

## 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 Calendar Year 2018, the town's Grandlist continued to not improve, in fact, the result of reappraisal was a 2.5% reduction in the town's property value. The projection for the 2019 Grandlist is a more favorable 1% increase in value, less than the 2% or more growth rate that would better stabilize the town tax rate. 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 2019 Town Meeting Warning, the Board is seeking approval to utilize \$50,000 from the unassigned General Fund Balance for improvements to the North Hyde Park Grange Hall and to create a Library Reserve Fund to be under the control of the Library Board of Trustees.

If the town budget and special funding articles are approved, the FY2019-2020 municipal tax rate is projected to increase 3.81% over the current FY2019 rate. This rate increase would have been higher however the Board is proposing to continue the use of the General Fund unassigned balance (\$30,000 in FY2020) due to the lack of significant growth in the Grandlist. The increased rate results in about an additional \$28.00 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

In 2018, the Board accomplished the following:

- Accepted the State Municipal Mitigation grant award of \$435,825 for the "Sink Hole" project on Johnson St. Extension which includes the realignment of West Main Street/Main Street intersection and stormwater improvements between Main Street and the LVRT.
- Received town zoning approval for a vehicular easement to the Center Cemetery on McKinstry Hill Road.
- Supported the regional planning commission grant application to USDA for planning funds to study the feasibility of a Lamoille County anaerobic digester to treat waste from local breweries, distillers and cheesemakers.
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the regional planning commission to develop the Green Mountain Byway extension from Stowe to Cambridge along RT 15.
- Accepted the Better Connections grant award of \$63,000 to develop a Main Street Action Plan.
- Adopted amendments to the Town zoning bylaw with a minor zoning map amendment in North Hyde Park along Ferry Street.
- Created the Better Connections Steering Committee from members of the former Village Roads Committee membership.
- Approved a tax stabilization agreement with EMC Properties, LLC on Locke Avenue.
- Agreed to participate on the VT Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation "Resilient Right-of-Ways" pilot program – study to be published in late 2019.
- Signed a letter of support for streambank stabilization project along the Centerville Brook, near Depot Street, with the Lamoille County Conservation District.
- Approved a grant application with the regional planning commission to update the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Approved the transfer of \$4,000 from the annual \$8,000 in revenue from the Harvey/Sterling View Mobile Home Park loan to the Economic Development Reserve Fund and the second \$4,000 to continue to be transferred to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund.
- Approved the release of Glebe Lands Rights from the Robert Barnes parcel.
- Merged two parcels used for the Center Cemetery into one 2-acre parcel via quit claim deed.
- Approved the VT Association of Snow Travelers request to mow the sides of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail's Hyde Park segment.
- Approved the realignment of West Main St to enter Main St with a 90-degree intersection.
- Appointed Bob Malbon as Town DRB alternate.
- Welcomed Robert Whalen as the new Town Tree Warden, replacing Jared Nunery.
- Signed the Dubois-King, Inc. contract for \$85,000 to complete the work under the Better Connections grant.
- Approved the grant application for a scoping study to determine the preferred method for installing a crosswalk on VT100 at the North Hyde Park Post Office (grant not approved).
- Appointed Greg Paus as the town's representative on the regional planning commission.
- Accepted responsibilities for the North Hyde Park Cemetery from the North Hyde Park Cemetery Association.
- Assigned \$3,500 from FY2018 to FY2019 for the grange hall repairs in North Hyde Park.
- Received the 2018 VTrans Grant Audit findings that stated the Town was in "full compliance" with grant requirements, acknowledging the excellent record-keeping of Town Treasurer Kim Moulton.
- Accepted the resignation of Selectboard member Lucy Hankinson; Roger Barry appointed to replace Lucy.
- Approved the engineering contract with Stone Environmental for \$4,400 to inspect and file reports regarding the LVRT Trailhead brownfield capping project.
- Increased the maximum amount to be held in the unassigned general fund balance from 15% to 20% of the annual town revenue amount for use in emergencies or as authorized by voters.
- Approved \$500 for Lacing Up for Cancer in memory of Hyde Park Road Foreman Kenny Alexander.
- Appointed Christine Dudley as the town representative to Rural Community Transportation.
- Agreed to submit the town's application for coverage under the new Municipal Roads General Permit which sets minimum maintenance standards for all town highways.
- Issued a Notice of Intent, presented by the Town Health Officer, to the landowner of 393/341 Ferry Street requiring the removal of trash from the exterior grounds.
- Approved a on-time payment to Kevin Judkins for town road repairs he completed at a cost of \$300.
- Approved
- Appointed Gary Anderson, Norm Andrews and Town Treasurer Kim Moulton to a new Town Investment Committee.
- Approved \$2,400 for hazard tree removal work on Barnes Road and Johnson St Extension.
- Thanked the Town Permit Guide Committee for its work on the project; Liz Courtney, Bob Malbon, Deanna Judkins, Mary Goderwis and Jim Fontaine
- Adopted the 2018 Hyde Park Traffic Ordinance setting local speed limits on various town roads.
- Approved the "one-time" grading of Railroad Drive, Zack Woods and Ten Bends Drive.
- Approved the installation of a School Bus Stop Ahead sign on Garfield Road at the request of Tucker Clancy.

- Appointed Carol Fano as Hyde Park Emergency Management Coordinator. Fire Chief Ed Webster will be the Deputy Emergency Management Director and Brad Carriere the Emergency Management Director.
- Appointed Tom Barnes, Amy O'Toole and Brickett Bailey to the Connect Hyde Park Steering Committee, also known as the Better Connections Steering Committee.
- Accepted the consortium grant with the towns of Wolcott and Stowe to study the benefits of the participating in the FEMA Community Rating System, which could lower insurance premiums for property owners with flood insurance.
- Received a \$15,000 grant from the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation to support the work being done with the Better Connections grant.
- Paid \$38,375 for the Battle Row Road culvert replacements completed by Lamoille Construction.
- Approved the purchase of two generators; one for the Town Fire Department station and one for the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department station; total cost not to exceed \$15,000.
- Appointed Roger Barry to be the town representative on the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Approved J. Hutchins to complete reclaim and paving work on Battle Row Road for a cost to not exceed \$210,000.
- Hired Michel Renaud to be the highway department's seasonal winter plowing operator.
- Met with the Eden Selectboard and North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department to review operation and funding needs of the fire department.
- Appointed Alyson Cusson to the position of Assistant Delinquent Tax Collector.
- Signed a letter of support for the Lamoille Community House on Main Street.
- Approved the 2018 Returned Check Policy.
- Approved the 2018 Contract with Brock Carriere for mowing of town ballfields.
- Signed the VTrans lease for use of the rail corridor for the Hyde Park LVRT Trailhead.
- Union Contract - Ratified the Collective Bargain Agreement with the town highway department and IBEW Local 300; resulting an immediate \$2.00 hourly wage increase and 2% wage increase July 1, 2019 with a contract term ending June 30, 2020.

In 2019, the Board intends to work on the following:

- Review town health insurance benefits
- Consider and adopt revisions to the Town Personnel Policy
- Facilitate economic development where possible with limited use of property taxes
- Review proposed amendments to the 2018 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
- Develop a comprehensive plan to improve all town roads to good condition then maintain at that level; a multi-year plan with possible bonding to accelerate needed improvements

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

Susan Bartlett, Chair

Roger Audet

Roger Barry

Roland Boivin

David Gagnier