

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2012**

SELECTBOARD: James Heath, David Gagnier, Brian Jones, Mike Dubie and Roger Audet

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: Kimberly J. Moulton

TOWN MODERATOR: Graham Govoni

Moderator Graham Govoni called the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 9:00am and read the preamble to the Warning. Moderator Govoni lead the Pledge of Allegiance and commenced with the business at hand.

Article 1 To elect Town and School District Officers as required by ballot.

Selectboard Member for a term of two years – Roland Boivin
Selectboard Member for a term of three years – Roger Audet
Lister for one year remaining of a three year term – Deanna C. Judkins
Lister for two years remaining of a three year term – Julie Rohleder
Lister for a term of three years – Gary L. Anderson
School Director for a term of two years – Mark Freeman
School Director for a term of two years – Elizabeth Raven Walters
School Director for one year remaining of a two year term – No Winner
Lamoille Union District #18 School Director for a term of three years – John Eisenhardt

Article 2 To elect the following Town Officers from the floor:

Moderator for a term of one year: Before accepting nominations, Moderator Govoni announced his resignation as Moderator. He thanked the townspeople for allowing him to serve as the Moderator for the last five years. J. Heath's nomination of David Hallquist for Moderator was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Govoni instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for David Hallquist for Moderator for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Graham Govoni stepped down as Moderator and turned the meeting over to David Hallquist. Moderator Hallquist introduced himself to the crowd and proceeded with the rest of Article 2.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Marvin Locke. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Marvin Locke for Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

One Town Grand Juror for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Edward French Jr. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Edward French Jr. for Town Grand Juror for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Town Agent for a term of one year: There was a nomination and a second for Edward French Jr. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Edward French Jr. for Town Agent for a term of one year. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of one year: Moderator Hallquist asked for nominations. After hearing no nominations for Cemetery Commissioner for a one year term, Moderator Hallquist moved onto the next office.

Library Trustee for one year remaining of a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Ken Geiersbach. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Ken Geiersbach for Library Trustee for one year remaining of a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for two years remaining of a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Jim Noyes. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Jim Noyes for Library Trustee for two years remaining of a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Julie Rohleder. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Julie Rohleder for Library Trustee for a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Library Trustee for a five year term: There was a nomination and a second for Robert Searles. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Moderator Hallquist instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Robert Searles for Library Trustee for a five year term. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

Article 3 To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers

J. Heath spoke for the Selectboard. He reviewed the Selectboard's report that was written for the Town Report. He spoke about all the hard work that has gone into the budget and the challenges presented by maintaining 20-22 miles of asphalt roads that can cost \$150,000 or more per mile to pave, depending on what you put down for asphalt. That will be a huge challenge in the future that will be dealt with in a new Capital Budget that is being put together. Grants will be applied for when available. He thanked all the committees in the Town working towards the betterment of the Town. There was a question from Carl Szlachetka about the process the Town went through to choose the current health care plan, what the final decision was and what is the impact to the budget. J. Heath explained that Kim Moulton researched the different providers and plans available and presented the results to the Selectboard. There is a managed health care plan that the Selectboard has looked seriously at but will require some transition and could be a savings in health care expenses. There is a challenge in being creative in getting the best care possible for the employees with manageable premiums. Kalee Roberts urged a wait and see attitude with any changes due to potential changes with the statewide health care program. There was a motion and a second to accept the reports of the Town Officers. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 4 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park authorize an amount not to exceed \$14,000 for repairs to the bathrooms, the upstairs porch, and to complete the fire escape at the North Hyde Park Grange Hall?

J. Heath made a motion, that was seconded, to move the article. Angela Sheltra asked who owns the building and what is it used for? J. Heath stated that the Town owns the building. It was donated to the Town by the Grange. The North Hyde Park Grange Hall is the home of the Hyde Park Historical Society who is diligently working to bring the building back up to public standards so that it can be used for events other than Historical Society meetings. Beth Carrier stated that this is the third year in a row that money is being asked for by the Historical Society and they aren't asking for Historical Grants from the State of VT. J. Heath stated that those Historical grants come with a high price tag. He indicated that Town Administrator Ron Rodjenski can work with the Historical Society to look into grants for money that will help with future repairs. Mark Freeman stated that he isn't sure about historical grants; most state grants require matching funds. In this case, the Historical Society could use this \$14,000 as leverage to apply for

a grant. TJ Koch stated that last year, the Town opposed work to the foundation of the building and he wanted to know the status of the foundation. J. Heath was not sure of the status of the foundation. The Historical Society is trying to make this building handicap accessible so that the general public can use the building. The \$14,000 will help the society towards that effort. Carl Szlachetka stated that this is the third year in a row that the Historical Society has asked for money and there is no representation from that group who can address the renovations that have been made in the past and future renovations. Nancy Tingle stated the Historical Society report states they are trying to bring the building up to ADA standards and she wants to know if there is a master plan for the building. Until someone from the Historical Society can address these questions, Nancy Tingle made a motion to table the motion. Moderator Hallquist asked for clarification on her motion. Nancy rescinded her motion to table the article and made a motion to suspend the article. John Eisenhardt seconded the motion. Voice vote to suspend the article failed. There was no further discussion on the main article. The voice vote was too close to call. Moderator called for a show of hands and by a show of hands, the original motion passed.

Article 5 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park authorize the expenditure in the amount of \$500 for the not-for-profit agency Home Share Now?

There was a motion and a second to move the article. Carl Szlachetka asked the purpose of the organization. Joan Green stated that the Home Share Now facilitates matches for Vermont homeowners willing to share their homes with people seeking housing. Nancy Tingle states the program assists elderly whose homes have outgrown them by matching the homeowner with someone who will live in the home and assist the elderly homeowner with chores they can no longer do. This allows the elderly to remain in their homes. Voted by voice vote in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park authorize an amount not to exceed \$85,000 to be financed for not more than five (5) years for the purchase of a fire rescue truck for the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department? The estimated cost of the rescue truck is \$170,000. Both Hyde Park and Eden need to approve their respective articles before the authorization is granted.

There was a motion and a second to move the article. Eric Aither spoke about the age of the existing truck and that it has been rehabbed three times. Tim Yarrow asked about the resale value of the older truck. Eric said they received \$4,000 and \$6,500 for the last two trucks they sold. J. Heath explained that the loan would be a five year loan at 0% through the VT Municipal Loan Fund. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 7 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park establish a reserve fund to be under the control and direction of the Selectboard for sidewalks and other pedestrian related highway improvements within the Town of Hyde Park and Village of Hyde Park, to be funded by an appropriation of \$20,000 in FY13? (24 V.S.A. § 2804)

There was a motion by Kalee Roberts and a second by Jack Anderson to move the article. Jack Anderson, Village Trustee, spoke about two grants that have been written and funded for sidewalks down Depot St and Johnson St Extension. Along with some matching funds from the Village, this money would be part cash and part in kind services required as a match for the grants. J. Heath spoke about the collaborative efforts between the Village Trustee and the Selectboard to make improvements to the Village and the Hyde Park community. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 8 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park designate the Town of Hyde Park (including the Village of Hyde Park) as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable those property owners who enter into written agreements with the municipality, under 24 V.S.A. § 3262, to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects subject to a special assessment? ("Special Assessment" means a tax assessed against one of more properties receiving the benefit of a particular public improvement, as distinguished from a tax on the entire grand list of a

municipality. Any on-going administrative costs of the program shall be paid by the program participants, not through municipal property taxes.)

There was a motion and second to move the article. Tim Yarrow explained the PACE program and how it would work. Mark Roberts asked what the cost was for the Town to administer the program. T. Yarrow stated the program would be set up by the Town. If payments not made back to the program, the Town is obligated to go after late payments in the same manner it does for delinquent taxes. Carl Szlachetka asked who assumes loan defaults. T. Yarrow stated there is a loan loss reserve fund. Kalee Roberts asked if PACE is for private individual or could a public agency, such as the Lamoille Courthouse, take advantage of the program that would end up, potentially, having the Town and Village residents assuming the cost of that project. T. Yarrow stated the program is for private property owners and not for public buildings. The program has a maximum repayment term of 20 years. PACE will finance 15% of the home value or up to \$30,000 for energy efficiency improvements. T. Yarrow supports the approval of establishing a PACE District. An approval obligates us to do nothing. It allows us to move forward in establishing the program. Jerry Smith asked if we are voting to allow the town to assess a property for the cost of the program or are we saying that the Town collects the loan monies for this special assessment. T. Yarrow stated none of the above. An approval is allowing the Selectboard to establish the PACE Finance program. The Town could turn the administration of the program back to VT Efficiency Program. Marilyn Zophar asked if this was a new program and do we have the blessing of the Selectboard. She also asked if there were other towns in the same program. T. Yarrow stated there are 13 municipalities who have established a PACE Financing District. There are also a dozen or so more municipalities who have this item on the Town Meeting agendas today. J. Heath states that this topic was brought before the board several weeks ago and the board recommends the vote be approved. An affirmative vote simply allows property owners to utilize the PACE program. Kalee Roberts is concerned that we would be lending to risky borrowers who otherwise would not be able to borrow money themselves. She wonders if the housing market will withstand attaching these loans to the homes. The clear benefit is that the home would be made more energy efficient. T. Yarrow stated there is an application process the homeowner must go through in order to get the money. Carl Szlachetka shares some of the concerns that have been raised but it allows the Selectboard to look further into the program so he supports the article. Deanna Judkins wants to know if the program would be available to the townspeople if the article is voted down. T. Yarrow stated no, it would not be available. Deanna Judkins wanted to know how this program is different from Efficiency Vermont. T. Yarrow stated Efficiency Vermont is the agency that channels the funds and then will administer the program for the participants. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Article 9 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park authorize an amount not to exceed \$1,900 to be used for the one time start-up cost for the Front Porch Forum to serve the residents of the Town and Village of Hyde Park?

J. Heath stated that there will be an amendment to the article to reduce the requested amount down to \$1,150 due to a donation that was received after the Warning went to print. J. Heath explained how the Front Porch Forum would provide more communication throughout the community. Elisa Clancy asked if this was a not-for profit organization. Town Administrator spoke with permission from Selectboard Chair, J. Heath and there were no objections. Ron Rodjenski believes it is a for profit organization. The \$1,150 is a one time start-up cost and after that they raise other money through advertisers and sponsors. Diane Szlachetka wants to know who would be monitoring the Front Porch Forum for unseemly postings. Front Porch Forum will monitor the site. J. Heath stated that Ron Rodjenski and possibly Kim Moulton can also monitor the site. Charlie Aronovici stated the Trustees and the Selectboard have contributed to the start up of the Front Porch Forum. It is only accessible by the residents of the town where it is established. Dan Regan thinks there might be a calendar within the Front Porch forum. This alone would prove useful for advising of all community board meetings so that the public can attend. Whitney Kaulbach thinks this would be a great technology to promote community events and projects. Laurie Hurley asked about commercial and political postings on this forum. Ron Rodjenski stated that it can get political at times, in good nature, and that there will be advertising. J. Heath made a motion that was seconded to amend the amount down to \$1,150. Voted by voice in the affirmative to amend the amount to \$1,150 and the amendment passed. Voted by voice in the affirmative for the amended article and the motion passed.

Article 10 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park authorize \$5,000 for Lamoille Valley Mentoring Partnership to provide mentoring services to youth in the Hyde Park community?

Kalee Roberts made the motion and it was seconded to move the article. Jeff Beattie made a motion that was seconded by Kalee Roberts to amend the article to \$3,400. Jeff explained that this is really a new program with this size and when the petition was filed, they were making their best effort guess at a budget. Jeff explained how the program works to match mentors with Hyde Park students. The program is not a school program; it is a social service program that is held at the elementary school. Voted by voice in the affirmative to amend the article down to \$3,400 and the motion passed. Voted by voice in the affirmative for the amended article and the motion passed. Jeff thanked Ron, Kim, Dawn and Monita at the Town Clerk's office for all the help they provided with preparing the article for the Warning. They were helpful, kind and patient in helping getting the petition up and running.

Article 11 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park approve a budget of \$2,010,100 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town of Hyde Park for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013?

There was a motion and a second to move the article. J. Heath noted that the \$3,000 appropriation for the North Hyde Park Cemetery Association is to be removed as it was intended as a one time request. There was a motion and a second to amend the budget down by \$3,000. Voted by voice in the affirmative to amend the budget down by \$3,000 and the amendment passed. Moderator Hallquist requested a 5 minute recess so that a new budget figure could be calculated based on the passing of previous articles and amendments. There was a motion and a second to amend the budget to \$2,068,150. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amendment passed. Kalee Roberts recommended outside agencies should be a separate article next year and not automatically included in the budget. This would allow the voters to discuss the agencies. There was a motion and a second on the amended article. Voted by voice in the affirmative for the amended article and the motion passed.

Article 12 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park 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 (32 V.S.A. § 1674 (3)) 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 4:00pm on the due dates. Only official U.S.P.S cancellation marks will be accepted if postmarked on or before the due date. (32 V.S.A § 4773)

First installment to be paid on or before Wednesday, August 15, 2012
Second installment to be paid on or before Thursday, November 15, 2012
Third installment to be paid on or before Friday, February 15, 2013
Fourth installment to be paid on or before Wednesday, May 15, 2013

There was a motion and a second to move the article. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Article 13 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

J. Heath indicated that Bill McKone is looking for volunteers to organize a round-table in Hyde Park to celebrate the 150 year anniversary of the Civil War. If there are any volunteers, please contact Ron Rodjenski at the Town Office. This is a community event put together to talk about the historic events of the Civil War.

Tim Yarrow thanked the Selectboard for all their efforts, hard work and everything they have done for the town.

David Gagnier presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jim Heath, who had previously announced that he is not running for the Selectboard again this year. Jim has been on the Selectboard since 2005. On behalf of this Selectboard and Selectboards of the past, Jim was thanked for all his service to the Town and all his hard work and David wished him luck.

David continued to speak on behalf of the Selectboard to let the voters know that the board will continue to work hard on behalf of the citizens of the town. He stated that this will probably be the youngest Selectboard in the State of Vermont with the oldest member of the board having only two years service. David wanted the citizens to know that this board is confident with their ability to do their jobs. He asked people to come to Selectboard meetings to see how careful the Selectboard is with tax dollars.

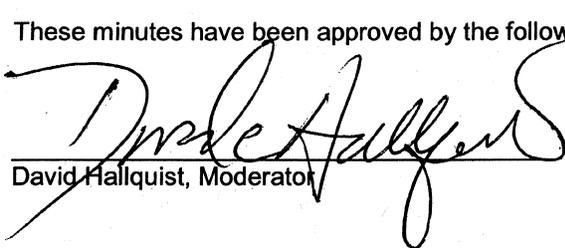
As a point of clarity, J. Heath wanted to make sure the citizens knew that Ron Rodjenski is the Town Administrator not the Town Manager. In order for Hyde Park to have a Town Manager, we would have to have a charter change and put it to a vote at a future Town Meeting.

There was motion that was seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 10:55am. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the motion passed.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate report of the votes taken at the Hyde Park Annual Town Meeting held Tuesday, March 6, 2012.


Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

These minutes have been approved by the following two Town Officials:


David Hallquist, Moderator


David Gagnier, Selectboard