

Village of Hyde Park

Minutes of July 13, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

The duly warned regular monthly meeting was held on July 13, 2016 in the Lanpher Memorial Library.

Trustees Present

Frederika French, Chair
Jack Anderson
Charlie Aronovici
Peter Gallo

Others Present

Carol Robertson, General Manager
Nick Perry, Beshaw CPA Firm

Riki French called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were no attendees and no public comments. Motion by Jack Anderson and second by Peter Gallo to approve the agenda as presented.

Nick Perry gave a lengthy review of a draft audit report. The GM reported that staff had not yet received a draft audit report and this review was the first reading of the draft audit report. Following the review and discussion, Mr. Perry departed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Charlie Aronovici and second by Jack Anderson to approve the Tax Stabilization Agreement with McMahan Bros., LLC, which was previously approved by the Selectboard. Following review of the document, questions and discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The GM reported that the office had not received any response to the 6/23/2016 Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing published in the News & Citizen regarding the Selectboard's consideration of a 2016 Town Bike/Ped Grant. Trustees reported that no Village resident had commented about the notice. The Board discussed what would be needed in order to address Village priorities, taxpayer and resident opinions, as well as impacts to infrastructure. Following lengthy discussion, motion by Jack Anderson and second by Peter Gallo to adopt a letter of support for the Town's grant application and authorize the Chair's signature. The letter will include the following:

1. The Board of Trustees will be a full participant in the process, meaning that the Board will designate a person(s) who will be noticed of all meetings, will assist in developing the grant's scope and work plan, approve the final application and participate in the selection of consultant, and
2. The Board will have sufficient time to hold a minimum of four public forums over a period of three months to garner the consensus of Village residents, and
3. The Board may reject any proposed plan for construction or change in the flow of traffic or parking within the Village and the Selectboard will honor any rejection.

Furthermore, the Board of Trustees is sincerely appreciative of the Selectboard efforts and trusts that the Selectboard appreciates and supports our responsibility to Village residents. With

your understanding and acceptance of these three conditions, we support the 2016 Bike/Ped grant application and look forward to working together on this project. (end of letter of support)
The motion carried unanimously.

There was a lengthy discussion of VPPSA's TRANSCO Equity Offer. Jack Anderson gave a brief Community Associations Report.

The Chair gave her report on the APPA Annual Meeting. There was a discussion of impacts to Hyde Park Electric. Motion by Peter Gallo and second by Jack Anderson to approve the minutes of June 8, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

The warrants were approved and signed. There was a review of detailed delinquent accounts. The Board schedule was reviewed. The GM gave an update on the Waterhouse Solar project, noting that the anticipated commissioning date remains late August and the project remains under budget. There was a discussion of the ribbon-cutting celebration and the consensus of the Board is to hold an official ceremony following commissioning and a Hyde Park Electric community-celebration next year.

The GM gave the grants report. There was a discussion of two recent grant awards totaling \$43,000.

- \$23,000, Lamoille County Planning Commission/NRBC wayfinding signage grant (match contribution is 100% existing staff labor)
- \$20,000 VT Agency of Natural Resources, 2016 Drinking Water Asset Management Grant (match contribution is 100% existing staff labor)

Total Grants received since 8/2013, \$143,176.

Total Donations, \$293,500

Grant applications outstanding (award decisions not yet made), \$326,000.

The Board was given a letter signed by Gary Anderson, Treasurer, Hyde Park Village Improvement Association, Inc., detailing a one-time donation in the amount of \$1,000 to use toward the purchase of trash/recycling bins, and also to use toward the expense of collection from those bins that will be placed in the proposed pocket park by the Lamoille County Courthouse. The Board expressed their appreciation to the HPVIA and directed the GM to move forward with providing three sets of bins and collection services.

The GM gave a report on Johnson Street Extension sidewalk. The Board was provided the Notice of Request for Statements of Qualifications for Engineering Services to be published as required to qualify for the 2017 priority list for wastewater bonds.

The GM gave a report on the operations and financials of the Village, Electric and Water and Wastewater Departments. She read a section of the Selectboard minutes of June 29, 2016, which referenced money collected for filling private swimming pools by the town fire department, questioning whether the money is coming in to the town treasurer. The Village confirmed with the Town Clerk that she did receive the money from filling swimming pools. The GM reported that these Town records

together with Fire Department assistance could assist the Village in perhaps modifying the state's requirement that the Village meter all water connections, including the Fire Department, which remains unmetered. At this time, the least expensive method to meter the fire department and install a surge suppressor, another state requirement, would cost a minimum of \$17,000. The cost would have been minimal if installed at the time of original construction. The GM reported that we could request the state to accept an accurate water usage log provided to us by the fire department, if this can be accomplished, but a method of surge suppressor would most likely remain a requirement since it protects infrastructure and supply. We do not know how long the state will allow us to continue delaying. There was a lengthy discussion. The Board expressed concern about prior notices to the Selectboard and to the Chief of the Hyde Park Fire Department to end their practice of taking free water to fill swimming pools. Trustees recalled a letter that they sent prior to the most recent letter sent on July 9, 2014 and they recalled discussing the free water issue at the December 10, 2014 Joint Meeting. The Board directed the GM to send another letter to the Selectboard and the Chief of the Hyde Park Fire Department repeating the message contained in the July 9, 2014 letter, *"...we believe that we must distribute another reminder that the cost of treated water delivered to the fire department is paid for by Hyde Park Water Department customers. It is not provided for any personal use, which includes filling swimming pools."* The Board directed the GM to monitor and report on an ongoing basis.

There was a report and discussion of recent power supply analysis provided by Energy New England, as well as a report on VPPSA.

There being no further discussion, motion by Jack Anderson and second by Peter Gallo to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Riki French, Chair

Date