

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

September 8, 2011

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kim Moulton, Town Clerk; Ron Rodjenski, Green Mountain Access Ch 15 and Andrew Martin from News and Citizen Reporter; Terry McGill; Gary Rushford

RH called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Public Comment – No public comment received.

2. Hyde Park Veterans Memorial – Gary Rushford

The veterans' memorial that is on the court house lawn holds all the names from the campaigns that occurred at the time of the installation of the memorial with room for names on the back of the memorial. However, the back has no walkway to it from the front of the memorial. The Board offered help in providing sand to go under the new brick pathway being planned by Gary Rushford. Mike Dubie will meet with Gary onsite to review how best to get the work done before winter.

3. Hyde Park Elementary School Parking

The Board reviewed the prior town and school discussions to improve drop off locations and add parking spaces, if needed, for safety and convenience of school staff and parents. The school board has been invited to the October 13th Selectboard meeting to present actual numbers on staff parking needs.

4. Road Issue – Paul Trudell

Paul Trudell was not present. Mike Dubie reported that he is working with the landowner on a solution to better protect the Trudell plantings along the town highway road surface and edge.

5. Culvert Projects – Lamoille County Planning Commission

Amanda Holland from LCPC reported that she is looking at potential projects along the three main streams in town to study how best to reduce erosion and improve corridor management activities. Amanda asked whether or not the town feels any highway projects might benefit from pre-design work by an engineer hired through LCPC. The Board would like the 9-foot culvert on Garfield Road below the Green River dam to be studied for possible replacement with a bridge. Mike Dubie will review other potential projects and refer them to Amanda. Amanda would like to come back in October and discuss the new state highway construction standards.

6. Highway Department

Wolf Den Road Issue – Resident Terry McGill was present to discuss the ditching needs she feels is overdue along Wolf Den Road and the risk she feels there is to the flooding of her land from water coming off the town highway. She also felt that the highway crew should try to avoid hitting mailboxes which seems to be a new problem over the past few years. Dave Gagnier will visit the site with Terry and Mike Dubie will speak with the plow operator maintaining Wolf Den Road.

New Truck Status – DG reported that the truck is getting the body put on now.

New Lighting in Garage – The Board wanted to confirm that there was grant money for installation of the new lights that are in the garage. LCPC and E-Vermont are potential sources of the

grant funds. Ron to follow-up on grant terms to determine funding for installation costs at the garage.

Overtime Report – The board felt the crew did a great job with keeping overtime costs under control considering the weather we have experienced recently.

7. ATV Issue

Ralph Larson submitted a letter concerning eliminating ATV access on Webster road. The Board will work on the road list that needs to be developed for the new ordinance that specifies which Class 3 and Class 4 roadways sections are open to ATV use. Mike Dubie will check on a no outlet sign for Webster Road and the Board did not approve the installation of 'Children at Play' signs or speed limit signs along Webster Road.

8. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

The Board would like to better understand what the LVRT organization is seeking for town support in the initial construction phases and extent of future annual maintenance. The Board expected that long-term maintenance would be done by the LVRT organization, not the town highway crew, similar to what other trail organizations do. Ron will report back at a later date.

9. Hyde Park Community Circle Funds

Judy Clark reported that the committee had extra funds and would like to assist in purchasing pedestrian crossing signs for placement in the village. Mike Dubie has estimates which run about \$200 for each sign and recommended that the town buy three signs and he would prefer that village residents or others, not the highway department, remove and place them each day. Motion by BJ to purchase three pedestrian signs for village streets at \$235.75 with some costs paid by the Community Circle. Seconded by RA. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

10. Penalties for Late-filed Homestead Declarations

The Board discussed setting a policy on collecting penalty for late-filed declarations and whether or not to waive any fees. Motion by RA to adopt the policy of collecting the late-filed homestead declaration penalty without exception. Seconded by BJ. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

11. Lower level Renovation Update

Roger Audet provided a quick update on the new beam under the 1st floor of the town office which is looking good, however, the budget is accounted for with \$135 remaining in the budget.

12. New Town Administrator

Ron Rodjenski introduced himself and the Board discussed the position's benefit package compared to the existing personnel policy. RH noted that when he offered the position he made two exceptions to the existing policies; 1) 12 ETO days instead of 6 days and 2) health benefit start date of October 1, 2011 instead of waiting 90 days. Motion by MD to offer the modified benefits to Ron Rodjenski. Seconded by RA. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

Appointment of Zoning Administrator – Motion by DG to appoint Ron Rodjenski as town zoning administrator for a 3-year term beginning immediately. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

Appointment of Town Service Officer – Motion by RA to appoint Ron Rodjenski as town service officer through March 2012. Seconded by BJ. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

13. Minutes of August 11, 2011 – Motion by DG to approve the August 11, 2011 minutes as written. Seconded by RA. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

14. Financials – The Board reviewed financial information presented by the town treasurer.

15. Selectboard Orders

The Board reviewed and approved town orders. Motion by BJ to sign the town orders. Seconded by DG. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved. Mike Dubie abstained from signing payroll orders. DG read a letter from a resident asking for \$125 reimbursement for a damaged custom mailbox. Motion by BJ to pay \$25 towards the repair costs. Seconded by MD. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

16. Hyde Park Old Home Day

The community Circle asked if the town wanted to set up a table or participate on September 17th. Board members may attend but no town table will be set up.

17. Other Business

Discussion on 2010 Interim Zoning Vote by Selectboard – Ron Rodjenski advised that the interim zoning bylaw adopted by the Selectboard in December 2010 appears to not have been warned properly. If the planning commission wants to bring a new interim ordinance to the Selectboard, Ron will work with them and advise on procedures to conform to the notice requirement in Title 24.

Speed Study on Route 15 – The Selectboard chair signed a memo requesting that VTrans perform a speed study between Route 100 and the Johnson Town Line in response to issues at the Sterling View Road intersection.

Culvert Cleaning Service – BJ gave MD an ad for culvert cleaning.

Planning Grant FY10 - Grant funds have been requisitioned from the State to pay LCPC for their work on the 2016 Town Plan.

Sweeper Grant – DG reported that the sweeper is sitting at the dealership but grant funds need to be secured before the town pays for the sweeper. DG will work on it with Ron.

Tropical Storm Irene - DG thanked Brad Carriere for his emergency organizational expertise as he worked with other town emergency personnel during Irene. The Board will prepare a thank you letter and send it to Brad.

Budget FY13 – RH offered that it may be timely to seek a charter change to make the Delinquent Tax Collector position an in-house appointed position to increase town revenues but he noted that it requires a town charter change. Outside town auditor Glenna Pound will be finishing up the town finances compilation report for the November board meeting.

Thank you – DG thanked Kim Moulton for her extra help during the town administrator vacancy.

Town Administrator Appointment - Brian Jones expressed his concern that the new town administrator was hired without a final vote from the Selectboard. RH apologized if he expedited the process, but felt he had prior board approval. Rodjenski suggested that in the future all new town employees begin work only after a written letter of hire is signed by the Selectboard.

Motion by DG to hire Ron Rodjenski as Town Administrator. Seconded by RA. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion approved.

Town Personnel Policy – The Board wanted to see revisions to the personnel policies, including changes to the start date for health insurance and calculation of ETO. Ron, Kim and RH will work on changes for the Board to review.

18. Adjourn – MD motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by RA. Motion approved.