

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2011**

Selectboard: Scott Griswold, Russell Lanphear, James "Rick" Heath, Allen Cusson and David Gagnier

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Kimberly J. Moulton

Town Moderator: Graham Govoni

Moderator Graham Govoni called the 2010 Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Graham Govoni asked for non-registered voters to identify themselves. Those identified were advised that they needed the permission of the assembly to speak and he let them know they were unable to vote. Graham Govoni stated that any items not duly warned would need to be addressed under "Other Business" at the end of the meeting. He also noted that to call a question, you must first be recognized by the moderator. He asked that all comments be directed to the Moderator and not each other.

Graham Govoni read the preamble to the Warning, and commenced with the business at hand.

Article 1. To elect Town and School District Officers as required by 17 V.S.A. – 2646, to wit:

Officers elected by Australian Ballot:

Selectboard Member (term of two years) – Brian A. Jones
Selectboard Member (term of three years) – David Gagnier
Lister (term of one year) – Julie I. Rohleder
Lister (term of two years) – Kara Lanphear Gates
School Director (term of two years) – Anne M. Vear
School Director (term of three years) – Daniel Regan
Lamoille Union District # 18 School Director (term of three years) – Beth Bailey
Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District (term of two years) – Harold Bailey

Article 2. To elect a Moderator by ballot for the ensuing year. Scott Griswold conducted the meeting for Article 2.

Moved and seconded to place the name of Graham Govoni into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and for the clerk to cast one ballot for Graham Govoni to be Moderator for the ensuing year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 3. To elect all remaining Town Officers as required by law for the year(s) ensuing.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year (By Ballot)

Moved and seconded to place the name of Marvin Locke into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Marvin Locke to serve as Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Two (2) Town and Grand Jurors for a term of one year each

Moved and seconded to place the names of Ed French and James Mahoney into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Ed French and James Mahoney to serve as Town and Grand Jurors for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Agent for a term of one year

Moved and seconded to place the name of Ed French into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Ed French to serve as Town Agent for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of one year - Amended by consensus to:
Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years

One (1) Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years

Moved and seconded to place the name of Robert Foss into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Robert Foss to serve as Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for a term of five years - Amended by consensus to:

One (1) Library Trustee for a term of five years, and

One (1) Library Trustee for the remainder of a five year term to expire 2014 due to the death of Connie Page

One (1) Library Trustee for a term of five years

Moved and seconded to place the name of Melanie Dickinson into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Melanie Dickinson to serve as Library Trustee for a term of five years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

One (1) Library Trustee for the remainder of a five year term to expire 2014

Moved and seconded to place the name of Ken Geiersbach into nomination.

Moved and seconded to place the name of Fran Aronovici into nomination.

Voice vote too close to call. Moderator called for hands. Voted by hand to elect Fran Aronovici as Library Trustee for the remainder of a five year term to expire 2014.

Article 4. To hear the reports of the Town Officers for the past year and to take action thereon.

Selectboard Report

Scott Griswold presented the Selectboard report. The Logo Contest was discussed. Scott thanked all the participants for their efforts. He recognized and thanked Dawn Slayton, Caleb Magoon and Michael Patch for participating on the judging panel for the contest. Scott discussed the recent exterior renovations to the municipal office building and some renovations that the Selectboard hopes to accomplish with the lower level in the building (see article 9). He noted that the Town is interested in setting up a website committee and asked for volunteers to assist in updating and maintaining the website. Scott noted an upcoming project at the corner of Garfield Rd and the Green River Dam Rd. The cost of the project is being funded by a 100% federal grant administered by the state. The accountant for the town completed an annual compilation in October and a copy of the report is on file at the Town Clerk's office. Scott noted that the town is hoping to re-establish a fifth full time highway position with the approval of this budget.

Development Review Board

Graham Govoni presented the DRB report. The DRB has been busy this past year. Graham noted that the new Zoning Administrator has been helping to add structure to the board and board meetings. Graham thanked all the DRB members for their hard work.

Planning Commission

Vicki Emerson presented the Planning Commission report. The Planning Commission is in the process of rewriting the Town Plan. The Lamoille County Planning Commission is working with the Planning Commission on this project. The Planning Commission is also assisting the Village of Hyde Park rewriting their Village Plan.

Listers

Julie Rohleder presented the Listers report. Julie noted that there are changes to the homestead laws and homestead filing requirements. These changes are noted in the Listers Report on page 61-62 of the Town Report.

Lanpher Library

Emily Dearborn presented the Lanpher Library Trustees report. Emily discussed increased patronage and how they plan to use increased funding by expanding hours to the library.

Historical Society

Maggie Stewart will address this during article 6

Recreation Committee

Deanna Judkins presented the Recreation Committee report. Deanna noted there was \$36,295.29 in the recreation checking account. She noted that the family of All-Star Mackenzie Pratt asked that donations be made to the Recreation Committee in Mackenzie's honor. These donations total \$7,777.00. Deanna thanked the family and the community for their generosity. Deanna briefly discussed the construction going on at the ball fields and noted that the money for the projects has come from grants and donations.

Cemetery Commissioners

Judy Lanphear presented the Cemetery Commissioners report. She noted their report is in the Town Report. She also noted that this year, they asked for an increase of \$200 for the first time in a long while.

Community Circle

Marilyn Zophar and Carolyn Smiles presented the Community Circle report. This group supports four events per year: Think Spring – Puppets & Plants which will be held March 19, 2011 from 11am to 1:30 at the HPES gym, the Jedediah Hyde Ice Cream Social which will be held July 18th on the courthouse lawn, Hyde Park Home Day which will be held in September and the Hyde Park Lighting Ceremony on December 2, 2011. They are always looking for new members and volunteers.

Motion made and seconded to accept the reports of the Town Officers for the past year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 5. Shall the Town pay its members of the Selectboard for the year ensuing, and if so, determine the amount.

Motion made and seconded to pay the members of the Selectboard \$750.00 each for the ensuing year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 6. Shall the Town authorize an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for repairs to the foundation of the North Hyde Park Grange Hall.

Motion made and seconded to authorize an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for repairs to the foundation of the North Hyde Park Grange Hall.

Maggie Stewart briefly explained that the work to be done is updating the bathrooms, the top of the porch, adding a fire escape upstairs on the right side of the building. If there is money left over, they would like to build a "safe room" that would be locked and have an alarm. This "safe room" would house historical items that have been donated to the town. There is not currently a safe place for these items.

Question from the assembly - What the Grange Hall is used for? Maggie Stewart indicated that the annual "Old Timers Night" is held in the building. She also noted that the Historical Society is willing to rent out the building for events. Since the building is owned by the town, there can be no alcohol served or on site.

Question from Mark Roberts – What could the Grange Hall be used for? Scott Griswold stated he would like to see the Historical Society turn the Grange Hall into a museum but the use of the building is really up to the community and that is something that needs to be discussed over time.

Question from Enid Rosenblum – Have grants been applied for? Maggie was unable to answer this question as she has not been at meetings for a little while.

Question from Steve Morse – What is the total cost of all renovations and is there a cap? No one was available to answer the question.

Voice vote too close to call. Moderator called for hands. The “No’s” have it and the motion failed.

Article 7. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to pay off the renovation note, with interest, using the surplus funds from the 2009/2010 fiscal year?

Motion made and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to payoff the renovation note, with interest, using the surplus funds from the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 8. Shall the Town authorize an amount not to exceed \$3,000 to the North Hyde Park Cemetery Commission for repairs to the North Hyde Park Cemetery?

Motion made and seconded to authorize an amount not to exceed \$3,000 to the North Hyde Park Cemetery Commission for repairs to the North Hyde Park Cemetery.

Jim Heath spoke on behalf of the North Hyde Park Cemetery Commission. He noted there are a number of headstones in need of repair. The commission has a quote of \$7,500 to repair the headstones. The commission has \$4,500 and is looking for town support for the additional \$3,000 to fund the project.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 9. Shall the Town authorize an amount not to exceed \$21,500 from anticipated surplus funds in the 2010/2011 budget for renovations to the lower level of the Town Clerk’s Office?

Motion made and seconded to authorize an amount not to exceed \$21,500 from anticipated surplus funds in the 2010/2011 budget for renovations to the lower level of the Town Clerk’s Office.

Scott Griswold explained what is to be done with this money. The lower level of the municipal building needs to have the electrical wiring updated and the paneling removed as the paneling does not meet fire code. There will be a suspended ceiling to allow for heating and cooling ductwork, additional closet space, and flooring to be installed.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$29,386.00 for the following purposes:

- \$ 1,000 Hyde Park Baseball / Softball Association
- 8,541 Lamoille Home Health & Hospice
- 650 Lamoille Area Adult Day Care Center, "Out & About"
- 710 Central Vermont Adult Basic Education
- 300 Central Vermont Community Action Council
- 1,000 Clarina Howard Nichols Center
- 1,500 Lamoille Family Center
- 900 Lamoille County Court Diversion
- 1,500 Central Vermont Council on Aging
- 225 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- 1,705 Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County
- 500 North Country Animal League
- 300 Lamoille Housing Partnership
- 3,350 Rural Community Transportation (RCT)
- 1,880 Lamoille County Planning Commission
- 2,000 Lamoille Economic Development Corporation
- 75 Northern VT Resource Conservation & Development
- 1000 Lamoille County Food Share
- 250 Northern VT Chapter of American Red Cross
- 2,000 Hyde Park Elementary School After School Program

Motion made and seconded to move the article.

Question from Steve Morse: What is the \$2,000 to the Hyde Park Elementary School for? Kalee Roberts indicated that the school applies for an annual grant to help fund the after school program. This grant requires a match from the town in order to qualify. Kalee wasn't sure if the school would get a reduced grant amount or no grant money at all if this \$2,000 was not approved.

Question from Kalee Roberts: If the voters wanted to stop sending money to one or more of the listed organizations, how would that be done? Graham Govoni noted that there would be a note to amend the article and then a vote would be taken on the amended article.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 11. Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$200 to be utilized for prevention programs to be administered by the Lamoille Prevention Campaign?

Motion made and seconded to appropriate a sum of \$200 to be utilized for prevention programs to be administered by the Lamoille Prevention Campaign.

Tim Yarrow spoke on behalf of the Lamoille Prevention Campaign. The Lamoille Prevention Campaign is federally funded. The objective of the organization is to

address issues involving alcohol and drugs starting with young children up to and including working with adults. This organization helps people get help.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 12. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts in anticipation of the collection of taxes?

Motion made and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts in anticipation of the collection of taxes.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 13. Shall the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012?

Motion made and seconded to vote a budget of \$1,944,991 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 and of said amount, \$1,574,012 to be raised by property taxes.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to pay its real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four equal installments; with delinquent taxes and assessments have charged against them an eight percent (8%) penalty after the fourth installment and interest charges of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months; and thereafter, one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax? Such interest shall be imposed on a fraction of a month as if it were an entire month. (32 V.S.A § 5136) Payments are due in the hands of the Treasurer by 4:00 P.M. on the due dates. Only official U.S.P.S. cancellation marks will be accepted as postmarked mail. (32 V.S.A. § 4773)

First installment to be paid on or before August 31, 2011

Second installment to be paid on or before November 15, 2011

Third installment to be paid on or before February 15, 2012

Fourth installment to be paid on or before May 15, 2012

Motion made and seconded to approve the article as stated.

Question from the assembly: Why are taxes paid in four installments instead of three installments? Scott Griswold stated that the four installments are easier for taxpayers to budget and pay.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 15. To do any other business that may properly be brought before said meeting.

The moderator reminded the assembly that no action can be taken in "other business" as it is not properly warned.

Mark Gilbertson encouraged people to use the Cricket Hill Trails. He thanked the volunteers that help to maintain the trails for the public.

Tim Yarrow thanked the Selectboard for all their hard work and effort as board members. Specifically addressing Russell Lanphear, Allen Cusson and Scott Griswold, he asked for resignations in light of the recent sexual harassment and hostile work environment allegations. There was no response from the Selectboard. Tim Yarrow then moved for a no confidence vote to be voted by paper. Graham Govoni reminded the voters that the vote will be non-binding. A "yes" vote would signify no confidence in the Selectboard and a "no" vote would signify approval of the Selectboard. There was clarification that the no confidence was not for the whole Selectboard but only for Russell Lanphear, Allen Cusson and Scott Griswold. The vote was 145 no confidence, 40 yes confidence, 2 blanks and 1 spoiled. Other members of the community spoke on this issue, some reading letters speaking of their pride in their community and the Town of Hyde Park and their disappointment in light of the allegations. Some members asked for resignations of Allen Cusson and Scott Griswold. Questions were asked as to the cost to the town and ideas given for required sexual harassment training for employees, elected officials and appointed officers of the town. Jim Heath spoke on the behalf of the Selectboard stating that it was unfortunate that this has happened and it is a difficult position for the Town and Selectboard to be in. The cost to the town was a \$500 deductible paid to VLCT and the \$100,000 settlement was paid by liability insurance with VLCT. Jim noted that sexual harassment training will be looked into as soon as possible.

Maggie Stewart wanted to comment that she was sorry that the North Hyde Park Grange article did not pass. History is important and needs to be preserved.

Graham Govoni thanked Daniel for running the wireless microphone. He also thanked the Lamoille County Sheriff for providing an officer today.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Hyde Park Annual Town Meeting at 2:25pm. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

Graham Govoni, Moderator

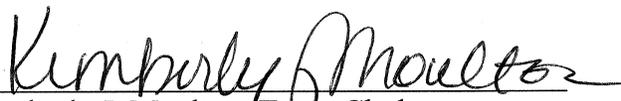
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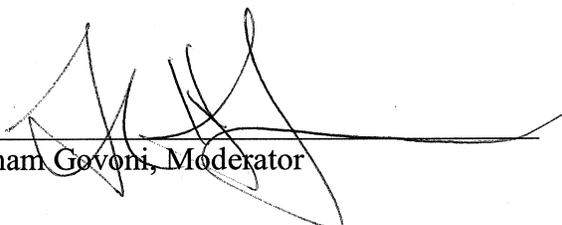
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Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk



Graham Govoni, Moderator