

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2014**

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

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: Kimberly J. Moulton

TOWN MODERATOR: David Hallquist

Moderator, David Hallquist called the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 9:00am then led the Pledge of Allegiance with the crowd. Moderator Hallquist stated that unless there was an objection, the meeting would follow Roberts Rules. Moderator Hallquist noted that voting for Article 1 was in the lobby area.

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 – David Gagnier
Lister for a term of three years – Julie Rohleder
School Director for a term of two years – Noah D. Noyes
School Director for a term of two years – Daniel Regan
School Director for a term of three years – Elizabeth Raven Walters
Lamoille Union District # 18 School Director for a term of three years – Beth Bailey

Moderator Hallquist turned the meeting over to Selectboard Chair David Gagnier.

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. Judy Clark nominated David Hallquist for Moderator and the nomination 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 recognized Mark Woodward, Legislative Representative for Hyde Park and then proceeded with the rest of Article 2.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year: David Gagnier nominated Marvin Locke and the nomination was seconded by Judy Clark. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Marvin Locke was elected by a voice vote.

One Town Grand Juror for a term of one year: David Gagnier nominated Edward French Jr. and the nomination was seconded by Judy Clark. 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: Judy Clark nominated Edward French Jr. and the nomination was seconded by John Clark. 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: Judy Clark nominated Harold Bailey and the nomination was seconded by John Clark. David Gagnier nominated Judy Lanphear and the nomination was seconded. Judy Lanphear was elected by a show of hands.

Library Trustee for a five year term: Emily Dearborn nominated Fran Aronovici. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Fran Aronovici was elected by a show of hands.

Emily Dearborn stated there was another trustee vacancy not noted on the Warning that needs to be filled.

Library Trustee for a five year term: Emily Dearborn nominated Jim Noyes. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Jim Noyes was elected by a show of hands.

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

Moderator Hallquist turned the meeting over to Selectboard Chair Gagnier. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated it was a good year and an uneventful year. He noted we escaped two major storms and a microburst that hit towns on both sides of us. We are level-funding again this year for the fifth year in a row. Selectboard Chair Gagnier introduced Roger Audet who is the Selectboard liaison to the Sheriff's Department, Roland Boivin who is the Selectboard liaison to the fire departments, Pete Couture who is the Selectboard liaison to the library and Brian Jones who is the Selectboard liaison to the Highway Department. Selectboard Chair Gagnier also introduced Kim Moulton who is the Town Clerk and Ron Rodjenski who is the Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator. Selectboard Chair Gagnier thanked people for their help this past year and for their comments.

Article 4 Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be under the control and direction of the Selectboard for the purchase, repair or replacement of highway vehicles and equipment to be funded by a transfer of \$98,791.65 from the General Fund Balance, including any unspent FY2014 highway capital equipment funds and then funded in future years by appropriations to this fund as approved by the town voters? (24 V.S.A 2804)

There was a motion by Carl Szlachetka and a second by George Cook to move the article. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that the \$98,791.65 is already set aside for the highway department in the general fund but this money could actually be used for anything in the general fund. This article would put this money into a reserve fund designated for the highway department. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 5 Shall the voters create, maintain and operate a fire department as a department of the municipality, and for this purpose, to purchase, acquire, hold, lease or sell real property, equipment and apparatus, and to appoint officers, firefighters and employees of the department? (24 V.S.A. 1951)

There was a motion by George Cook and a second by Brad Carriere to move this article. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that this article is a housekeeping issue. In 1978, the Fire Department handed over the deed to the town for 1.4 acres of land and the firefighting equipment but the voters never voted to accept it as a town fire department. Carl Szlachetka wanted to know the impact on things like the town health care. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that nothing will change. Everything will continue to run as it has been but now the fire department will be a legal municipal fire department. Nothing will change. Renee Marcoux wanted to know if this was the consensus of the board. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that it was. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be under the control and direction of the Selectboard for the purchase, repair or replacement of fire fighting equipment, buildings or other capital items (not fire vehicles or supplies) to be funded by a transfer of \$5,000 from the General Fund Balance, including any unspent FY2014 fire equipment budget amount, and then funded in future years by appropriations to this fund as approved by the town voters? (24 V.S.A 2804)

There was a motion by Carl Szlachetka and a second by Tim Yarrow to move the article. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that there is no new money and that it would be funded by a transfer from the general fund into a reserved fund for the fire department. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 7 Shall the voters appropriate \$3,000 for the purchase and installation of E-911 house and business number signs?

There was a motion by George Cook and a second by Brad Carriere to move the article. George Cook spoke regarding the article. George Cook's presentation included a video showing current 911 house number signage that emergency responders use to locate a residence during an emergency response. Only 20% of the town is properly signed with reflective signs of the proper size. Lack of proper signs delays emergency responders from quickly locating a residence during an emergency response. They are asking for \$3,000 which is about 1/4 of what it would cost to place these signs across the whole town. It would be a multiple year project. Signs would be

installed by the Fire Department and the FAST Squad but would appreciate additional volunteers to assist in the installation of the signs. Tim Yarrow thanked all emergency responders for their service. Tim wanted to know if this is the best system that money could buy. Is there a GIS system on board trucks? George Cook stated no, that the FAST Squad responds in private vehicles and there is no GPS system on the fire trucks. Carl Szlachetka wanted to know if this was to completely pay the cost for the coming year or is this to subsidize it. He also stated that with a 20% compliance rate that maybe people don't want to help themselves. George stated that to keep costs down, the Fire Department and the FAST Squad will be volunteering their time to install the signs. On a voluntary basis, townspeople have not put these signs in place but this is a way to help responders reach people in a timely fashion during their time of need. Kelly Carpenter wanted to know if E911 address will be the same as the post office address. George Cook stated that we have no control over the postal service address but it was his understanding that we all have an E911 locatable address and that most people use that same locatable address for the mail carrier. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 8 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, 2014 to June 30, 2015 of \$2,135,100 of which \$1,793,050 shall be raised by taxes and \$342,050 by non-tax revenue?

There was a motion made by Jack Anderson and a second by Carl Szlachetka to move the article. Selectboard Chair Gagnier noted that outside agencies shown on page 16 of the town report are included in the budget figure you will be voting on. Mark Roberts wanted to know if the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail asked for money or if we are not supporting them. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that they are on hold and they did not ask for money this year. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 9 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 of 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 Friday, August 15, 2014
- Second installment to be paid on or before Monday, November 17, 2014
- Third installment to be paid on or before Tuesday, February 17, 2015
- Fourth installment to be paid on or before Friday, May 15, 2015

There was a motion by Carl Szlachetka and a second by Jack Anderson to move this article. Tim Yarrow wanted to know if this was a basic continuation of previous year's policy. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that it was the same as prior years. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 10 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Raven Walters presented a Concurrent House Resolution H.C.R. 238 to Hyde Park Elementary School Kindergarten teacher, Diane Marcoux-LaClair who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Jeff Beattie thanked the town for their continued support of the Hyde Park Youth Mentoring Program. This year's budget for the program was reduced by \$900. The program is always looking for mentors.

Jack Anderson complimented the Selectboard on a very nice town report and stated it was easy to read. He thought the Selectboard report was good in that it stated the accomplishments for the year. He also wanted to publicly thank the Selectboard for the cooperation and collaboration with the Village Trustees on projects.

Marc Gilbertson thanked his wife, Whitney Kaulbach for tweeting out the meeting events on Twitter. He also wanted to thank all the volunteers who work hundreds of volunteered hours on the Cricket Hill Trails. He also wanted us to know that he counted seven Sochi Olympians who have skied on our Cricket Hill Trails.

Judy Womack wanted to know when her portion of the Silver Ridge Road would be paved. She is on the same road as the House of Troy. They have large delivery trucks driving the road creating pot holes and bumpy roads.

She stated the Highway Department does a tremendous job trying to maintain the road but come spring it is a mess and is very dangerous. She feels this is a problem that is not getting any better. Selectboard Chair Gagnier stated that a Roads Committee has been formed to look at all roads in Hyde Park. The town is currently looking for volunteers. Currently, our paving budget is out of whack like all other towns in the state. We are getting farther and farther behind with paving. It has been a struggle for this board and previous boards. Situations like what is described on Silver Ridge Road will be addressed within this committee. People interested in serving on this committee are asked to contact Ron Rodjenski or Kim Moulton at the Town Office.

Sheriff Roger Marcoux discussed the biggest challenge the department currently has with the heroin/prescription drug epidemic. He also wanted citizens to know that the department is still in weekly contact with the registered sex offender still living in Hyde Park and he is still in compliance.

Diane Sziachetka asked about the rollout of the E911 sign installation. She wanted to know if there is a plan in place about how to begin the distribution and installation of these signs. George Cook stated they would be working with Ron Rodjenski to pull together a strategic plan to implement sign installation.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier asked people to look at the inside cover of their town report that lists the different departments, boards and committees in town that are always looking for volunteers. The Planning Commission is currently looking for a member. Harold Bailey is looking for Historical Society members. The new Roads Committee needs members. People interested in volunteering should contact Ron Rodjenski or Kim Moulton.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier, personally and on behalf of the Selectboard, thanked Ken Alexander and the rest of the road crew for their outstanding job and hard work. Hyde Park roads are as good as or better than most surrounding towns.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier thanked Chief Ed Webster from the Hyde Park Fire Department and Chief Eric Aither from the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department for their leadership. They put a lot of time and effort into making sure they are prepared and well covered to be able to respond in a time of need.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier thanked Brad Carriere for his leadership in first response and his leadership as Emergency Management Director. During the Friday night microburst, Brad organized the highway crew and the fire departments to clear the trees from roads so emergency vehicles could get through in a time of need.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier thanked everyone who donates their time and puts themselves in harms way.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier wanted to thank the people of Hyde Park for their support, coming to the Selectboard meeting and running the town.

Selectboard Chair Gagnier reminded people that Dog Licenses are due by April 1st and are being sold out in the lobby this year.

Moderator Hallquist thanked Paige Moulton and Camille Yarrow for running the microphones this year.

There was a motion to adjourn that was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

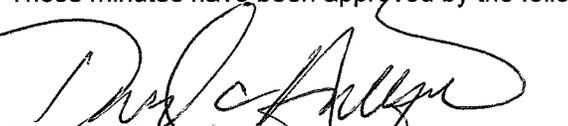
I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate report of the votes taken at the Hyde Park Annual Town Meeting held Tuesday, March 4, 2014.



Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

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

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David Hallquist, Moderator



David Gagnier, Selectboard Chair