

Selectboard
December 16, 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; Fire Chief Ed Webster, EMD Brad Carriere, Ryan Nolan, Cailyn Carriere, Judy Lanphear, Monica Heath, Christine Cooney, Deb Henderson, John Clark, John Henderson, H. Dale Porter, Liz Courtney, Lindsay Reese, Judy Clark, Brian Shackett, GMATV did videotape this meeting.

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

1. **Welcome**, Changes to the Agenda (None) and no public comment.

2. **FY2021 Budget** – Budget Discussions with:

a) **Hyde Park Community Circle** – HPCC members Judy Clark and Deb Henderson were present to review the group’s history and future. Judy reviewed the history which began in 1999 to find common ground in Hyde Park on community needs but with little success until 2001 when the first fun event was held, the ice cream social. This event was very successful, with more events added to get to the current four annual community events. Judy is retiring from the committee this year and membership is low, so the group is reaching out to others for help. This including moving the annual wreath ceremony to North Hyde Park with the support of the new Gihon Valley Hall Committee. The next event is the spring puppets & plants, working with PIE at HPES. The Community Circle committee needs new members and is now looking to the Selectboard for help in sustaining the four events. Judy asked what the town can do to help build community in the future, suggesting that a meeting to discuss next steps for the community could be held in January with as many community groups that can attend. Deb noted that the former “Community Collaborative Group” organized by Library Director Amy Olsen would be invited to the proposed brainstorming event with the Selectboard. Susan noted that the Better Connections meetings held over the past year or so has produced additional community members that are interested in building community and ensuring current traditions remain. This group is hoping to hold new monthly events for family-friendly events, such as a movie night in February. The impact of many committees seeing a reduction in the number of volunteers is challenging the success of these types of community events. Susan agreed to set up a meeting on a Wednesday in January to have a brainstorming event on planning and managing community events.

b) **Cemetery Trustees** – Judy Lanphear stated that the Cemetery Trustees are seeking an increase of \$2,500 for FY2021 (\$22,500 total) to maintain six town cemeteries and contribute to two other groups that maintain two additional cemeteries; the St. Teresa Cemetery on Johnson Street Extension and the Plains Cemetery on MacFarlane Road. Cemeteries that were recently accepted by the Town from private cemetery associations were the Hooper Cemetery on Whitaker Road, which has available lots for sale and needs a driveway built to allow the hearse access, and the North Hyde Park Village Cemetery on VT100 which needs no major maintenance and is no longer selling lots. Dave offered to discuss the possibility of adding some land to the Hooper Cemetery with the adjoining landowners.

c) **Town Fire Department & NHP / Eden Fire Dept with MOU Update & FAST Squad**; Ron reviewed the current draft of the MOU which Eden also has for review. The Selectboard agreed to meet with the Eden Selectboard on January 6th at 6:00 p.m. Brad reported no changes to the FAST/Emergency Management budget from the current FY2020 budget. Dave stated that FAST currently responds to about 50% of the calls because not all members are responding to the calls

1 for service, noting that it is hard to have one primary responder. Brad stated that he is trying to
2 get more FAST Squad members to help increase the response to calls, noting that North Hyde
3 Park is generally covered by NEMS as that area is close to the Johnson NEMS station, but the
4 east side of Hyde Park is covered first by FAST in most cases. Brad noted he would only respond
5 to calls in NHP if critical situation or in need of extra hands to help move a patient. Brad noted
6 that training costs are high for volunteers and he hopes the legislature can find some resources
7 to support EMS volunteers. Drug overdoses are also increasing the calls for service. Brad wished
8 he had more volunteers to help the FAST Squad get to people faster and more often before the
9 ambulance service arrives. Chief Webster is proposing an increase of \$8,100 for the town fire
10 department to cover increased electric rates and other expenses, including tire replacements
11 which are required by DOT to be on a 10-year replacement schedule and tests for air tanks which
12 are required every 5 years. Chief Webster noted that \$5,700 in reserve funds could be used for
13 tire replacement expenses to reduce the impact on the operating budget. Chief noted that
14 beginning in January, the department would like to revise the pay scale to reflect what North
15 Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department is doing, for example, \$14.00/hr. compared to \$13.79 currently
16 for the same rank in HPTFD. Chief Webster recommend a stipend pay for officers and allowing
17 the fire department to obtain diesel fuel from the town highway bulk storage which is about
18 \$0.30/gallon less than the retail price paid by the fire department. The Board felt there was no
19 simple way to setup a system to account for the fire department's usage unless there is a new
20 pump gauge installed that would offset the savings. Chief Webster stated that the only way to
21 get physicals done is to go to a doctor on their own time and Chief won't ask existing firefighters
22 to do the physical without being compensated. Chief Webster stated that the physicals are not
23 being done in many fire departments. Roger Audet asked if physicals were a regulation for Air-
24 Pak use and if not doing it is it a town liability. Susan thought that having a physical is important
25 and Brad stated that taking time off should be compensated. Susan asked if time was paid would
26 everyone get a physical. Chief Webster stated it would be required for those using self-contained
27 breathing apparatus. Susan explained that ensuring that firefighters are in good health is good
28 for the Town and their families. Chief Webster noted that regulations require yearly physical for
29 those that wear Air-Paks. Dave noted that if the Town requires physicals then we should pay
30 them their hourly rate and for the physical. Brad stated that some physicals are done for CDL
31 drivers. Roland stated that when he was a firefighter, not everyone knew that a volunteer
32 firefighter had only one lung. Susan asked for a list of firefighters needing physicals. Chief asked
33 how reimbursements would be done and Ron suggested that the Selectboard should work
34 through the details of what is expected and how to implement it and provide that information to
35 the fire department. Dave asked about putting tires on a regular replacement schedule either
36 through the operating budget or fire reserve, and Ryan estimated that about one truck a year
37 would need tires replaced between the two fire departments. Susan suggested adding \$5,000
38 per year for tire replacements. The Board thanked Ed and Brad for their time.

- 39 d) **Gihon Valley Hall Committee** – Dale Porter explained that the recently formed Gihon Valley
40 Hall Committee, consisting of the members of the former Historic Sites Committee, is submitting
41 their budget memo, dated December 16, 2019, for consideration. Liz reported that the recent
42 wreath lighting ceremony went well with the Hyde Park Community Circle. Liz explained that
43 making use of the first floor of the hall is a first step, including windows and doors to make the
44 building warmer for events year-round and to improve security. The memo seeks \$17,500 from
45 the General fund balance for additional building repairs (\$50,000 was approved at Town Meeting
46 2019 for the same purpose) and no change to the annual operating budget of \$3,500. The
47 Committee continues to seek grant fund opportunities. Roger Audet suggested that any work on
48 the building should have someone on-site to supervise work to review possible overages. Roger
49 A. offered to help with overseeing future work to which the committee expressed its appreciation.
50 Brian Shackett offered to help where the VT Dept of Corrections crew can, especially with
51 insulation and window replacements. Roger Audet would like to have a dinner in Town this winter
52 to help raise awareness of the work at the hall and with fundraising. Liz offered that at least one
53 event every quarter is the initial goal of the committee. The Board thanked the Committee for the
54 budget proposal and information in the memo.

- 1 3. **Fireworks Policy and Ordinance Discussion** – Susan noted that the impact of fireworks on the
2 farming community is high and how to review the future requests should be a community
3 discussion. Susan explained that the Lanphear Farm is larger now and more animals raise the
4 risk of something happening, such as cows escaping when upset by the fireworks noise and
5 crossing Route 100 at night. Dave asked how the Board was going to weigh the benefits of a
6 large public event with residents celebrating versus the level of harm to cows and to travelers
7 on nearby highways. Susan noted that the most recent fireworks display at the high school did
8 receive the proper permits but the safety risk should be explored at a public meeting of stake
9 holders to explore this issue and possibly begin to develop a new town policy or ordinance to
10 address the safety concerns.
- 11 4. **Annual Contract - Cloud and Managed Services for Town IT/Server** – Ron stated that the existing
12 contracts are working well with Tech Group and should be continued. Motion by Roger A. to
13 authorize the Town Clerk to sign the annual contracts for Cloud Services and for Managed
14 Serves by Tech Group. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 15 5. **Town Listers** – The Board of Listers have signed the certificate of no pending lawsuit regarding the
16 2018 Grandlist, now the Selectboard is required to review and sign also confirming no lawsuit
17 is pending at the current time. Motion by Roger A. to sign the certification of no pending lawsuit
18 regarding the 2018 Grandlist. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 19 6. **Review minutes** – Motion by Roland to approve the 11/18/2019 and 12/03/2019 minutes, as written.
20 Seconded by Roger A. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 21 7. **Review Town Orders** – Motion by Dave to approve the town orders. Seconded by Roland. Voting:
22 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 23 8. **Snow** – Dave reported that he checked into snow removal from village streets with hired trucks and
24 a snowblower instead of piling the snow in the Village. Roland agreed it was a good option to
25 continue to explore.
- 26 9. **Executive Session** – Susan stated that there are several personnel matters to discuss. Motion by
27 Roger A. to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters and an attorney-client
28 communication matter. Seconded by Roger B. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. The
29 Town Clerk was invited into the meeting with the Town Administrator.
- 30 10. **Seasonal Part-time – Renaud** – Motion Roger A. to approve a letter of hire granting five holidays
31 to Michel Renaud to be used from 11/15/2019 through the end of this season. Seconded by
32 Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 33 11. **Office Assistant Position** – The Board asked Ron to work on budget information for a 40-hour
34 position in the Town Clerk's Office that would also perform lister assistant duties.
- 35 12. **Other Business & Notices**
- 36 a) Town Planning Grant MPG20 was awarded to allow the Town Planning Commission to
37 work with regional planning staff, Gihon Valley Hall Committee, and the Towns of
38 Waterville and Eden on improving pedestrian safety in village areas crossed by state
39 highways.
- 40 b) Wayne Russin sent a letter asking if the town was interested in selling the former Gamble
41 parcel in North Hyde Park. The Board needs to discuss what the future town needs or
42 uses are and is not ready to sell currently.
- 43 c) Tax Sale – Roger A. asked that a meeting be held prior to the next tax sale to set a
44 maximum bid amount, if the bidding went above the amount of taxes owed, and if the
45 parcel was desired by the Town for public use.
- 46 13. **Adjourn** – Motion by Dave to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. No objection, so adjourned.