheriff Roger Marcoux explained the purpose of the Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit and how the unit will work.

Tim Yarrow asked about other funding. Sheriff Marcoux states it has been funded by a state grant but not at 100%. The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit is asking all towns in Lamoille County for similar funding.

An audience member, unidentified, asked if Article 6 passes, do we need to pass Article 5. Sheriff Marcoux stated that the two articles have nothing to do with each other.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters appropriate up to \$30,400, for the Town's share of the total \$83,000.00 cost of a new full-time Lamoille County Sheriff Department Detective position, to begin July 1, 2013, which appropriation shall be contingent upon voter approval by Johnson and Wolcott of their respective shares for said position?

There was a motion and a second to move the article. Sheriff Marcoux stated that this year's budget process has been the most interesting and informative budget process for the first time in 12 years. The towns of Johnson, Wolcott and Hyde Park met with him starting last summer to hear comments and complaints. It was a very good process. There was a discussion on a capital plan to bring in a detective and an additional patrol person in the mornings. His patrol staff felt they needed a detective to start with. This position will take a small burden off the deputies so they can do more patrolling.

Tim Yarrow thanked the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for all the work they do. He wanted to know if this would be an ongoing position. Sheriff Marcoux stated yes.

Pete Sweeney wanted to know when state police or federal agents get involved. Lamoille County Sheriff's Department works with State Police as needed. There are some cases the State Police just won't take on because they are overwhelmed. Federal agents will only come in for major, major cases.

Tim Yarrow wanted to know if the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department would consider holding informational community seminars to help residents better protect themselves and their properties. Sheriff stated that he has met with a group from Hyde Park and a group from Johnson for over a year. There is a meeting in Johnson on March 13th.

MaryAnn Newsom-Brighton asked if Hyde Park passes this article, what happens if the other towns do not pass. Sheriff Marcoux stated nothing would happen. All three towns must pass their respective articles in order for this to take effect.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 7 Shall the voters appropriate an additional sum of \$250 for a total of \$1,250 to be used to support the services of the Clarina Howard Nichols Center?

There was a motion and a second to move the article. There was no discussion. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 8 Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$8,862 to support Lamoille Home Health in its endeavor to provide home health services to persons in their homes?

James Heath made a motion that was seconded by Mark Roberts. An audience member, unidentified, asked how many Hyde Park families are actually being helped by this service. D. Gagnier stated figures are in the Clarina Howard Nichols Center report on page 90. The audience member stated that with the economic times, changes and cuts needed to be made somewhere and this could be cut. The audience member feels that there are only a few homes getting help from Lamoille Home Health and they will get their money from the feds if they don't get it from us. D. Gagnier stated that although his insurance covered services that he received last summer, some people don't have the same insurance coverage. He urged support of this article. The audience member thought maybe we needed to cut this expense or lower the amount we give to Lamoille Home Health.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 9 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the construction of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail?

There was a motion and a second to move this article. D. Gagnier explained why this article was on the warning. The representatives from the rail trail came to the Town, and every town the rail trail runs through, and asked for a donation in support of Hyde Parks 3.5 miles of the railroad bed either by cash or in kind services. To gauge the community support for this project, the Selectboard came up with the \$1,000 figure.

Jack Anderson spoke on behalf of the Village of Hyde Park Trustees. The Village Trustees have committed money to the rail trail and also the trail head that every town is being asked to fund. The sidewalk project on Depot Street will connect the rail trail to Main Street and becomes an important part of revitalizing the Village. J. Anderson urged support of this article.

Mark Roberts thinks nothing is more important than getting the trail opened up for economic development within our town and county.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 10 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park appropriate the sum of \$89,000 to purchase the "Old Hotel" in North Hyde Park known as the "Valley House" pending completion of environmental due diligence, with such costs being paid by the landowner or through grants?

There was a motion and a second to move this article. Harold Bailey, Historical Society member, spoke to the audience regarding this article. He stated the current owner can no longer maintain this property and this is an opportunity for the town to acquire parking for events held at the North Hyde Park Grange Hall. He gave a brief history of the "Valley House" property. He states the property is not in good shape but is livable and usable. The Historical Society would be responsible for maintaining or repairing the building. The Historical Society would use the building to set up historical displays and conserve historical items donated to the Town as well as provide approximately 20-25 parking spaces for Grange Hall events.

Tim Yarrow wanted to know what the article phrase "such costs being paid by landowner" meant. H. Bailey explained the current owners' in-laws owned the property and at the time the in-laws owned it, there was a gas station and gas pumps with underground gas tanks on site. The current owner states the underground tanks have been removed but someone needs to come in and certify that the property is brownfield free and there is no contamination.

Mark Roberts wanted to know, after the cost to buy, what would the expenses be after the purchase. H. Bailey states this hasn't been researched yet.

Beth Carriere stated she is not opposed to historic preservation but if we are talking of making this a public building, and with the age of the building, there are a lot of things to be considered like asbestos, lead paint and potential septic issues which could cause huge expenses. It could be a big commitment with the Historical Society coming back every year for more money to repair and maintain this property. In her opinion, she feels like almost \$90,000 is an expensive parking lot.

Judy Lanphear thinks it is wonderful what the Historical Society has been able to do with the Grange Hall. But they are limited on how many can go in. They have been able to accommodate parking, as is, for their one annual event. She feels with the historical memorabilia that is out there, she would like to see a museum in Hyde Park Village so our school children and tourists coming to see plays in our opera house can visit the museum while in our Village.

Pete Couture stated that this property would be a sponge and is 100% against it. He called the question.

Moderator Hallquist stated the question had been called and required a two-thirds majority. Voted by voice vote in the affirmative to call the question. There was a request for a paper ballot. By a show of hands, a request to vote by paper ballot was approved. Paper Ballot Results: 86-No, 14-Yes and 1-Blank

Article 10 failed

Article 11 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to enter in contracts with owners, lessees, or operators of agricultural, forest land, open space land, industrial or commercial real and personal property and alternate-energy generating plants to fix the property values of such real and personal property, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2741, for up to the full municipal tax liability of such property, for periods not to exceed ten (10) years?

There was a motion and a second to move this article. D. Gagnier asked Charlie Aronovici to explain this article. C. Aronovici, Village Trustee, explained how tax stabilization works and how it benefited the Town. He stated tax stabilization will give us the tools we need to help revitalize the three commercial zones in Hyde Park, the Village, the North Village and Garfield. It will attract new businesses and help keep existing businesses in Hyde Park. It increases the grand list and commercial properties require less municipal services than residential properties. It will create jobs in the commercial zones. If this article is approved, it will allow the Town and Village to finalize a working draft of a policy to be put in place and we will hold a public hearing once it is finalized. It will also allow the creation of an Economic Development Board to be comprised of a Selectboard member, a Village Trustee member and a resident. Hyde Park is one of many communities in our area that are putting tax stabilization policies into place.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 12 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 of \$2,040,200, of which \$1,721,400 shall be raised by taxes and \$318,800 by non-tax revenue?

There was a motion and a second to move this article. D. Gagnier stated that with the articles approved today, the new budget amount will be \$2,102,612. There was a motion and a second to amend the budget to \$2,102,612. There was discussion between Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator, and Dave Gagnier to clarify the budget amount to be voted. D. Gagnier clarified to the audience that we should be voting on a budget of \$2,040,200. Point of order was called. Moderator Hallquist stated if there was no opposition, we should vote no to the amendment. Voted by voice in the negative and the amended article failed.

Marilyn Zophar asked what the discussion was between Ron Rodjenski and Dave Gagnier. With approval from the audience, Ron Rodjenski addressed this. In the past, the budget amount has been amended to include the articles that had just been approved. That is not the correct way to vote the budget. Each article acts on its own and is not to be revisited and do not need to be re-voted. Each article is independent from the Selectboard's operating budget. By approving the articles, you are giving the Selectboard authority to add them into the budget as presented. If you merge them back together as had been done in the past, you are voting each prior article twice.

Carl Szlacheta asked about the difference of actual cost of insurance between FY12 and FY13. D. Gagnier explained that FY12 was low due to staffing changes. Although the cost remained the same, there were periods of time in FY12 where the town was covering fewer employees.

Tim Yarrow asked what the \$318,800 in non-tax revenue is. K. Moulton explained it is exactly what it states, revenue that is not tax based. Licenses, Fines, Grants, Fees and things like that are non-tax revenues.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 13 Shall the voters approve the payment of property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four equal installments (32 V.S.A. 4792); 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 Thursday, August 15, 2013
Second installment to be paid on or before Friday, November 15, 2013
Third installment to be paid on or before Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Fourth installment to be paid on or before Thursday, May 15, 2014

There was a motion and a second to move this article. Tim Yarrow wanted to know if there were any changes to this article from last year other than the dates. K. Moulton stated there were no changes.

Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 14 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Rikki French, Village Trustee stated that Village Foreman, Don Waterhouse is retiring in July after 35 years of service. She also wanted to thank the Selectboard for their work with the Village on the zoning plan and tax stabilization.

Erin Carroll stated that she and Nate Lange are the new coordinators for the Hyde Park Energy Committee. They are looking for other members. There is a table out in the lobby with more information.

James Heath thanked the Selectboard and the Village Trustees for their collaboration. He also thanked Mike Dubie for his time on the Selectboard. He commended Mike for his commitment and time to the Selectboard.

Dave Gagnier thanked voters for their support during the year. Selectboard meetings are always open and they welcome your comments. He asked that you keep Hyde Park Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Audet in your thoughts as Kevin had a triple bypass the night before. Kevin works hard for the Town so please keep Kevin in your thoughts.

Dave Gagnier presented Selectboard member, Mike Dubie with a Certificate of Appreciation for his two years on the Selectboard. He has been a very valuable member of the Selectboard. He thanked Mike for all he has done for the Town.

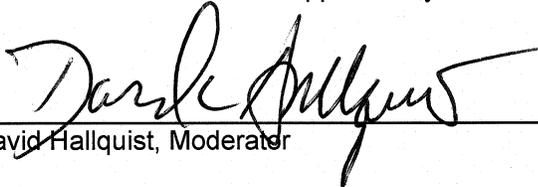
James Heath made a motion that was seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 1:15pm. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the motion passed.

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 5, 2013.

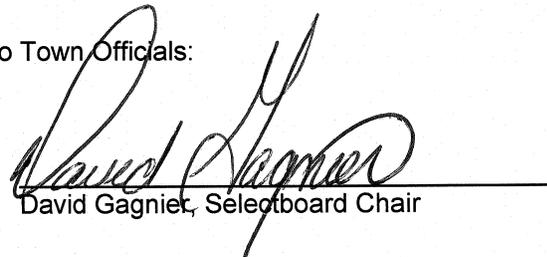


Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

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



David Hallquist, Moderator



David Gagnier, Selectboard Chair