

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 14, 2016**

*All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.  
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Members Present: David Gagnier, Chair; Brian Jones, Vice-Chair; Roland Boivin; Pete Couture and Roger Audet  
Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Town Clerk & Treasurer Kim Moulton; Bev Potter; Theresa and Twig Farquharson; Sign Searles; Matt Pich-Maxon; David Ring; Jennifer Manna; Deanna Judkins; Eric Williams; Jim Fontaine; Ryan Nolan; Mark Lehouillier; Norm Andrews; GMATV videotaped this meeting.

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

1. **Welcome**, changes to the agenda, if any, & public comment: Approved changes to agenda: add VAST request to use town highways, Webster Road relocation survey and Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **NEMS Response time** – Roger Audet reported that on the night that Bev Potter needed an ambulance, NEMS was called out to cover a Morrystown call which resulted in Cambridge Rescue responding. Due to the distance to Hyde Park, the response time was about 40 minutes. Roger stated that he found out that Morrisville does have some gaps in their schedule that NEMS is now filling and in his opinion, gap coverage is not the purpose of mutual aid. Scott Griswold noted that NEMS has been bringing this issue up for 5 years and the gaps continue to exist. Dave Gagnier asked if the costs to Hyde Park to cover Morrystown could reduce our taxpayers costs for NEMS. Scott stated that he is trying to set up a district #4 mutual aid meeting to continue this discussion. Scott noted that the coverage gaps exists more than two times per week and regularly covering another town does increase the risk of delayed response to NEMS residents. To increase the available NEMS crews, Scott stated that NEMS is increasing on-call pay to attract interest in signing up for on-call shifts and it appears to be working. Scott noted that a year ago, Morrystown was paying for the coverage of gaps but has since stopped the payments. Scott stated that NEMS must respond if available due to their state license requirements. Roland would like to know if there are coverage gaps how it can be called mutual aid, asking why Morrystown isn't solving that issue to stop putting our town at risk. Scott stated that regionalization could solve the problem using existing resources at the county level. Scott will send the District #4 meeting information to the board. Roger advised that there are only three active members on the FAST Squad and it is hard to have them respond to all calls. Dave Gagnier suggested that all NEMS towns should be encouraged to attend the District #4 meeting. Scott stated that more money helps but how far can one agency be expected to go. Dave Gagnier stated that the common denominator in this situation appears to be Morrystown. Scott noted that it is a demanding industry and it is hard, and regionalization is the most efficient answer for service and fiscal reasons.
4. **Delinquent Tax Collector Vacancy** – Dave turned this agenda item over to Brian Jones as Dave might be interested in this position. Town Clerk and Town Treasurer Kim Moulton stated that, on average, Marvin spends 20 hours per week on DTC job duties, with the amount varying depending on the time of the year. Kim stated that the town clerk's office is doing some of that work so it is more like 5 hours a week once the initial transition into the town office is completed. Kim noted that the town clerk's office has the same software system to keep a second set of delinquent tax information. Kim relayed the opinion of the VLCT attorney that until the vacancy is filled, there is no legal authority to deposit payments, so the town clerk's office is just holding payments for now in the town vault. Kim noted that prior Selectboards have looked at bringing the delinquent tax collection in-house to streamline the process with only one set of books and with an appointed collector having an annual

salary set by the Selectboard. Having delinquent taxes paid directly to the town clerk's office allows any excess delinquent penalties to reduce taxes. Kim reported that the average annual amount of delinquent tax penalty, previously paid to the elected delinquent tax collector, has been about \$16,000. Motion by Pete to appoint Kim Moulton to Delinquent Tax Collector until Town Meeting. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Dave G), motion passed.

5. **2016 Town Meeting Warning & FY2017 Budget, draft 1/14/2017** - Deanna Judkins, from the Recreation Committee, stated that the committee is hoping to increase revenues from facility rentals in the near future now that the two pavilions are completed. Deanna stated that it has always been a goal of the committee to see that the ballfields expenses were covered by donations and rental fees. Deanna stated that the committee had no changes to the proposed budget. Ron reviewed the 1/14/2016 projected municipal tax rate and budget which results in an estimated 3.2% tax rate increase. Ron noted that the Historic Sites Committee is looking at improvements to the North Hyde Park Grange Hall with the current repair budget proposed to increase from \$1,500 to \$3,500 for roof, window and chimney repairs. Eric Williams asked how the town gets reimbursed for public properties once they transfer from private to public ownership. Deanna noted that 60 parcels are non-taxable and the state pays some PILOT funds to held towns that have public tax exempt properties. Eric asked if other towns in the patrol contract would pay for the lost taxes when the Sheriff bought the Ring parcel. Norm Andrews reviewed the county tax structure. The Board will review the warning and budget one more time at the end of January before approving the documents for publishing in the annual report and going to the voters for consideration.
6. **Mason Road & Hemingway Road - Acceptance Discussion.** The Board reviewed the December 15, 2015 memo from Paul Gillies reviewing the acceptance process with the next steps being to hold a hearing to lay out the road as official public highways. Dave suggested that to move this issue along, and due to the minimal costs to complete the process, the town should hire a surveyor to mark the existing 50-foot ROW based on the recorded survey and then start the hearing process. David Ring offered to visit the site and see what it would cost to mark out the edges of the recorded 50-foot ROW. Once marked, the Selectboard could begin the acceptance process with notice to all parties with an interest in Mason and Hemingway Roads.
7. **Webster Road** – Preliminary survey submitted by Ralph Larson showing the relocation of a portion of Webster Road that is currently located under a pond near the Lague home. The Board agreed that having a curve added to the draft survey, near the drive to Lague, would be needed. Ron will ask Ralph to continue his work on preparing the road relocation survey. Ron noted that the relocation process will be very similar to the Mason and Hemingway Road acceptance process.
8. **Policy Amendment** – Pete reviewed a draft one page policy amendment addressing minimum road widths. The Board discussed when widening would be required and who would pay the costs. Dave stated that existing town roads met the road standards at one time and current owners of vacant lots should not be required to pay to upgrade the road. Jim Fontaine noted that this policy draft applies to both new houses on vacant lots and new subdivisions. Mark Lehouillier offered that the town plow truck is 13-feet wide and they can't stay in their own lane if the road is only 18-feet wide, and some roads were not safe at that narrow width, such as Diggins Road with hills and deep ditches. Dave felt that the back roads didn't need to meet specs and did not need to be upgraded as the traffic is low thus town plowing is safer than on more traveled roads. Jim Fontaine has been watching the policy process and is only hoping to have consistent requirements for all landowners. Sigh mentioned that Bornemann Road was wider at one time. Ron will revise the proposed policy on width to only require roads serving new subdivisions to be required to upgrade the access to the 18-foot width.

**John Deere Backhoe Replacement** – Brian noted that the 2006 backhoe is on the capital plan list for replacement after July 1, 2016. Mark Lehouillier noted that expensive repairs are likely before July. Dave asked about a wheeled excavator and Brian felt that renting one, if needed, for a month or so, was a better option. Ryan asked about a lease to own option for the backhoe to acquire it earlier than July and Brian stated that the board could consider that with more information. Pete felt that the low amount of hours and 10-year age of the current backhoe could bring a good trade value. Brian asked if the highway crew could get three bids with the trade value to review at the board's next

meeting. Pete suggested CAT, John Deere and Case vendors. Mark said he would relay the request to Kenny.

**Speed limit reduction** request on VT15/100 (Village) and VT100 (NHP) – Aaron McGee sent an email for a NHP speed study, dated 1/14/2016 and Matt Pich-Maxon asked the same for VT15 near Hope Grows Farm. Pich-Maxon stated that the amount of accidents between the two roundabouts was significant and school age kids and families visit the farm so they think it would be good to be proactive now as traffic continues to increase in this corridor. Dave Gagnier noted that the new Chevrolet Dealer will also add some traffic to this area. Motion by Brian to authorize Dave Gagnier to send a letter to the state seeking a speed study on both locations. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

**Mailbox repair cost request** – Trombley Hill Road – The Board reviewed a request from Elaine Jacovini for reimbursement for \$70 in repairs to her mailbox. The Board denied the request as it was determined the town did not directly strike the mailbox. Mark suggested that the town should set a policy of paying up to \$50 for reimbursement of mailboxes if struck by a town plow and nothing if not struck directly by the town plow.

**Road Salt** – Mark Lehouillier suggested that he is now working with the other members of the highway crew to check the temperature of the road surface and the air to help determine the amount of salt to apply, and the new computerized salt spinners are appearing to save the town significant funds although it is still early. Ryan agreed that controlling the amount of salt spread per mile, which is also controlled by the speed of the trucks, is resulting in less salt use. Mark stated that the slat control equipment on Mike's new plow truck, which cost a little under \$2,000, could pay for itself this winter. Dave thanked Mark for bringing this cost-saving measure to the board's attention. Mark also suggested that one truck should be set up with a salt water mix to help further reduce winter maintenance costs.

9. **Court Update – Appeal of Trailhead Facility** - David Ring explained that the proposed trailhead parking is on his 30' x 50' land off Depot St Extension and someone could use that area for a summer camper. Ron explained that the parking lot proposed to the DRB does overlap the claimed 30' x 50' parcel. Dave Gagnier asked what economic value the property would have as it would benefit the state mostly for rail trail parking and acquiring it would increase the number of non-taxable parcels from 60 to 61 parcels. David Ring noted that the current sale price is now \$6,000 and if the town would buy it the appeal and claimed parcel matter would go away. Dave Gagnier noted he does not see any value to owning the parcel and the state is continuing to say it is not a parcel. Ron noted that the costs to complete a survey and prove the lot exists could be \$10,000 due to the amount of work in the field and the long history of the lot, and David Ring agreed it would be a lot of work. Dave Gagnier asked for any documentation that could prove that the parcel exists and Dave Ring stated that it is in the paperwork he filed with his appeal of the DRB decision. Ron stated the research has been done by Mr. Ring but no one has yet, including David Ring, been willing to do the work needed produce a recordable survey plat. Dave Gagnier asked if Mr. Ring would donate it and the town could then name the trailhead structure after his Dad, Allie Ring. David said he was given the land and has decided to sell it as part of his inheritance. Dave G will contact the town attorney prior to the status hearing on February 1<sup>st</sup> for more information. Eric Williams suggested that community could be asked to see if anyone else wanted to buy the land and then donate it to the state or town with their name on the trailhead, but no one at the meeting committed to reaching out to the community. **Maynard Road Damage** – Ron reported that Tyler has 20 days to respond to the complaint for reimbursement of about \$3,200 in town costs from the repair of Diggins Road, and if no response, the town will petition the court for a final judgment.
10. **Review minutes:** Motion by Roland to approve the minutes of December 10, 2015 minutes, with the change that Dave G called the meeting to order not Brian. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
11. **Highway Ordinance Discussion** – The Board reviewed town attorney Paul Gillies memo dated January 14, 2016 regarding a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for the control of highway rights-of-way within the Village of Hyde Park. The Board would like to meet with Sheriff Marcoux and the full Board of Trustees to work on the MOU and Ron will get some possible dates set up.

12. **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Brian to approve the town orders. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

13. **Other Business**

- i. **Strong Communities**, Better Communities Grant; Route 15 Corridor and Village Gateway Study. The Village is preparing a grant application that is due tomorrow. Motion by Brian to not approve the letter of support for Village grant application. Seconded by Roger. Discussion: Brian said too many highway studies are going on. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- ii. **Johnson St Extension Sidewalk** – The Village has asked that an article be presented to voters at town meeting for \$90,000 to complete the Johnson St Extension sidewalk. The Selectboard wanted to discuss the use of sidewalk reserve fund with the Village Trustees before approving the use of reserve funds, or funding requests. The Board asked that a joint meeting be set up to include a highway ordinance discussion and sidewalk funding. Brian noted that some village sidewalks needed repair. Dave G suggested that the Board continue to meet with the Trustees on a quarterly basis to improve communications.
- iii. **Request by VAST** to use town highways for snowmobiles along the north end of Morey Hill Road, Garfield Road and to Bruce Shields house and then into Eden. Sigh Searles stated that his concern, as traveler of that route, is that the VAST groomer flattens the town road snow banks back into the road, narrowing the road by 4 or 5 feet. Motion by Roger to approve the use of the town highways but not to push snow into the road. Seconded by Pete. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed
- iv. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** – The Board agreed to inform the regional planning staff that the town is still interested in the same food center project that was recommended in the last CEDS planning process.
- v. **Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage** – No changes so the Board signed the certificate for return to the State.
- vi. **Fairpoint** – Motion by Roger to sign the petition and access permit #2016-001 for one pole on Grimes Road and three poles on Webster Road. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- vii. **Executive Session** – Motion by Brian to move into executive session personnel matters. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- viii. **Employee Recognition** – Motion by Brian to give Kim Moulton, effective February 1, 2016, an annual \$1,250 base increase to her town clerk salary & an annual \$1,250 base increase to her town treasurer salary for her achieving Certified Vermont Clerk designation and completing educational requirements for Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, with the same base amounts increased for both positions on Feb 1, 2017 when she is expected to have received her Vermont Certified Treasurer designation. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- ix. **School Renovation Project** - Brian Jones reported that he went to the recent elementary school meeting and found the new plans to be very well-thought out compared to prior versions. The school board is possibly going back to the voters in May 2016 with an \$8-\$10 Million school renovation bond.
- x. **Fire Department** – Roland reported that Brad Carriere is the new Assistant Fire Chief for the Hyde Park Fire Department.
- xi. **Thank you** – Dave Gagnier thanked Pete Couture for his three years on the board as Pete has decided to not run again and will not be attending any more Selectboard meetings or Town Meeting as he will be traveling.

14. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn. Seconded by Pete. So voted at 9:54 p.m.