

1 **HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD**
2 **MEETING MINUTES**
3 **January 29, 2018**

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.*
5 *Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581,*
6 *Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

7 Members Present: David Gagnier, Co-Chair; Lucy Hankinson, Co-Chair; Roger Audet; Susan Bartlett
8 Members Absent: Roland Boivin
9 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Carol Robertson; GM Village of Hyde Park Electric
10 Department; Village Trustees Tim Yarrow; GMAVT did not videotape this meeting.

- 11 1. **Welcome, Public Comment & Agenda Changes** – Dave opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. No
12 public comment. Added LEDC letter of support request for a feasibility study for locating an
13 anaerobic digester in Lamoille County.
- 14 2. **Contract** – Proposed 1-Year Contract for Recording Equipment (Conduent). Dave asked if
15 same cost and system as current one, except just for one year, and Ron confirmed it was. The
16 one year allows for a transition to a 5-year year contract next year. Motion by Susan to authorize
17 Kim Moulton to sign the one-year contract for \$8,220. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0
18 against, motion passed.
- 19 3. **Better Connections Application** due Jan 31 – Ron reported that Greg Paus has signed for the
20 Town Planning Commission and the Selectboard signature will commit the town to providing the
21 10% match. Motion by Lucy to approve the resolution Seconded by Roger, Voting: 4 on favor,
22 0 against, motion passed.
- 23 4. **Letter of Support – USDA Grant - Feasibility Study; Anaerobic Digester** – Susan explained
24 that the feasibility study would treat waste from cheesemakers, breweries and distillers in
25 Lamoille County and spur additional economic development. Ron noted it was a joint grant with
26 Lamoille Economic Development Corporation and Lamoille County Planning Commission.
27 Susan explained that the grant would fund the study to determine best options and determine
28 the feasibility. Motion by Susan to approve a letter of support to LEDC and LCPC for the grant
29 to USDA. Seconded by Lucy. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 30 5. **Purchase Orders:**
- 31 a. Loader Tires Replacement – Not to Exceed \$6,000. Motion by Lucy to approve
32 purchase order #2018-11 for a not to exceed \$6,000, Seconded by Roger, Voting: 4 in
33 favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 34 b. Loader Pins and Bushing Repair – Not to Exceed \$7,000. Dave reported that Jason
35 Tibbetts asked how long we will keep it, and Jason advised that for only 2 or 3 years,
36 only the ones on the bucket need to be replaced. Dave will talk with the highway crew
37 about reducing the scope of the work. Motion by Lucy to approve Purchase Order 2018-
38 10 for a not to exceed amount of \$7,000. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0
39 against, motion passed.
- 40 6. **Town Meeting Warning** – The Board received a petition signed by 169 registered voters asking
41 for a tax exemption of Waterhouse Solar. Carol Robertson handed out an information sheet and
42 asked that the exemption petition, under 32 VSA 3845, not to go forward this year but that an
43 alternate article be added to the Warning. The Trustees discussed this early today and are
44 asking that tax payments on the solar plant go back to ratepayers with a portion to be used by
45 the town energy committee via a town-wide rebate program. Carol noted that property tax costs
46 weren't known during the solar plant's planning phase and were not incorporated in to the
47 financial plan for the plant. Carol also noted that the Village would prefer to not argue about the
48 applicability of 32 VSA 3845 (state exemption for some renewable energy plants), thus the
49 proposal tonight to set aside the petition and add the alternate article, which states: "*Shall the*

1 *Town of Hyde Park appropriate \$10,461.36 from the Town's General fund for use by the Village*
2 *of Hyde Park Electric Department in achieving its statutory renewable energy goals and*
3 *promoting the use of renewable energy resources in cooperation with the Hyde Park Energy*
4 *Committee." This annual funding will go toward Tier 3 compliance, a requirement in the Village*
5 *of Hyde Park Electric Department's (HPED) certificate of public good, to show that HPE is*
6 *financially supporting an energy rebate program for its ratepayers. Tim explained that the Tier*
7 *3 program benefits ratepayers, providing resiliency and energy saving incentives. Roger asked*
8 *about whether the \$10,461.36 would be used for other purposes; including the French house*
9 *renovation. Tim stated that it was a one-year request for the stated uses, and in the future,*
10 *similar articles could be proposed. Carol reminded the Board that all actions by HPED need to*
11 *be passed through and approved by the Public Utility Commission. The funds provided by the*
12 *Town taxpayers would allow HPED to build a bank of credits, reduce ratepayer costs and*
13 *provide funds for rebates which the town energy committee could administer; like an existing*
14 *program at Green Mountain Power. Dave felt that this topic was very complicated to add tonight,*
15 *and the topic would benefit from more discussions with the energy committee, Selectboard and*
16 *residents. Susan stated that she would like to be united with the HPED and go to voters, but*
17 *she is not ready to do that for this year. Carol suggested talking to the Town Energy Committee*
18 *and meeting with them to see what the committee needs for the future to accomplish their goals.*
19 *Susan noted that a well-developed energy plan could help economic development, and Carol*
20 *agreed; stable and low electric rates is a big economic development driver. Tim noted that the*
21 *discussion should be had as low electric rates benefit the entire town. Roger noted that the state*
22 *public utilities commission may not allow some things and Carol noted that while that is true,*
23 *HPED prefers to develop projects that have already been approved by the State. Tim noted that*
24 *HPED is building resiliency through projects like Waterhouse Solar. The Board thanked Carol*
25 *and Tim for the information.*

- 26 7. **Green Mountain Byway** – Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with LCPC. Motion by Susan to
27 approve the MOA with Lamoille County Planning Commission for the development of the Green
28 Mountain Byway. Seconded by Lucy. Discussion: Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 29 8. **FY2019 Town Budget** – Dave reported that he was checking into alternatives to NEMS
30 ambulance service and found out that the NEMS cost is very competitive and it is not time to
31 consider a new ambulance service. Susan noted that it is a good practice to look at costs of
32 contracted services from time to time. Motion by Lucy to approve the municipal expense budget
33 in the amount of \$2,413,400. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 34 9. **Town Meeting Warning** – The Board reviewed the draft warning which included 12 articles.
35 Motion by Lucy to sign the annual warning, seconded by Roger. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against,
36 motion passed.
- 37 10. **Other Business & Notices**
- 38 a. Dave reported that he received a complaint from a resident after seeing a private bucket
39 loader accessing the town highway garage's winter sand pile which was then used on a
40 private property; not using 5-gallon pails as most residents do when it is icy. The
41 Selectboard asked that the highway crew be contacts to report on the number of times
42 this occurs each winter and by how many residents.
- 43 b. Discussion on what role each board member should take at board meetings, such as
44 leading a discussion if the topic is the one they are responsible for as liaison. More
45 discussion needed at the board's organizational meeting after Town Meeting.
- 46 c. February 12th next regular meeting – review Town Meeting presentation.
- 47 11. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn. Seconded by Lucy. So adjourned at 7:34 p.m.