

**HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 27, 2016**

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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 & Town Treasurer Kim Moulton; Bernie Chenette, for McMahan Chevy; and GMATV videotaped this meeting.

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David Gagnier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. **Welcome**, changes to the agenda, if any, no changes made.
2. **Public Comment** – Bernie Chenette, Jr., PE was present to ask the Selectboard for a letter of support in regard to the McMahan Chevy dealership's proposal for pedestrian path to connect that project to East Main Street. Bernie reviewed the plans and noted that the amount of work in the town highway right-of-way would be determined after final survey work was completed. The project will have a bike rack and path between two stormwater ponds on the north side of the parcel. VTrans has issued preliminary approval for the use of the state Route 15/100 right-of-way if the town and village were ok with the proposal. Any work inside the town highway right-of-way would need a 19 VSA 1111 permit from the Selectboard. Bernie noted that the town's support would be added to their Act 250 permit application materials. Motion by Roger to approve the letter of support for the conceptual plan to build a path to connect with East Main Street. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Fiscal 2016-2017 Proposed Budget and Town Meeting Warning** – Ron reported that one change occurred to the town office supply line to cover the increased costs of the general election this fall, increasing by \$1,000 to \$8,000. Town Clerk Kim Moulton explained that the cost to update the ballot tabulators is partial paid by the State of Vermont \$500 per election, but the remaining \$800 to \$1,200 falls to the taxpayers. Ron noted that two discussion items were deleted from the Jan 14<sup>th</sup> budget, line striping of Class 3 roads and roadside cutting, as there was no final amount set by the board. Pete estimated the cost of both to be about \$7,000 each, but suggested the town add \$7,000 for roadside cutting and brush removal, even if only for a pilot year to see how it works out with the highway crew. Ron suggested developing a plan first, to identify the sections that would be worked on by contractors and the sections that the highway crew can maintain without using these new funds. The Board agreed to add brush cutting but not line striping. Motion by Pete to approve the town budget amount of \$2,285,700 for FY2017. Seconded Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Kim noted that the town has open positions on the town ballot as petitions were not filed by this Monday's deadline: Selectboard for a 3-year term, HPES School Director for a 2-year term and Union School Director for a 3-year term. If a write-in candidate is not elected with 20 or more votes, then the board's would make their respective appointments until the next Town Meeting. Pete read an email from Library Director, Emily Dearborn, seeking Selectboard consideration to increase the town general government budget by \$1,200 to be able to offer employee's working 32-40 hours per week dental, disability and life insurance. The Board agreed to discuss in executive session later in the meeting.
4. **NEMS Response time** – Roger reported on a meeting with Northern Emergency Medical Services (NEMS) that was held last night with other ambulance services and officials. Stowe and Morristown are adding substantial funding requests to their respective town budgets to increase paid ambulance staff to reduce the amount of time that those agencies lack shift coverage. Roger noted that shift coverage in those towns is impacting the coverage to the five NEMS towns as NEMS is covering shifts in Morristown. Roger noted that all agencies are having difficulty in finding volunteers so moving to paid services is the trend. Brian noted that NEMS information shows 130 calls to Morristown by NEMS in 2015 that should be covered by Morristown Rescue. Dave stated that having late calls to

NEMS from Morristown for shift coverage should not continue as this makes it even more difficult to provide ambulance coverage. Roland stated that shift coverage is not mutual aid and needs to end. Roger noted that more and more calls come in as 911 calls, when people could probably drive themselves. Roger stated that Copley hospital calls NEMS for transports but provides no funding to the ambulance service. Copley has agreed to better manage the reasons for and timing of transport requests to reduce any burden on NEMS. Roger summarized the NEMS meeting by saying everyone in the county recognizes the issue, are working on new funding sources to improve coverage but most likely improvements won't be seen until the new funding is available, which might be July 1, 2016.

5. **Executive Session** – Motion by Brian to move into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. The Board came out of executive session and asked that Ron relay the Board's feelings to the library trustees that any employee benefit changes would only be considered after the current town personnel policy is reviewed. The Board will not add any funding for increasing benefits to the proposed FY2017 town budget.
6. **THANK YOU** – Dave expressed appreciation to Pete Couture for his time on the Selectboard stating that he hated to see him go and thanked him for bringing his expertise to the table.
7. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn. Seconded by Pete. So voted at 9:48 a.m.