

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2014**

*All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.
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Recording info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, VT 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

Members Present: Brian Jones (BJ), Vice-Chair; Roland Boivin (RB); Pete Couture (PC) and Roger Audet (RA)
Members Absent: David Gagnier (DG), Chair
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Sign Searles; Bob Stevens; Duncan Tingle; Fran Aronovici; Emily Dearborn; Melanie Dickinson; Mike Paradis; Sheriff Marcoux; Rob Moore, LCPC; Beverly Potter; Ralph Larson; Teresa and William Farquharson (141 Hemingway); Scott Griswold; Sheriff Roger Marcoux; Jim Noyes; Green Mountain Access Television videotaped this meeting.

BJ called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Public Comment** – Modifications to the agenda were accepted. Public Comment: Duncan Tingle, President of the Hyde Park Village Improvement Association (HPVIA) provided the board with an estimate to repair the **town clock** and striker, located in the County Courthouse, with the HPVIA paying about \$900 of the \$2,000 repair cost and the town paying \$1,100. Duncan hopes to have the repair done before winter. The on-going costs are about \$200 per year to oil the clock. The Board felt it was an important piece of the village character. Motion by RB to approve \$1,100 from town funds for the repair of the clock. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Bob Stevens asked that the town perform a **Center Road speed study**. As an adjoining neighbor he sees incredibly fast vehicles and a study will help the town determine the appropriate speed. Bob noted that the posted speed limit would then be enforceable by the sheriff. Bob explained that there are walkers, some with baby strollers, as well as bicyclists that sometimes do not feel safe with the traffic speeds. Lamoille County Sheriff Department's Sheriff Roger Marcoux (LCSD) offered that his department has hired two part-time deputies to perform directed patrols, including speed patrols and neighborhood visits. The Town will work with LCSD and LCPC to review the speed issues and report back to the Selectboard in December. Bob Stevens noted that he knew the Centerville Road residents also had the same concerns since both roads are now the 50 MPH state law "default speed limit" due to the lack of a town ordinance.
2. **Review minutes:** Motion by RB to approve the 10/09/2014 minutes, as written. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Union Bank ACH Origination Agreement:** The Town Treasurer is asking for board approval of an updated ACH Agreement. Motion by PC to authorize Brian Jones to sign the Union Bank ACH Origination Agreement. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
4. **FY2016 Budget Presentations**

LIBRARY – The Lanpher Memorial Library Trustees were present. Emily Dearborn presented the current statistics, a draft budget and a flyer describing current services provided through the library. Emily described the increase as 18% with most of the increase being in payroll to respond to increased usage by residents. Emily stated that they do not foresee major changes in the future. Sign Searles explained that usage has doubled in 10 years, with customer feedback being that there is outstanding customer service provided by the current staff.

NEMS – Scott Griswold explained that receivables are way down and services are provided to individuals on the state health care system with many of those folks now under Medicaid. Medicaid reimburses for ambulance services at 30 cents on the dollar compared to private insurers. Scott said he was seeing an increase in uninsured patients and patients with high-deductible health plans where the patient can't afford the co-pays or deductible. This is the main contributing factor to the budget request with an 11.2 % increase to cover the declining revenues. Hyde Park is being asked for about

an \$8,000 increase in FU2016 even after NEMS has cut back on overtime and supervisory positions. Transport fee revenue accounts for almost \$200,000 of operational revenues resulting in \$25.85 per capita for NEMS service. Other ambulance services are at \$50 per capita or dissolving and merging with other agencies. Mike Paradis agreed that transfers do result in the NEMS ambulance being out of service, however for anticipated extended periods, Newport will send an ambulance to the NEMS area to cover. Mike Paradis stated that they are only paid when they transport, not for responding and assisting on scene. Mike noted that transport revenue remains a significant revenue source to reduce the cost to town taxpayers. Scott stated that NEMS was created 12 years ago and they are just now at the same level of operational costs as 12 years ago, about \$225,000 per year. Scott reminded everyone that state actions are pushing costs to the property tax, even if the state seems to say they want to reduce the local property tax impact. Bev Potter stated that a recent NEMS call resulted in an hour delay due to NEMS responding to a mutual aid request from Morristown. Scott explained that he was aware of the increasing service to Morristown which does appear to be more than what should be expected under mutual aid. Scott will continue to research that issue as well as response times. Mike Paradis stated that he will review the call out protocol to make sure the time used to find a crew is as efficient as possible, especially when the first tone does not produce a responder. Sheriff Marcoux said they will follow whatever call out protocol NEMS requests.

LCSD – Sheriff Roger Marcoux presented the FY2016 communication budget with a 2.6% increase and the patrol budget with a 2.86% increase. Roger reported that the new detective is producing good results and closing pending cases. Roger explained that the directed patrols resonate with the residents and they will be able to keep directed patrols within the existing patrol contract services. The Hyde Park patrol budget is increased by \$9,276 for a total town share of \$343,212 of the total LCSD patrol budget of \$938,311. Roger expressed concern for the continuing turnover of deputies to other towns, partly based on the 20-year retirement in other area police departments versus the 30-year minimum for retirement in the Sheriff's Department. Roger felt that going to 20-years would not work the best for LCSD since he feels it takes time to learn the needs of the community. The LCSD communications net budget (after Barre Town and Franklin County revenues) is \$854,367 with Hyde Park's share being \$69,975 (about 8.19% of the total net cost). Roger noted that the Davis Hill Tower is now up and the nearby Manosh Tower was taken down per the PSB Certificate of Public Good. The CPG for the Harvey Tower on Route 100 is now approved to serve North Hyde Park.

5. **Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft** – Rob Moore from Lamoille County Planning Commission provided an overview of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the drafting process. Rob explained that the town may be able to increase its state grant share if it adopted four plans/policies: Hazard Mitigation Plan, Local Emergency Operations Plan, the 2013 State Road and Bridge Standards and the NFIP flood bylaws. Rob will be seeking comments in the near future to work towards Plan adoption in about six months.
6. **FY2016 Budget Presentations – HIGHWAY** – Ron presented the 3-year highway budget noting the increases in winter salt and no other significant line increases. Ron noted that the capital budget amount for new trucks was reduced by \$40,000 in the current budget to help with reducing the tax rate increase, and the board will need to consider whether to leave the current level or refund to the needed level of about \$100,000 in FY2016. Regarding the increase in the cost of winter salt and potential limited winter season supply, the Board would like to see the highway crew do what they got to do and we'll see how salt supply requirements and supply work out, but not to significantly reduce what residents have expected for winter maintenance from prior years.
7. **Town Road Policy - 2013 State Road and Bridge Standards.** Motion by RB to adopt the 2014 Town Road Policy which incorporates the 2013 State Road and Bridge Standards. Seconded by RA. Discussion: Ron noted that this is one of the four documents Rob Moore spoke of earlier tonight. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
8. **Town Culvert Replacement Policy** – Motion by RB to adopt the Driveway Culvert Policy. Seconded by PC. Discussion: Ron noted that the one change requested in October has been made regarding paved driveways and other homeowner improvements that the town will not replace during a culvert replacement project. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
9. **Town Animal Control Ordinance** – The Board agreed to send the current draft to the Selectboards of Wolcott and Johnson for comment. Ron expects comments back in 60 days or so.

10. **Short Term Disability** – Ron reported that the base level policy is not \$95/mo as previously presented by VLCT, but is actually \$124/mo due to state mandate that policies cover at least 26 weeks. Motion by RA to approve the base plan for 26 weeks at \$124 per month. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
11. **Highway Access Permit** – Brian Jones at 258 Whitaker Road – Motion by RB to approve the access permit #2014-059. Seconded by RA. 3 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (BJ) motion passed.
12. **Grand List Errors and Omissions** – Motion by PC to approve the E&O for one name change: Mink Properties LLC. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
13. **Reports:** The Board reviewed the ‘Town Project List’ ; ‘Grants Watch’ report & LCSD Police Incident Report
14. **Other Business:**
 - i. Road Maintenance – Update on Private Road and Town Road Issues – “Draft Steps” under the 2012 Road Acceptance Policy was reviewed. Bev Potter stated that Peg Smith, of Battle Row Associates, is the current owner of the Mason Road strip of land and they are the ones to transfer the land to the town, not Bill Smith. Brian Jones stated that based on the recollection of Ken Harvey, the Town had agreed to accept the road with conditions but those conditions were not met. Ken Harvey’s recent letter regarding Mason Road stated that the developer was responsible for all costs. Ron suggested that title insurance might be a way to resolve the issues with the road and Ralph Larson concurred. Bev Potter stated that her deed stated that the road was a public road when it is private. Brian Jones stated that it wasn’t the town’s fault, nor the landowners but it was the developers for not following through with the town’s conditions to accept the road as a public road. The Board would like to seek legal counsel on how to proceed next and report that advice to the Selectboard.
 - ii. Webster Road – Ralph Larson was present to review his request that the Town relocate a short section of the northerly end of the Class 4 town highway #38 (Webster Road) so that it is out of a pond/wetland area. Andy Lague’s driveway would become the new town highway. Ralph stated that he would like the town to pay up to \$500 for his costs to survey the relocated town highway ROW which would be 50 feet in width and 120 feet in length. He asked that the town also pay up to \$300 for Ralph’s attorney costs. Brian stated that the Board should walk the right-of-way. Ralph stated that it is a good time to get the road in a good location for public use from the Grimes Road noting that he was planning on a two lot subdivision of his remaining 100 acres. Ralph noted that the southerly portion of Webster Road is also impassable, so through traffic to Route 100 would not be possible after relocation of the north end. The Board will set up a site visit to understand the proposal and then will discuss again at the December board meeting.
15. **Town Orders:** Motion by RA to approve the town orders. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
16. **Other Business:**
 - i. GIS System – Ron updated the Board on the need for a new mapping system because the current GIS tax mapping consultant is closing their business. More information will be forthcoming. Ron asked that the Board members think about the extent of town information that should be available through the town website, such as assessment information.
 - ii. Reminders – December 10th Joint Meeting with Village Trustees at 6:00 p.m.
 - iii. Purchase Order #0031 — Motion by PC to approve PO #31 for six road grader tires at a cost of \$11,094. Seconded by RB. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
 - iv. Letter of Hire; Seasonal Highway Operator – Ron noted that Dave Gagnier was wondering about using the winter season part-time help’s salary to contract out small

street plowing. RB felt it was too late to change what was done last year and contracting can create its own problems. Motion by RB to approve the letter of hire for Mark French for the 2014-2016 winter plowing position per the terms in his letter of hire. Seconded by PC. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- v. MSHA - Report on Mine Safety Inspection November 5th. No violations reported at the gravel pit, town garage or the town office files.
- vi. New Zoning – Unified Code Adoption Process – The planning commission is preparing the final draft and possibly will present the draft to the DRB on Dec 2.
- vii. County Court Budget – Roger reported that he attended the first budget meeting, and the draft increases the town's cost by \$10,000. A second budget meeting is Dec 8th.
- viii. Employee Annual Gifts – The Board agreed to provide the same gifts as last year.

17. **Adjourn** - Motion by RA to adjourn. Seconded by RB. So voted at 9:07 p.m.