

HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2009

Selectboard Members Present: Scott Griswold (SG), Allen Cusson (AC), Russell Lanphear (RL), Duncan Nash (DN)

Absent: Rick Heath (RH)

Others Present: Attorney David Polow, Carolyn Jones, Beth Bailey and Town Administrator Julia Compagna.

Chair Scott Griswold called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1) VFW Drive Public Hearing –

Following a site walk with no other attendees the Chair called to order the public hearing on the taking over of VFW Drive. The Selectboard agreed that the required paving work met their specifications. RL testified on behalf of the VFW Drive landowners. Attorney David Polow reviewed all criteria for taking over the drive as a public good. AC moved and DN seconded a motion to take over the drive and to rename it VFW Road. All were in favor. RL will talk to the Road Commissioner about adding drainage ditches along the road. Attorney Polow indicated that the landowners' attorney, Angela Ross, should prepare the quitclaim deeds from the landowners to the Town. Attorney Polow will prepare a Return for signing by the Selectboard within 60 days. The Selectboard agreed the Town must be reimbursed for all expenses associated with the conveyance prior to signing.

2) Other Business: -

Green River Dam Road – A large outcrop of ledge sticks out into the road right of way. RL received a quote from Rockaway Blasting of \$1,000 for destruction. The Highway Department would be responsible for disposal of the ledge. AC moved and DN seconded a motion to approve hiring Rockaway Blasting in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. All were in favor.

Ag Lease - SG questioned whether the recent stripping of topsoil at the gravel pit should result in a reduction in the amount charged to the Rings' in the ag lease. RL stated the going rate per acre in Lamoille County is \$50 to \$75. The Selectboard agreed not to change the lease amount. SG will talk to the Rings.

Building Renovation – AC gave an update on the status of the town/village office renovation. He met with the Village Trustees who want to prorate expenses so they only spend \$17,500 on their portion of the \$44,500 project. This results in a shortage of \$4,750 in the project budget. The Village is not interested in sharing a phone system. The Village has suggested that a long-term lease should be developed. DN suggested including an airlock entryway on the upper level of the building. AC indicated they could include it with the project. SG stated the Selectboard would not go out to bid on the project as AC and RL have requested prices from contractors they feel confident can do the work. SG stated the Selectboard would not have a general contractor review or oversee the project as the Selectboard has thoroughly reviewed the plans and associated costs and do not feel they need one. The entire staff will be relocated to the lower level for an estimated three weeks during construction. The Town Administrator pointed out that the lower level's existing electrical system does not have the capacity to handle that. AC indicated he would address all issues.

Historical Committee – Carolyn Jones shared that the Historical Committee has been working on a number of building maintenance projects at the Grange Hall. Most recently, the front doors have been replaced, new sheet rock installed and woodwork re-finished. The front wall of the building is falling in. They have explored the possibility of applying for a Preservation Trust grant, but would need to meet any historic preservation specifications they required, which could drive the price of the project up significantly. They do not have any funds available at this time for a matching percentage on any grant. They have received a preliminary estimate for front wall foundation work of \$12,500. They are awaiting additional estimates. Howard Manosh has offered to donate equipment used in the foundation repair. The Committee and Selectboard agreed to work together on drafting an article for Town Meeting requesting funds for the necessary repairs. DN asked the Town Administrator to look into who owns the red house next door to the Grange Hall.

3) Personnel Issue – Executive Session

AC moved and RL seconded a motion to go into executive session on a personnel matter at 6:51 PM. By consensus the Selectboard moved out of executive session at 7:37 PM. No action taken.

RL moved and AC seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:40PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Compagna
Town Administrator