

# HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2012

(this meeting was rescheduled from January 12, 2012)

All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be video taped and such recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television – Recording Info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, VT 05655; [info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 802-851-1592

**Members Present:** James Heath (JH), Chairman; David Gagnier (DG), Vice-Chair; Brian Jones (BJ); Roger Audet (RA) and Mike Dubie (MD)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Charlie Aronovici, Village Trustee; Jim Mahoney, Town Attorney in the Mark Myette zoning enforcement matter; Tim Yarrow, Village Trustee; Riki French, Village Trustee; Dave DiDomenico, Village Trustee; Green Mountain Access Ch. 15 videotaped this meeting

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RH called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

## 1. Welcome and public comment

No public comment.

## 2. Myette Pond Zoning Enforcement Action

Motion by Dubie to move into executive session to discuss pending litigation; inviting Jim Mahoney and Ron Rodjenski. Seconded by RA. So voted.

## 3. Rep. Linda Martin – 2012 Legislative Session Update

Rep. Martin is working right now on redistricting which might result in Hyde Park and Eden being in one district. Rep. Martin also advised that some changes are being proposed to comply with the federal health care law but nothing is in effect as yet. Rep. Martin advised that there is an increase in town highway aid and JH advised that with 20 miles of roadway we need a lot of funding assistance to keep up with regular paving retreatment needs.

## 4. Review of Minutes from December 8 and December 22, 2011. Tabled until next meeting.

## 5. Highway Department Issues

a. **New Lighting in Garage** – DG offered that LCPC overhead lights can not be returned but he would recommend using the existing wiring to save overall costs. JH recommended that MD try to obtain a few quotes for installation using the existing wiring.

b. **Better Back Roads 2012 Grant** – Still waiting for the award announcement.

## 6. Town Administrator Report

Front Porch Forum – No additional community donations have been received after the \$100 donation from Polow & Polow to help pay for the \$2,500 start up fee. The Vermont Community Foundation has been asked for funds to assist through their Green Mountain Fund. Rodjenski will contact Jack Anderson for a final amount that might be available from the village. The Trustees offered support in the amount of \$300, now totaling \$600 (with \$200 from the Selectboard and \$100 from Polow and Polow). Riki French advised to contact the owner of Sweet Crunch.

## 7. Joint Meeting with Village of Hyde Park Trustees

- a. **Town Road Standards and Village Highway Needs/Sidewalks** – The boards discussed the costs of the new standards which seem to be about 50% more than existing standards. MD felt that if the new ditching standards would last on gravel roads he could see some benefit, more benefit seems possibly for paved roads which have less winter sand applied and are more stable to reduce the rate ditches need to be cleaned. Dave DiDomenico advised that the Depot Street sidewalk project could begin in Spring 2012 with the Johnson Street Extension sidewalk project starting in 2013. Both projects are grant supported through the Transportation Enhancement Grant program. Dave DiDomenico (DD) thought that the town might eventually be asked for about \$19,000 in FY14 to support the Johnson Street sidewalk project and only in-kind work for FY12 and FY13. Rodjenski will contact DD with questions about financing to possible prepare an article for this town meeting to set aside \$20,000 per year for sidewalk improvements in the village.
- b. **Commercial Development/Historic Preservation** – RF advised that the Trustees have been looking into ways to make the village more vibrant and have been meeting monthly at a special meeting since October 2011 to focus on new village center initiatives. Charlie Aronovici (CA) stated that there is a plan developing to increase the number of retail stores along Main Street. CA stated that Johnson had a development fund to lend to local businesses which encouraged commercial growth. Johnson also provided an option for businesses to enter into tax stabilization agreements. CA offered that the Trustees are considering additional programs. JH advised that he is supportive of the Trustee's efforts. CA and Rodjenski will work on having a guest to review tax stabilization program options at the Selectboard's February meeting.
- c. **Town and Village Comprehensive Plan** – Rodjenski advised that the Planning Commission is continuing to work on combining the existing town plan and village plan with the assistance of the Lamoille County Planning Commission and both the Trustees and Selectboard will be asked to approve of the final draft.
- d. **Creation of Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District** – Tim Yarrow updated the boards on a new program that allows homeowners to borrow funds, passed through the town, to make energy efficiency improvements and have the loan repaid over 5, 10 or 20 years. The Board agreed to add an article for this town meeting to create a PACE district. Tim Yarrow is willing to speak at town meeting after a work session with E-Vermont in February. Motion by MD to authorize RR to sign a letter of interest for PACE to VEIC. Seconded by RA. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

8. **Town Administrator Report continued** – Rodjenski reported that the 'Town Project List' and the 'Grants Watch' summary will be updated for February's meeting. Rodjenski proposed that the town personnel policies be reviewed one or two sections at a time by town staff and then brought to future board meetings. The first section will be revising the holiday schedule to closely follow the state holiday schedule of 12 per year. Rodjenski suggested that any changes to the holiday schedule be retroactive to Jan 1, 2012 and have a "use it or lose it" condition by each December 31st.

**9. FY13 Town Budget** – The Board reviewed the budget and asked about the structure, insurance and funding for the FAST squad which may or may not be under the town's insurance policies. The Board also reduced the FAST squad's FY13 request from \$3,000 to \$2,000 due to the cash account balance presently held by the squad. Rodjenski will make final revisions to the budget which now includes a 5% increase in expenditures which is offset by increasing amount of non-tax revenues and an increasing Grandlist to result in no increase to the tax rate for FY13. A warning for Selectboard approval is being prepared by the Town Clerk for signature near the end of next week.

Mike Dubie left at this point to prepare for tomorrow morning's plowing.

**10. Review Town Warrants** - Motion by DG to approve town warrants. Seconded by BJ. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Motion by BJ to approve payroll warrants. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

### **11. Other Business**

- a. Following the resignation of Jim Lipinski from the position of **E-911 Coordinator**, the board received a letter of interest from Brad Carriere to fill the position. Motion by DG to appoint Brad Carriere to the position of E-911 Coordinator, effectively immediately, through April 2013. Seconded by BJ. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- b. The Board reviewed the proposed **Town Audit Agreement** from Glenna Pound to complete annual audits, instead of compilations, for each of the next three years in amounts to not exceed \$14,000 for FY12, \$13,300 for FY13 and \$12,600 for FY12. Motion by BJ to sign the 3-year engagement letter for Glenna Pound, CPA for FY12, FY13, and FY14. Seconded by RA. Discussion: DG asked if the agreement could be bid this year rather than in three years, to which Rodjenski advised that this will be the first time the town has gone through 3 consecutive audits and Glenna is the best able. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- c. **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail** submitted a request for \$5,000 in FY13 for maintenance work on the trail which was tabled by the board until all development permits are secured.

**12. Adjourn** – MD motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by DG. Motion approved.