

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2010**

Selectboard: Scott Griswold, Russell Lanphear, James “Rick” Heath and Allen Cusson

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Kimberly J. Moulton

Town Moderator: Graham Govoni

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. He noted that to call a question, you must first be recognized by the moderator.

Moderator Graham Govoni called the 2010 Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., 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 for a term of two years – James “Rick” Heath
Selectboard Member for a term of three years – Scott P.L. Griswold
Lister for a term of three years – No person elected
School Director for a term of two years – Mark Freeman
School Director for a term of two years (to complete a three year term) –
Elizabeth Raven Walters
School Director for a term of three years – James Lipinski
Lamoille Union District # 18 School Director for a term of three years –
Katherine “Kalee” Roberts

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.

Town Clerk for a term of three years (By Ballot)

Moved and seconded to place the name of Kimberly Moulton into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the Chairman of the Selectboard to cast one ballot for Kimberly Moulton to serve as Town Clerk for a term of three years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Treasurer for a term of three years (By Ballot)

Moved and seconded to place the name of Kimberly Moulton into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Kimberly Moulton to serve as Town Treasurer for a term of three years. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

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.

Two (2) Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years each - Amended by consensus to:

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

One (1) Cemetery Commissioner for the remainder of a five year term

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

Moved and seconded to place the name of Nioka Houston into nomination.

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

One (1) Cemetery Commissioner for the remainder of a five year term
Moved and seconded to place the name of Anthony Gates into nomination.

Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the clerk to cast one ballot for Anthony Gates to serve as Cemetery Commissioner for the remainder of a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for a term of five years
Moved and seconded to place the name of Emily Dearborn into nomination.

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

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. Scott thanked everyone for attending. The first item Scott addressed was that the board is now currently 1 member short. Duncan Nash lost his battle with cancer on January 25, 2010. The vacancy his passing has created will be addressed under Other Business in Article 14 later in the meeting. Duncan's presence on the board will be greatly missed.

Julia Compagna resigned her position as Town Administrator on January 13, 2010. Jennifer Rowe has been hired as the new Zoning Administrator and will start her employment on March 3, 2010. Jenn, her husband and 2 small children reside in Jeffersonville. For the past 5 years, Jenn has been the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Jericho. Prior to that, she had 3 years of zoning experience with the Town of Stowe. Greg Paus, Graham Govoni and James Heath were publically thanked for their efforts during the interview process.

Scott noted that interior renovations have been done on the upper level of the Town Clerk's office during the month of October. The building is 35 or 36 years old and very little has been done to maintain the building in that time. The renovation caused the employees of the Town and Village offices to temporarily relocate to the lower level of the building. Scott thanked the employees and the residents for handling the difficult situation during this time. Scott also thanked Selectboard member, Allen Cusson, for a job well done as the Clerk of the Works for the renovation project.

Scott noted that the Town recently passed a complete audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 was under the control of former Town Clerk Gary Anderson. Scott thanked Gary for his work during that budget year and for his assistance during the audit process.

Scott mentioned that the Town has been working extensively on the Town's website, www.hydeparkvt.com. Although there is still some work to be done on the site, the website has a lot of information regarding what is happening in the

Town such as meeting agendas and meeting minutes for the Selectboard, DRB and Planning Commission.

The last item presented by Scott was that if everything passes that is put forth today, the tax rate will increase by 1 cent, or 1.7%, tax increase. At last year's meeting, the voters decided to buy a new fire truck for the Town of Hyde Park. That truck itself is actually costing us 2 cents a year. The board was able to hold the increase to 1 cent per year. Without the truck, the budget presented would be a 1 cent decrease.

There were no representatives from the Planning Commission and the Recreation Committees to present their reports.

Lanpher Library

Doreen Noyes spoke on behalf of the Lanpher Library Trustees. There has been an increase in the number of books, DVD's, computers, patrons and programs at the Library. Doreen thanked Librarian, Amy Olsen and volunteers who help man the front desk. The Library continues to fundraise but would like to thank the voters for their budget.

Hyde Park Fire Department

Ed Webster thanked the voters for the new fire truck that was voted on last year. The truck will be in service around the end of April or first part of May. He noted we recently lost Firefighter, Jeremiah Davison, who had been on the squad for approximately a year.

There was no representative from the Community Circle to present their report.

Development Review Board

Graham Govoni thanked Brickett Bailey and Mary Walz for their service and contributions to the board. He also thanked Julia Compagna who served as Zoning Administrator for approximately 13 years. He thanked all board members who do a great job on behalf of the Town.

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.

Question from the assembly - What the Grange Hall is used for? Scott Griswold noted that the building is used as the base for the Hyde Park Historical Society. They use the building for annual fund raising events. It is not used as much as it should be. It was built in 1910 and became the home of the Grange in 1935. There has been no renovation or updates on the building. The foundation is cracking and allowing water into the basement.

Question from the assembly – 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 the assembly – Who owns the building? Scott Griswold answered that the Town owns the building.

Question from the assembly – Are there any other repairs that need to be done to the building in the next 5 years? Scott Griswold answered there needs to be further repairs to the building but those repairs have not been researched yet knowing that the first thing to be done was to work on the foundation.

Question from the assembly – Have grants been applied for? Scott Griswold answered that grants have not been applied for at this time but they will be looked into to reduce the impact on tax payers for repairs made in the future. It was noted that most, but not all, grants are matching grants.

Question from the assembly – How was the \$12,000 arrived at? – Scott Griswold answer that the Historical Society presented 3 bids from local contractors.

Question from the assembly – Is the \$12,000 the average bid? Scott Griswold answered that the \$12,000 is slightly higher than the average bid because the bids were given in winter and you never know what you will get into when you start digging.

Question from the assembly – Can the repair be put off a year? Scott Griswold answered that he isn't an engineer so he doesn't know how bad the foundation is. In that respect, he can't determine if the repairs can be put off a year.

Voice vote too close to call. Moderator called for hands. Voted by hand vote in the affirmative.

Article 7. Shall the Town authorize an amount of \$5,000 for repairs to the Town clock located on the county courthouse.

Motion made and seconded to authorize an amount of \$5,000 for repairs to the Town clock located on the county courthouse.

Scott Griswold states that the Town has been paying approximately \$500-1000 per year for general maintenance and repairs to the clock. The total cost of the repairs needed is \$9,995 which would be split with the Village. Due to the large repair estimate, the Selectboard felt the decision to pay for repairs should be made

by the voters. The County presented the Town and Village with the estimate for repairs. The repairs are not in the budget for the County. It was noted that the clock could present a larger expense in the future due to the age of the clock and why not replace the mechanisms with something cheaper to maintain. The age of the clock was undetermined. Jack Anderson from the Village Trustees spoke that they would be putting an article on their Warning for their voters to decide. Two voters mentioned stopping the clock at 12:00 and doing no repairs. Some felt that the County should be a 3rd partner in the expenses to repair and maintain the clock. A voter suggested a community fund raiser may be a better way to obtain the money to repair the clock. A question was asked if grants had been applied for and Scott Griswold answered No. A voter noted that the quote was pricy and that a more competitive quote be obtained. Orah Moore from Hyde Park Village Improvement and that maybe they could be a part of the fund raising.

A hand vote was called. The article failed.

Article 8. Shall the Town authorize an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for repairs to the municipal office building and financed at the current municipal interest rate over a period of 5 years.

Motion made and seconded to authorize an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for repairs to the municipal office building and financed at the current municipal interest rate over a period of 5 years.

Scott Griswold noted that the building is over 35 years old and there have been virtually no updates done to the building except the roof which was replaced approximately 5 years ago. The siding is rotting due to a drainage problem and needs replacement. There are places in the exterior walls that have zero insulation. The windows are original and would be replaced with triple glazed windows for energy efficiency. There is a retaining wall that is cracking. The retaining wall is mandatory due to maintaining a second emergency exit from the lower level of the building. The upper level parking area is starting to cave in. The lower level of the building does not meet current state fire regulations. We have applied for grants and will continue to apply for grants to help support this project. This money would not impact the budget being voted on today. It would impact the budget of 2011/2012. There will a defined invitation to bid put out that will describe the scope of the work to be done.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$27,386.00 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

Motion made and seconded to move the article.

Voted by voice in the affirmative. There was 1 no vote.

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$2,000 to the Hyde Park Elementary School After School Program.

Motion made and seconded to appropriate a sum of \$2,000 to the Hyde Park Elementary School After School Program.

There were questions to explain this article. Brian Marshall and Kalee Roberts stated that this money was needed for the elementary school to get after school grant funding that require financial input from the Town.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 11. 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 12. Shall the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Motion made and seconded to vote a budget of \$1,876,362 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and of said amount, \$1,587,012 to be raised by property taxes.

There was a question as to what the difference is between the budgeted amount and the amount to be raised by taxes. Scott Griswold noted the difference is anticipated revenues in the Town Clerk's office and anticipated revenues from the

State. We are anticipating a decrease in the revenues from the State and have budgeted accordingly.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 13. Shall the Town vote to pay its property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four equal installments being due on or before August 31 and November 15 in 2010 and February 15 and May 15 in 2011.

Shall the Town vote to charge interest on unpaid property taxes at the rate of one percent (1%) per month or part thereof after the due date of each of the first three installments.

Shall the Town vote to charge interest on delinquent taxes at the rate of one percent (1%) per month or part thereof for the first three months after the due date of the final installment and one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or part thereof thereafter .

Motion made and seconded to move the entire article as printed.

A voter asked if there was a financial impact to the Town for having taxes paid in 4 installments instead of 4. Scott Griswold answered that there is an impact. When there are only 3 payments, we were finding we didn't have enough to operate in the first 6 months of the budget year and needed to borrow from the line of credit. The rates charged for interest and penalties are set by State Statutes.

Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 14. 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.

George Cook hoped action is taken to find a way to repair the Town clock.

Judy Lanphear wants the clock repaired but feels the expense should be paid by the County.

An unknown speaker wants to know if the Selectboard has been keeping track of the attendance since the change of the Town Meeting location to LUHS. Scott Griswold noted that we will look at this year numbers compared to last years numbers. We were able to implement ideas from last year such as voting at LUHS instead of the municipal offices, putting tables on the stage for the board members to be seen better by the audience, and speakers in the hallway so people in the hall can hear the meeting. Scott would also like to see a local organization use the meeting as a fund raiser and provide a lunch using the LUHS cafeteria facilities. Scott also noted that there was no daycare available this year due to a lack of volunteers. We'd like to see this resumed for future meetings.

Scott Griswold explained why the vacant Selectboard position is not on the ballot. Duncan Nash passed away after the Warning was finalized and by State Statute, it could not be changed. Scott noted that we advertised the vacancy and that we have 3 very good candidates to fill the vacancy. Scott asked the voters what their preference would be for filling the position: a special election or for the Selectboard to appoint a member. A straw poll was conducted and by a show of hands, it was noted that the voters prefer to vote by Australian Ballot to fill the vacancy. A voter asked who the 3 candidates were. Scott answered that the candidates are Jeff Manosh, David Gagnier and Randy Mulligan.

Scott Griswold wanted to thank the town for their support of Kimberly Moulton for Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Scott Griswold presented Gary Anderson a plaque with a key to the Town of Hyde Park, for his commitment and dedicated service to the Town of Hyde Park as Town Clerk and Treasurer for the years 1989 to 2009. Gary was also presented a gift certificate to the Vermont State Parks so he can go camping in his retirement. Gary thanked everyone and stated that it had been a pleasure to serve his community. Gary received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Amy Holibaugh reminded everyone that Green Up Day is May 1, 2010. She wanted to remind the community to reserve their bags so there are enough to go around.

It was noted that the Lamoille Union High School Girls basket ball team won the D2 Championship.

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

It was suggested that at least one representative from each of the organizations that are asked to present reports be present to report to the community.

The Selectboard was thanked for all their hard work.

Graham Govoni thanked Lamoille Union High School for providing the space, sound system equipment and students to run the wireless microphone.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Hyde Park Annual Town Meeting at 10:40 a.m. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

Graham Govoni, Moderator