

SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard is elected to oversee all day-to-day operations of the municipal government not designated by state law to other officials. The Board works with an appointed town administrator to manage the highway department, fire department, and general government operations with oversight of contractual agreements for police, ambulance and various support agencies. The Board also cooperates with the Lanpher Memorial Library Trustees and the Village of Hyde Park Trustees on various matters including the budget and economic development planning. We work with all town staff to ensure accountability to the taxpayer through our adopted policies and procedures while identifying areas for improvement on an on-going basis.

In 2017, the town's Grandlist continued to be stagnant at less than 1.0%, and the projection for 2018 continues that trend, averaging 0.5% growth for the last 10 years. The flat growth in the Grandlist and stable non-property tax revenue receipts result in an expense budget increase having a direct increase in the tax rate. If the Grandlist increased 2.0% or greater, then the tax rate could be better stabilized as new capital and operational costs would then be shared by more property taxpayers. The Board will continue to work on expense budgets that result in tax rate increases of 3.0% or less while also planning for capital expenditures and maintaining public services at their current levels. In the 2018 Town Meeting Warning, the Board is seeking approval to create two reserve funds; Stormwater Reserve and Economic Development Reserve. The stormwater funds would be applied to roadway and property improvements resulting from the new Clean Water Act and to follow best management practices for stormwater treatment to protect water ways and improve the resiliency of the town during storm events. The economic development funds would be used to assist startup businesses, commercial projects that will increase the Grandlist and local jobs and to leverage state and federal grants. These two requests are based on current and projected needs to invest in these two areas in the near and long term.

If the town budget and special funding articles are approved, the FY2018-2019 municipal tax rate is projected to increase 3.16% over the current FY2018 rate. This rate increase would have been higher, but the Board is proposing to continue use of the unassigned General Fund balance for a third year in response to the low growth in the Grandlist; \$40,000 is proposed in FY2019. \$38,400 was used to offset the increase in FY2018. The increase results in an additional \$22.10 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

In 2017, the Board accomplished the following:

- Signed a letter of support for the Bullard Family conservation project in North Hyde Park
- Adopted the 2017 Road and Bridge Standards reducing minimum road widths and increasing maximum road grade requirements
- Created new highway budget line for centerline striping
- Supported the 2017 Better Connections Grant application; not approved
- Opened Hemingway Drive and Mason Road as official town highways
- Created part-time office cleaning position for municipal office
- Approved \$11/hour for FAST Squad members; in part, to encourage new volunteers
- Granted setback waivers for the North Hyde Park solar plant on Locke Avenue
- Approved the sign maintenance agreement for a state grant to replace signs along North Hyde Park Road and Centerville Road; work expected in summer 2018
- Authorized Road Foreman Mark French to enter into a multi-town purchase agreement for a new HydroSeeder to assist in roadside erosion control
- Renamed the north end of Webster Road as Quiet Lane which will serve two homes
- Approved the extension of town health benefits, up to six months, for long-term employees

- Settled a road damage claim on Diggins Road with the landowner paying the Town \$1,700
- Sent a letter to the Act250 office asking for a public meeting on Levesque Drive; no response
- Applied for and received Village Center designation for North Hyde Park
- Hired a land surveyor to review the ownership of the Crabapple Lane right-of-way
- Adopted the 2017 Land Use and Development Regulations
- Approved donating \$200 to the fund set up in the name of long-term firefighter Don Johnson
- Accepted bid from Goss Dodge for new mid-size plow truck, not to exceed \$94,200
- Approved outdoor consumption request for Ten Bends Brewery
- Approved letter of support for Village Basic Public Infrastructure grant application
- Assigned the FY2017 fire department surplus to FY2018 purchase of bunker gear
- Approved use of the fire equipment reserve fund for thermal imagers for NHP/Eden FD
- Approved reimbursement for highway crew safety boots at \$200 per year
- Approved town highway completing Rail Trail trailside mowing for 2017 only
- Approved a dog census program to be started by the town Animal Control Officers
- Approved Brock Carriere contract for mowing services at the ballfields
- Accepted the 2017 Financial Management Questionnaire prepared by the town treasurer
- Approved the installation of “Little Free Libraries” on town parcels
- Approved new account for “Recreation Reserve” per the 2016 Town Meeting vote
- Signed contracts for services for K-N-S Tire Recycling, Chief’s Maintenance (fire trucks), Don Tallman excavating services, Tony Berber underground tank inspections and William Allen Welding. Contracts required where business has no worker’s compensation insurance.
- Appointed Ryan Nolan as Hyde Park Fire Warden for 5-year term
- Appointed Greg Paus as regional planning director
- Approved highway access permit for Hyde Park Elementary School with waivers
- Approved hiring Shari Longe for one-time cleanup of the roundabout
- Awarded contract for Rodman Brook culvert replacement to Lamoille Construction, Inc. for \$120,621 with a portion of the expense paid by a VTrans structure grant
- Approved replacement of tandem dump/plow from Clark’s Truck Center; \$141,055
- Approved the naming of private road off Webster Road as “Larson Lane” and named a private subdivision road off Jones Road as “Old Barn Lane”
- Approved radar speed signs on Church Street and Depot Street
- Approved purchase of fire department utility/brush truck for \$55,000
- Created legal researcher assistant position at \$20.00/hour for work as needed
- Accepted resignation of Crystal Maxham from Lead Animal Control Officer position and promoted Diane Stoney to Lead ACO, with three new assistant ACO’s: Cyd Knight, Maria Merrill and Keith Ulrich
- Appointed Ron Rodjenski as Town Zoning Administrator for a 3-year term
- Discussed the new Municipal Roads General Permit and the potential impact of new drainage structures impacting the town right-of-way and landowner plantings in the ROW
- Accepted the federal grant award of \$435,825 for Village stormwater improvements; this grant was combined with a Village grant realigning the West Main/Main intersection
- Adopted the Traffic Ordinance for village streets, town roads and state highways
- Adopted the Animal Control Ordinance updating definitions and enforcement process
- Amended comp time policy to maximum of 80 hours and reimbursing cost of CDL renewal
- Signed a letter of support for Hyde Park joining the Green Mountain Byway

- Adopted the 2017-2025 Hyde Park Municipal Development Plan
- Approved a 3-year contract for annual audit services by Glenna Pound, CPA
- Approved Summit Engineering contract for services in the amount of \$53,194 for the Johnson St Extension “Sink Hole” project
- Appointed Paul Trudell to the Village Roads Working Group

In Calendar Year 2018, the Board expects to work on the following:

- Consider and adopt revisions to the Town Personnel Policy
- Monitor legislative activities and communicate with state representatives, as needed.
- Review proposed amendments to the 2017 Town Unified Zoning Bylaw
- Continue town highway garage repairs; one new work bay and energy improvements
- Continue work on unclassified town highways; Crabapple Lane and Sylvan Drive
- Apply for new Municipal Roads General Permit; monitor costs to achieve compliance
- Review town health insurance benefit package

The Board respects all community members input and encourages residents to contact any member with questions, suggestions or concerns.

David Gagnier, Co-Chair

Lucy Hankinson, Co-Chair

Roland Boivin

Roger Audet

Susan Bartlett