

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 5, 2019**

**SELECTBOARD:** Roger Audet, Susan Bartlett, Roland Boivin, David Gagnier

**TOWN CLERK / TREASURER:** Kimberly J. Moulton

**MODERTOR:** Paul Nesky

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Marguerite "Maggie" Stewart read a Town Meeting Day poem.

Selectboard Chair S. Bartlett called the meeting to order at 9:06am and lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator advised the meeting that speakers must come up to the microphone to speak and must state their name.

**Article 1.** To elect Town and School District Officers as required by Australian ballot.

Selectboard Member for a term of two years – Susan Bartlett

Selectboard Member for a term of three years – Roger Barry

Lister for a term of three years – Deanna C. Judkins

Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Director for a term of three years – Lisa Jones Barry

Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Director for a term of three years – Kristina "Tina" Lowe

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management Supervisor – No one was elected

**Article 2.** To elect the following town officers from the floor:

Moderator for a term of one year: Selectboard Chair S. Bartlett indicated that Christine Hallquist had resigned her position as Moderator. M. Gagnier nominated Paul Nesky for Moderator that was a seconded. Motion to close nominations was seconded and passed by voice vote. Paul Nesky was elected Moderator by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was turned over to Moderator Nesky. Moderator Nesky thanked Christine Hallquist for her service as Moderator these last few years. He reminded voters that the polls were open from 8:30am to 7:00pm to vote for the town and school officers in article 1 of the warning. Moderator Nesky reminded everyone that they must speak into the microphone and must state their name.

Town Clerk for a term of three years: Moderator Nesky called for nominations. W. Burroughs nominated Kim Moulton for Town Clerk. J. Heath seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Nesky accepted a motion and a second to close nominations and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. There was a motion and a second for the Selectboard to cast one ballot for Kim Moulton for Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Town Treasurer for a term of three years: Moderator Nesky called for nominations. M. Moulton nominated Kim Moulton for Town Treasurer. W. Burroughs seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Nesky accepted a motion and a second to close nominations and the motion

passed unanimously by a voice vote. There was a motion and a second for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Kim Moulton for Town Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Town Agent for a term of one year: Moderator Nesky called for nominations for Town Agent. A nomination was made for Ed French and was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Nesky accepted a motion and a second to close nominations and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. There was a motion and a second for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Ed French for Town Agent. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: Moderator Nesky called for nominations for Cemetery Commissioner. A nomination was made for Judy Lanphear and was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Nesky accepted a motion and a second to close nominations and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. There was a motion and a second for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Judy Lanphear for Cemetery Commissioner. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Library Trustee for a term of five years: Moderator Nesky called for nominations for Library Trustee. Emily Dearborn nominated Fran Aronovici and was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Nesky accepted a motion and a second to close nominations and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. There was a motion and a second for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Fran Aronovici for Cemetery Commissioner. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Article 3.** To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers and Service Agencies.

S. Bartlett indicated that this year's town report was dedicated to Greg Paus and in memory of Ken Alexander. Greg Paus has been on the Planning Commission for many years and is retiring. S Bartlett thanked him for his service to the town. S. Bartlett stated that Ken Alexander's presence is missed by everyone.

S. Bartlett stated that we are behind on getting E911 signs installed town-wide. We started placing them on mailboxes but not all mailboxes are equal. We had to buy stakes to place the signs on at some locations. Going forward, zoning permits will require E911 signs to be installed.

Susan Hayes spoke on behalf of the Hyde Park Community Circle. The Community Circle brings friends and neighbors together. The Community Circle hosts multiple events during the year. The Think Spring event is in March at the Hyde Park Elementary School and will be held March 16 this year. They also host an ice cream social in July, Home Day in September and the Lighting Ceremony in December. Teresa Farquharson recently resigned her position with the Community Circle. S. Hayes thanked Teresa for her service to the Community Circle over the years.

**Article 4.** Shall the voters create a Reserve Fund for library purposes to be under the control of the Lanpher Memorial Library Board of Trustees with funding from donations, fees, grants, interest earned on investments, or gifts, and by any appropriation approved by voters in future years?

There was a motion and a second from J. Rohleder to move the article. Sigh Searles spoke on this article. S. Searles introduced himself as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. He explained that the Town Administrator proposed to the Trustees that they should look into creating a capital reserve fund. The Trustees see this as a prudent way to save money for future capital expenses. The older part of the building is 100 years old. Steve Martin, a local contractor has looked at the building and all systems in

place. An energy audit was done about six years ago and have completed all proposed items from that audit.

S. Bartlett directed people to page 27 of the town report. She thanked current and prior Selectboard, Clerks & Treasurers for putting Hyde Park in the position of having no debt. Since we have capital reserve funds, we don't need to do a lot of borrowing. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**Article 5.** Shall the voters appropriate \$600 to Lamoille Neighbors, Inc. for FY2020?

There was a motion by J. Rohleder that was seconded to move the article. Kathy Geiersbach spoke on this article. K. Geiersbach introduced herself and stated she is on the board of Lamoille Neighbors. They are a new grassroots 501c3 member organization and part of a national movement to help seniors age in place. They are asking for \$600 which would fund some membership dues. Membership dues are \$300 per individual per year or \$450 per household per year. She stated that, demographically, Vermont is getting older. Hyde Park is getting older. This organization would help people with things they can't necessarily do but, with this assistance, would allow them to stay in their homes. They could assist with things like change light bulbs, transportation to doctor appointments, hair appointments and the grocery stores. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**Article 6.** Shall the voters appropriate \$50,000 of the General Fund Balance to the North Hyde Park Grange Hall Project?

There was a motion that was seconded to move the article. Jim Heath spoke on the article. J. Heath introduced himself, Al Spitzer and Liz Courtney as part of the Historical Preservation (sic. Sites) Committee. The Committee is looking at the Grange as a community center similar to River Arts in Morrisville. He stated some money will be used to finish legal paperwork to get the property deeded to the town with the rest used for a new roof. Some structural improvements have already been made. There are grants available but we can't apply for them until the building is legally deeded to the town.

Al Spitzer stated that he started working with the Committee about a year ago due the building falling into disrepair. He stated that the building itself is in good shape but the roof needs a lot of help. The roof rafters needed ties installed to meet current code. It now has a higher snow load. Bids by contractors have been between \$42,000-50,000 for a new roof. There will be other repairs down the road. It can't be used for public events until the roof is repaired. He stated it has beautiful floors and the stage curtain was restored a few years ago.

Liz Courtney stated she is a newcomer to Hyde Park and lives across the road from the Grange Hall in the North Hyde Park Village. She's heard stories about the lively history of the Grange and the events that have happened there. Once usable by the public, it could be a space for yoga, club meetings, committee meetings and the Community Circle could hold its Think Spring event there. There are so many possibilities but nothing can be done until the roof is replaced.

Someone questioned where people would park. L. Courtney stated there would be parking down at the North Hyde Park Post Office. An adjoining property has been foreclosed on. There is the possibility of acquiring that property and tearing down the building for parking.

Duncan Tingle stated that he does not see the North Hyde Park Village coming back since it is a drive-through village. There is no school, no store and 18-wheelers driving right through it. He says he can't support this article.

L. Courtney states that the project and any future improvements to the North Hyde Park Village would only be a success if supported. She is a resident of the North Hyde Park Village and wants to see this happen.

Zac Cota stated that he is the Vice-Chair of the Hyde Park Town Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has discussed this project. The Grange Hall is a center point of obtaining a village center designation in the North Hyde Park Village. Sidewalks and street lights are all in the future but the Grange Hall is the focal point before we can even move forward.

Ruth Hay wants to know where in the town report does it show any reports or financial reports for the Committee.

Zac Cota stated that on page 32 shows it is a sub-committee of the Planning Commission.

J. Heath stated that the committee has no money at this time so there are no financial reports. If approved, there will be reports in the town report next year.

Someone asked if other funding avenues had been explored.

J. Heath stated that we are not a separate 501c3 and that we are a committee of the town. There aren't many grants but can't apply for whatever is out there until we are deeded the property. We will need an Act 250 permit. He stated that the Town of Guilford had a building almost exactly like what we have and they spent \$350,000 over time to repair it.

Maggie Stewart feels that North Hyde Park should not be excluded as a village within Hyde Park and wants North Hyde Park to start looking and acting like an active village within the town.

M. Zophar stated that we need to step up and recognize North Hyde Park as a Village and be a whole community.

Brian Shackett stated that he works for the Department of Corrections. He has been in Hyde Park for six years. He and his work crew have completed some of the recent work at the Grange Hall. The building is not falling into the river. It is a great building but needs a new roof. He has stated that he'll continue to use his work crew to help get the building back in shape at a low cost to the taxpayers.

Susan Hayes stated that she supports this opportunity.

Zac Cota asked if this property will be deeded to the town whether this article passes or not.

Moderator Nesky asked if there were any objections to Ron Rodjenski, the Town Administrator and non-resident, speaking during the meeting. There were no objections.

R. Rodjenski stated that town attorneys found some issues that need addressed. There is no one left from the Grange to deed the Grange Hall to the town. The courts would have to deed the property to the town. These legal hurdles must be cleared before we can proceed.

Steve Morse stated that he has concerns. He asked if anyone had done a valuation on the projects required. J. Heath stated there had not. S. Morse said some of the issues are that the building is close to the river and

there is no parking. He feels it is a money pit. He is all for investing in the community but feels this is a bad project. He also requested a paper ballot.

By a show of hands, Moderator Nesky stated there will be paper ballot for this article.

Duncan Tingle stated that he was not necessarily changing his mind but is changing his heart as he sees so many young people here supporting this article.

Nancy Tingle stated that we don't even own the property and we have been doing work on it. If this doesn't pass, she hopes that parts of the building can be reused/recycled into other projects in town.

L. Courtney stated that if this passes, the legal work to get the property deeded to the town can start. Once complete, there will be some grant opportunities available for funding more repairs and improvements.

Bill Wengle asked if there would be revenue generated with this facility if the repairs are completed.

L. Courtney states that is the hope.

Ruth Roy asked if our town insurance will cover the building.

J. Heath stated that once we own it, it will be covered by our insurance.

No further discussion so Moderator Nesky called the Board of Civil Authority members for the paper balloting.

Jack Anderson asked how we should be voting. Moderator Nesky stated that a yes vote supported the article and a no vote would be against the article.

Moderator Nesky called off the results of the paper ballot: 129 total votes, 98 yes votes, 30 no votes and 1 blank. The motion passed.

**Article 7.** Shall the voters rename the existing Highway Equipment Reserve Fund to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund and specify that in addition to highway vehicles and equipment repair and purchases, the fund may be used for highway facility construction and repair and for roadway capital projects?

S. Bartlett made a motion that was seconded by D. Gagnier to move the article. S. Bartlett stated that this is really just a technicality and a renaming of the fund so funds can be used for any highway facility construction and repair and for roadway capital projects. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**Article 8.** Shall the voters appropriate \$43,787 from the General Fund Balance to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund?

A motion was made and seconded to move the article. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**Article 9.** Shall the voters prohibit, as allowed by 24 V.S.A. 1936,a, the town constable from exercising law enforcement authority?

There was a motion by S. Morse that was seconded to move the article. S. Morse stated that he thought that having police powers was the reason for the constable position. D. Gagnier stated that in 2014, the Selectboard had voted to prohibit the constables from exercising law enforcement but it was discovered that only the voters can do that. The reason we are doing this is we are currently paying \$4,000 in insurance for the constables to do nothing. We utilize the services of the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.

Bill Wengle asked what a constable does.

D. Gagnier stated that a constable dispatches dogs and deer.

Someone asked why we have two constables. D. Gagnier stated that he wasn't sure but this will make it so we have one constable with no duties.

Someone asked why we would even have to have a constable if there are no duties.

D. Gagnier stated it is because it is required by state statute.

Motion passed by a voice vote with one vote opposed.

**Article 10.** 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, 2019 to June 30, 2020 of \$2,529,600 of which \$2,111,100 shall be raised by property taxes and \$418,500 by non-property tax revenue?

There was a motion by J. Anderson that was seconded to move the article. S. Bartlett stated that the impact of this budget would be an increase in taxes of \$27 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Motion passed by a voice vote with one vote opposed.

**Article 11.** 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 Friday, August 30, 2019

Second installment to be paid on or before Friday, November 15, 2019

Third installment to be paid on or before Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Fourth installment to be paid on or before Friday, May 15, 2020

There was a motion by M. Zophar that was seconded to move the article. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Article 12. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

S. Bartlett stated that Roger Barry had a fall on the ice and was therefore not in attendance at the meeting today.

S. Bartlett also stated that the Front Porch Forum is a valuable resource and a great way to stay up to date and involved with the community.

M. Zophar thanked the Selectboard for all their hard work. She asked how to get the meetings moved back to the elementary school.

S. Bartlett acknowledged that this was something that was missed from last year's Town Meeting discussion but it will be looked into for next year.

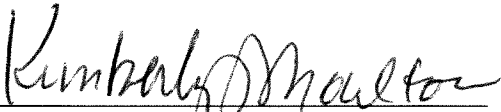
D. Tingle stated that there are meals at other town meetings and why not in Hyde Park. He would volunteer to be on a meal committee for next year.

D. Gagnier thanked Kim Moulton, Dawn Slayton, Alyson Cusson, Ron Rodjenski, Julie Rohleder, Gary Anderson, Deanna Judkins, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for all their hard work for the town and to Paul Nesky for stepping into the Moderator position this year.

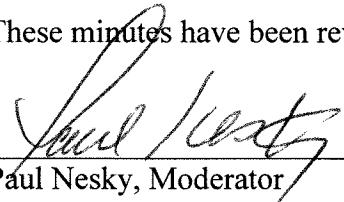
There was a motion to adjourn at 10:52am and there was a second. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

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I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate report of the votes taken at the Town of Hyde Park Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly J. Moulton, Town Clerk

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the following two town officials:

  
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Paul Nesky, Moderator

  
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Susan Bartlett, Selectboard Chair