

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2017**

SELECTBOARD: David Gagnier, Brian Jones, Roger Audet, Roland Boivin and Lucy Hankinson

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: Kimberly J. Moulton

TOWN MODERATOR: Christine Hallquist

Moderator, Christine Hallquist, called the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting to order at 9:40am. Moderator Hallquist read the Hyde Park Town Meeting Warning including Article 1.

Article 1 To elect Town and School District Officers as required by ballot.
Selectboard Member for a term of two years – Susan Bartlett
Selectboard Member for a term of three years – David Gagnier
Lister for a term of three years – Julie Rohleder
School Director term to expire December 31, 2017 – Lisa Jones Barry
School Director term to expire December 31, 2017 – VACANT
LUHSD # 18 School Director for a term to expire December 31, 2017 – Beth Bailey
Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management Supervisor for a term of two years - Harold L. Bailey

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

Moderator for a term of one year: Moderator Hallquist asked for nominations for moderator. E. Clancy nominated Christine Hallquist for Moderator and the nomination was seconded by T. Yarrow. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to nominate Christine Hallquist as Moderator. Voted by voice in the affirmative.

One Town Grand Juror for a term of one year: J. Rohleder nominated Edward French Jr. for Town Grand Juror and the nomination was seconded by S. Searles. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Ed French Jr. was elected by a voice vote.

Town Agent for a term of one year: N. Tingle nominated Edward French Jr. for Town Agent and the nomination was seconded by S. Moore. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Ed French Jr. was elected by a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: N. Houston nominated Mary Foss for Cemetery Commissioner and the nomination was seconded by J. Anderson. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Mary Foss was elected by a voice vote.

Library Trustee for a five year term: E. Dearborn nominated Sigh Searles for Library Trustee and the nomination was seconded by N. Tingle. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Sigh Searles was elected by a voice vote.

Library Trustee for a five year term: E. Dearborn nominated Susan Hayes for Library Trustee and the nomination was seconded by S. Searles. Hearing no other nominations, there was a motion and a second to cease nominations. Susan Hayes was elected by a voice vote.

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

Moderator Hallquist asked if there were any non-residents that would be speaking during the reports. D. Gagnier advised there would be. Moderator Hallquist stated that non-residents could speak if there was no opposition from the body. Hearing no opposition, the meeting was turned over to D. Gagnier. D. Gagnier spoke for the

Selectboard and introductions were given for all Selectboard members, Town Administrator Ron Rodjenski and Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector, Kim Moulton. D. Gagnier took a moment to remember Corella Gray and Gordon Powers and indicated that town report is dedicated in memory of them this year. D. Gagnier recognized Brian Jones. B. Jones has decided to step down from the Selectboard after six years of service. D. Gagnier thanked Brian for his contributions to the town.

D. Gagnier asked Sheriff Roger Marcoux to present his report. Sheriff Marcoux stated he has a good young crew of deputies but turnover continues to be a problem because the LCSD can not provide the same level of employee benefits as other towns and state agencies. Sheriff continues to be concerned with the drug epidemic in Lamoille County. If the drug problem continues, there will be a need for a drug coordinator or investigator for Lamoille County. Long range, five to seven years down the road, there may be a need for additional deputies to patrol with partners for safety. This has been happening in Morrisville and Stowe for a few years now. Sheriff Marcoux recognized Lucy Hankinson and Amy Olsen for teaming up with deputies from the department and receiving training in Rape Aggression Defense Training, which is a nationally recognized program for women. There have been two trainings already and there are more to come. The first building in the Ring property project in Hyde Park is complete. Allie Ring's old garage has been renovated inside and out. The work was paid for with different revenue sources. There is still Allie's 2,600 sqft house and the gas station to renovate. The Sheriff's Department is looking for an appropriate use for both these properties. The budget this coming year is going up 3.8%. There are regular meetings with Ron Rodjenski, Roger Audet and officials from Johnson and Wolcott in the summer time. It is an opportunity to work on the budget and work on law-enforcement issues real-time rather than waiting for a meeting twice a year. Sheriff Marcoux indicated that he isn't able to show the total amount of hours spent in the different towns. There is now a GPS systems installed on each car at a cost of about \$35 per month. Sheriff Marcoux is hoping that the data from this system will assist him in providing towns with accurate data regarding time spent in town by the deputies. Since the Vermont State Police left Morrisville, the Sheriff's Department has traveled to Eden 22 times between January and October. Eden has agreed to reimburse the department for responding to calls in Eden. Sheriff Marcoux is working with the Town of Cambridge, as well. Sheriff Marcoux thanked the voters for their continued support of the department.

D. Gagnier asked Jeff Beattie to present his report for the Hyde Park Youth Mentoring Program. J. Beattie thanked the voters for their continued support of the program. The program is always looking for volunteers. He explained the program is one on one mentoring at the elementary school for half an hour per week. The commitment is for one year, during the school year. Information on the program is on page 91 of the town report.

D. Gagnier asked George Cook to speak regarding the E911 signs. G. Cook hopes to have pre-numbered signs when they are next ordered. The current inventory is blank green signs and a box of numbers that need to be applied to the signs. This is time consuming work done by the volunteers of both fire departments and the Hyde Park Fast Squad. The signs are to assist emergency personnel responding in the event of an emergency as quickly as possible. They will continue to put signs up using the \$3,000 being asked for later in the meeting. They are also looking for volunteers to help in installing the E911 signs.

D. Gagnier asked Teresa Farquharson to present the report of the Hyde Park Community Circle. T. Farquharson introduced herself as the Director of the Hyde Park Community Circle. The HPCC is a group of residents of Hyde Park and North Hyde Park who meet regularly to plan and present a local community event in each season. There's no membership requirements for the Community Circle. It is neighborly people who want to help when they can. Originally, the Community Circle were John and Judy Clark, Dan and Carol Young, Marilyn Zophar, and their friends and families who pitched in. They hoped to offer wholesome town-wide events to bring back the old-fashioned sense of community and neighbors. Over the last twenty years, these four activities have been growing in participation and attendance with many people involved in one way or another. We still offer these events free of charge. The first event of 2017 is our Think Spring Puppets and Plants held on the 3rd Saturday in March at the Hyde Park Elementary School Gym. This year's performance from the No Strings Marionette Company is titled The Snow Maiden. On the third Monday in July, we'll host an old-fashioned Vermont ice cream and cookies social on the lawn of the Governors House on Main Street. We'll have local musical entertainment, and a mini-performance from the Lamoille County players who will be performing songs from Brigadoon. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for a couple hours of fun and locally made ice cream. On the third Saturday in September, we hold the Hyde Park Home Day. It is a big town-wide festival of local businesses and residents showcasing their products and talents. We begin with a grand parade at noon. Our Grand Marshal last year was the Lanphear Family Farm who had also won the honor of being the Vermont Dairy Farm of 2016. On Home day, there are booths along Main Street, including local food trucks and ice cream sundaes at the Opera House. Last year our

fire departments were cooking burgers and the VFW had fries. Besides all the good food, there are booths with activities, information, and hand made items for sale. Come meet these local business owners and see what they do. The Community Circle has a big raffle with items donated by our local businesses. This raffle helps fund our yearly events. For the last event of the year, we present a two-part celebration happening at the same time. On the first Friday in December, children and parents are treated to a visit from Frosty the Snowman at the Lanpher Memorial Library for story reading time. While the children are busy at the library, many others are gathered at St. Teresa's Parish Hall down on Main Street for the Lighting Ceremony. This part of the event is to celebrate, honor or remember loved ones or events. We distribute order forms well in advance of this evening for people to donate a light for a special someone or a special event. We get two large wreaths and place lights on the wreaths to light one light for each name read aloud. Meetings and minutes are posted on the town website and bulletin boards at the Town Office and at the post office. We have a Facebook page and Front Porch Forum account, too, trying to keep everyone informed of each event so you can plan to be there. We usually meet upstairs in the Lanpher Library and welcome you to drop in a meeting anytime.

Article 4 Shall the voters appropriate \$500 to the Lamoille County Conservation District for FY2018?

There was a motion by T. Yarrow and a second by O. Moore to move the article. There was no discussion. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 5 Shall the voters appropriate \$695, in addition to other appropriations, to the Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County for FY2018?

There was a motion by B. Courchaine and a second by T. Farquharson to move this article. Betty Courchaine spoke about the article. B. Courchaine has been on the board of Meals on Wheels for the past fifteen years. She is also past recipient of Meals on Wheels. The program has grown significantly. There were 45,000 meals served last year with 10% served in Hyde Park. The organization must fundraise \$4.95 per meal that is served. She thanked the voters for their consideration. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters appropriate \$7,500 of the General Fund Balance to the Town Garage Project?

There was a motion by S. Searles and a second by L. Barry to move this article. D. Gagnier explained that board members made a visit to the highway garage at the request of Mark French, the Highway Foreman. The purpose of the visit was to look over the condition of the building and issues that they had. There has been no maintenance done to the building and some parts of the building were never completed. The soffits on the front of the building are falling off. After many years of use, the doors aren't sealing and there is heat loss. Greg Paus was asked to take a look at the project and provide an estimate to repair. The estimate was more than expected and the board is not sure if they will move in that direction. There is work that needs to be done to bring the building up to state code including installing a water-oil separator and take care of some general maintenance. Basically, this is to update the soffits and to update the building. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 7 Shall the voters of the Town of Hyde Park be provided notice of the availability of the annual town report by postcard at least 30 days before the annual meeting in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 1682?

There was a motion by J. Rohleder and a second by K. Brighton to move the article. Kim Moulton spoke of the anticipated increased cost of distributing the town report to the registered voters of the town vs. the residents of the town. We currently publish 1,100 reports. The cost to publish is approximately \$3,000 plus mailing expenses of approximately \$600. To provide the 2,100 plus registered voters a copy of the town report, we'd have to order approx 1,600 books at a cost of approximately \$4,300 and pay increased mailing fees of approximately \$900. K. Moulton stated that the first year may be a little bit more expensive as we gauge how many people actually want a town report. But in future years, we can order enough to provide them to those who really want them. The potential distribution points would be the Town Office, both post offices in town, the library and possibly the elementary school. K. Moulton stated that every year during the week that the town reports hit the mailboxes, she sees dozens of town reports in the recycle bins at both post offices in town. This is a waste of town funds. Allowing the town to mail out the postcards advising residents when the reports will be available and where to pick

them up will save money. A question was asked if the town report could still be mailed out to people who can't get out to get one. K. Moulton stated books could still be mailed if requested via a phone call or email to the town office staff. A question was asked about the town report being available digitally on the website. K. Moulton stated the town report is put on the town website every year. There would be a statement that the town report could be viewed digitally online on the postcards that would be mailed out. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the article passed.

Article 8 Shall the voters approve, in addition to any other appropriations approved in prior articles, a total general fund expenditures amount for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 of \$2,350,600 of which \$1,954,300 shall be raised by taxes and \$396,300 by non-tax revenue?

There was a motion by J. Rohleder and a second by T. Farquharson to move the article. D. Gagnier offered an amendment to the article to "Shall the voters approve, in addition to any other appropriations approved in prior articles, a total general fund expenditures amount for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 of \$2,347,350 of which \$1,951,050 shall be raised by taxes and \$396,300 by non-tax revenue?" There was a motion by K. Geiersbach to approve the amended motion and S. Searles seconded the motion to amend. O. Moore asked why the number is going down. D. Gagnier stated there was double posting of a budget amount that was caught the day before the annual meeting. This double posting results in a reduction of the budget by \$3,250.00. D. Gagnier went through the highlights of the proposed budget at the request of the voters. D. Gagnier stated that with this budget, the town is debt free. S. Morse asked why the office cleaning budget doubled. R. Rodjenski stated the budget for this line item was created when we didn't know if we would have to hire a professional cleaning service to clean the building or hire a new town employee. We have since created a cleaning position and a person was hired at a lesser expense. The Selectboard's goal was to keep the budget under 3% overall increase. The budget presented is a 2.20% increase. The Selectboard has worked hard to keep expenses down and to save money where possible. D. Gagnier wanted to mention that Kim Moulton took over the delinquent tax collection when Marvin Lock retired in December 2015. Marvin used to keep the 8% commission that was charged the delinquent taxpayer which would average around \$15,000 to \$17,000 per year. Kim came to us to recommend an annual stipend of \$3,250 for the Delinquent Tax Collector and the Assistant Delinquent Tax Collector. The reduction in the stipend is an annual savings to the town. The outstanding delinquent tax as of December 31, 2015 was \$97,867.43. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$48,429.37 which was a reduction by 50% in delinquent taxes owed. Voted by voice in the affirmative to approve the amended article. No further discussion. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amended article passed.

Article 9 Shall the voters approve the payment of property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four equal installments (32 V.S.A. 4792), as listed below; with delinquent taxes and assessments have charged against them an eight percent (8%) commission after the fourth installment (32 V.S.A. § 1674) 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 of 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 below 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 Thursday, August 31, 2017
Second installment to be paid on or before Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Third installment to be paid on or before Thursday, February 15, 2018
Fourth installment to be paid on or before Tuesday, May 15, 2018

There was a motion by M. Newsom-Brighton and a second by R. Roy to move the article. Voted by voice in the affirmative and the amended article passed.

Article 10 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

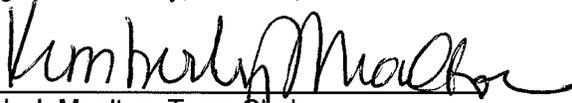
Raven Walters read a GoFundMe fundraising notice for a former LUHS student with Lyme Disease.

George Cook stated that they are always looking for more Fast Squad members. There are currently only 3 members. In order to provide the kind of service that this program requires, we need more people. Please contact Brad Carriere, George Cook or Dorothy Cook if interested.

Dave Gagnier presented Brian Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his hard work and dedication over his six years as a Selectboard member.

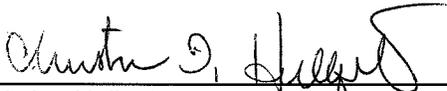
There was a motion by R. Bailey to adjourn that was seconded by D. Roy. The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

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 7, 2017.

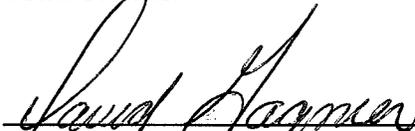


Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

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



Christine Hallquist, Moderator



David Gagnier, Selectboard Chair