

1
2
3 **Selectboard**
4 **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**
5 **January 17, 2018**

6 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these*
7 *minutes. Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television.*
8 *GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv*

9 Members Present: David Gagnier; Roger Audet; Susan Bartlett; Roland Boivin

10 Members Absent: Lucy Hankinson

11 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Trustee Tim Yarrow; GMAVT did not
12 videotape this meeting.

13 Dave Gagnier opened the meeting at 3:32 p.m. with no public comment received and no changes
14 made to the agenda.

15 1) **Request by Village to add tax exemption article to Town Meeting Warnings** – Dave
16 welcomed Tim to the meeting to discuss a tax exemption for Waterhouse Solar on Silver Ridge
17 Road which is operated by Hyde Park Electric Department. The Village was considering
18 pursuing a petition to add the article. Tim contacted Ron this past weekend to see if the Board
19 would do it on their own motion, without a petition. Ron noted that petitions are due by the end
20 of this week, thus the reason for the special meeting today to see if the Board would add the
21 article without a petition. Ron relayed an opinion from the VT Tax Department, Doug Lay, that
22 the article drafted refers to an exemption provision which is not available to Hyde Park Electric
23 to seek tax exemption. The reason provided was that Waterhouse Electric generates and sells
24 the solar power, versus meeting the requirements of 32 VSA 3845, a & b. Susan suggested
25 that as this is new information, could the article be accepted but not finally approved for the
26 warning until January 29th's special meeting. The Village would then have to time to review
27 the tax department's opinion. Tim noted that if tax exemption is not possible, that is still an
28 answer and shows that the Village is looking at ways to reduce the electric department's costs.
29 Motion by Susan to add the tax exemption article to the 2018 Town Meeting Warning, as
30 proposed by the Village, and provide the Village time to review the tax department opinion that
31 the state law doesn't allow the exemption. Seconded by Roland. Discussion: Ron noted a final
32 decision would need to be made on the 29th. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

33 2) **Other Business** – Dave Gagnier noted that he had a brief conversation with the Morristown
34 Town Administrator who informed Dave that Morristown would not object to exploring
35 Morristown Rescue providing ambulance service to Hyde Park. Ron noted that the other towns
36 now with NEMS should be involved in that discussion.

37 3) **Adjourn** – Dave asked if there was any additional business, and hearing none, the meeting
38 was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.