

Selectboard
November 18, 2019
MONTHLY MEETING

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

Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; David Gagnier, Vice-Chair; Roger Barry; Roger Audet and Roland Boivin
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; State Rep. Dan Noyes; Carol Fano; Ann Fano; Brian Shackett; Matt Reed; Sigh Searles; Jim Noyes; LCSD Sheriff Roger Marcoux; Sgt. Richard Wells; GMATV did videotape this meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Welcome**, Changes to the Agenda (None) and Public Comment: **Rep. Dan Noyes** introduced himself and asked if the Board had any priorities that he should be focusing on in the next legislative session. Dave asked for more road funding support. Roger A. said that the testing of PFOA is a high burden for small water systems at a cost of about \$475.00, suggesting that if North Hyde Park is not a high risk location then testing every year may not be necessary, maybe once every five years or even just once unless conditions change. Dan Noyes stated that he is aware of the new 3-acre Stormwater rules that could negatively impact the three properties in Hyde Park; LUHS, Health Lumber and Sterling View MHP. Susan noted that the regional planning commission has drafted comments on the proposed rule and the Town is preparing comments to be submitted by 11/25. Rep. Noyes wanted to learn more about the long-term impacts on improving water quality and at what cost to property owners. Rep. Noyes offered to come back in December if the Board had any additional thoughts and was thanked for coming to the meeting.
2. **FY2021 Budget** - Lanpher Memorial Library – Trustee Treasurer Jim Noyes and Co-Chair Sigh Searles presented the proposed budget with an overall increase of \$5,500 with \$3,000 of that increase now being dedicated to the library reserve fund. Sigh noted that the library programs are growing incredibly and are now including evening events with good coordination of community events with the Friends of the Lanpher Memorial Library. The expense budget increases by 6.0% compared to the current FY2020. Sigh thanked the Selectboard for their support of the library.
3. **FY2021 Budget** - Lamoille County Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Roger Marcoux and Sgt. Richard Wells appeared and reviewed the 2020-2021 patrol budget for the three member towns; Hyde Park, Johnson and Wolcott. Sheriff Marcoux noted that they have a full roster now with K-9 and detective positions, but one person will soon be leaving. Sheriff Marcoux noted that having a full roster was attained even though new hires were only offered a 30-year retirement package. Most police departments offer the State's 20-year retirement plan, but current state law only provides the 30-year plan for County Sheriff Departments. Sheriff Marcoux is committed to changing this at the legislative level. Roger noted that health care expense is up over 12% due to family plan changes and the BC/BS annual premium increase. Sheriff Marcoux noted that the overall budget was increased by over 10% in early drafts and after working with the patrol committee it is now 4.981% but with elimination of overtime which hopefully can be provided by a reduction in the Sheriff's salary or he will find other sources. Sheriff Marcoux recommended that the towns consider a 3-year contract going forward which would still be contingent on annual voter approval. Sgt. Wells noted that speed issues are responded to by directed patrols with records kept of the LCSD response, showing what was done and when. Sheriff Marcoux stated that because the requests and responses are recorded, residents have access to this information, and he encouraged the Selectboard to refer any patrol concerns directly to the Sheriff's office. Susan asked what the percentage of patrol time is spent on drug-related issues and Sheriff Marcoux stated it was variable and impacts many of the calls for service. Sgt. Wells noted that drug impacts are significant as cases related to drug use seem to occur every day. Susan noted that there are many school age

1 children that need special attention because the home situation is unstable. Sheriff Marcoux noted
2 that the Department's one detective is primarily dealing with investigations related to child
3 endangerment and the extent is not completely understood by the average citizen. David noted
4 that the patrol services are working to the maximum and they could use more labor to meet the
5 needs of the three towns. Sheriff Marcoux is looking at ways to reduce health care costs through
6 options like high-deductible plans and the Department paying a portion of the employee's out of
7 pocket expenses, hoping to help keep high-quality employees. Susan thanked the Sheriff for
8 funding the two Hyde Park speed radar signs which are effective. Susan noted that the current
9 Better Connections grant is working toward a recommendation of a 4-way stop at Eden/Depot
10 Street. Sheriff Marcoux noted that it would require an ordinance amendment which Susan agreed.
11 Sgt. Wells advised that if the Board hears any concerns, they should send along to the LCSD for
12 a response. The Selectboard thanked Sheriff Marcoux for his work on the budget and the
13 information provided by Sgt. Wells.

- 14 4. **VAST Request** to use Black Farm Road as temporary detour – The Board felt that the town road
15 should be kept open and mixing snowmobile traffic on this narrow road is not an acceptable
16 proposal. Ron explained that VAST was looking at all options due to the amount of Rail Trail
17 damage from the Nov. 1st flood event.
- 18 5. **FY2021 Budget** - Administration Budget Discussion – Ron asked what the Board was thinking for
19 an overall goal, and if any new initiatives would require significant changes in the budget. Ron
20 noted that the Town Planning Commission is proposing to preserve commercial space for future
21 investments along VFW Drive by establishing the VFW Business Park as a new zoning district.
22 The Board felt that the initial budget increase goal should be no more than 3% to minimize taxpayer
23 impact considering there is again no significant increase in the Grandlist. The Grandlist is projected
24 by staff to increase under 1.0% for the next tax year calculation.
- 25 6. **Vendor Policy** – To reduce the paperwork burden on small vendors, Ron recommended that the
26 current Vendor Policy be amended to exempt small vendors from filling out a series of documents
27 and agreements recommended by VLCT when the vendor does not carry Workers Compensation
28 coverage. The Board asked that a written policy be prepared for review at their December monthly
29 meeting.
- 30 7. **Highway Department** – Winter Sidewalk Maintenance & Preliminary FY2021 Budget Discussion
31 deferred for a special meeting in early December.
- 32 8. **Highway Project 2020** – Better Roads Grant for McKinstry Hill Road – Ron reviewed the damaged
33 road sections across the town from the November 1, 2019 flood event. A few sites need
34 engineering review and Watershed Consulting is assisting in the review of existing conditions and
35 sizing and location of culverts. Ann Fano encouraged a comprehensive plan to permanently fix as
36 best as possible this section of McKinstry Hill Road. Matt Reed noted that redirection of stormwater
37 could result in the need for state permits. Carol Fano noted that existing drainage patterns need
38 review and some solutions may not require relocating existing drainage patterns. Carol noted that
39 Peter Danforth from Lamoille County Conservation District has visited the site and sees it as a
40 potential project. Ron noted that the Better Roads grant is due Dec 13 and could fund construction
41 of the plans now being developed by Watershed Consulting. Motion by Roger A. to apply for the
42 2020 Better Roads grant for McKinstry Hill Road. Seconded by Roger B. Voting: 5 in favor, 0
43 against.
- 44 9. **Stormwater** – Draft comments prepared by staff on the State's Proposed 3-Acre Rule were
45 reviewed by the Board. Motion by Roger A to authorize Susan Bartlett to sign the public comment
46 letter to ANR. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 47 10. **NHP/Eden Fire Department** – Loan documents from the VT Treasurer's Office were received for
48 \$110,000 to fund the new North Hyde Park / Eden Fire Department, Inc. fire truck. Motion by Dave
49 to sign the loan agreement for \$110,000 for a term of 5 years with a payment of \$22,000 per year
50 at 0% interest. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 11. **Town Energy Committee** – Appointment Request from Christine Hallquist. Motion by Roger A. to
2 appoint Christine Hallquist to the Town Energy Committee. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor,
3 0 against, motion passed.
- 4 12. **Selectboard Order** – Road reclassifications and proposed decisions reviewed. Motion by Dave to
5 sign the Selectboard Order regarding the nine roads discussed at the October 17, 2019 public
6 hearing. Seconded by Roger A. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 7 13. **Review minutes** – Motion by Roland to approve the 10/21/2019 and 11/4/2019 minutes, as
8 written. Seconded by Roger A. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed, with Dave abstaining
9 from the 10/21/2019 minutes for the sections he was absent and from 11/4/2019 which he was not
10 present.
- 11 14. **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Dave to approve the town orders. Seconded by Roland. Voting:
12 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Susan noted that the one FAST Squad invoice is pending,
13 and the Board should have a discussion with Brad Carriere about their prior request to review
14 proposed expenses before incurring any FY2020 expenses.
- 15 **15. Other Business & Notices**
- 16 a) Personnel Policy – A worksession date to discuss policy amendments with highway
17 maintenance issues was set for December 3, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
- 18 b) Town Planning Commission has set a Public Hearing on Zoning Changes for Monday,
19 12/09/2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 c) Shed on North Hyde Park Road – Matt Reed talked about the failing structure within
21 the ROW and the Board will send a letter to the landowner as the town highway
22 department has also expressed concern about the structure falling into the road.
23 Motion by Roger A to send a letter to the owner of the shed, which is owned by Irene
24 Morin or Ron Morin. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 25 d) Executive Session: Motion by Roger A. to move into executive discussion to discuss
26 town personal matters and real estate under 1 VSA 313. Seconded by Roland. Voting:
27 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 28 e) Gihon Valley Hall – Re-Roof Invoice – Motion by Roland to pay the final invoice from
29 Northern Roofing for the re-roof of the Gihon Valley Hall building as recommended by
30 the Historic Sites Committee in the amount of \$10,670. Voting: 4 in favor, 1 against
31 (Roger A against the up-charges for replacing rotted wood as too high), motion
32 passed.
- 33
- 34 16. **Adjourn** – Motion by Dave to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0
35 against, motion passed.