

1 **Selectboard**  
2 **June 15, 2020**  
3 **Special “Virtual” Meeting**

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

7 **Members Present:** Susan Bartlett, Chair (6:00 pm); Roger Audet (by phone); Roland Boivin; Dave  
8 Gagnier; Brian Shackett  
9 **Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Tim Labombard, Local 300; Mark Lehouillier;  
10 Ryan Nolan; Michael Griggs; Chris Jones; Brent Lanpher; Chief Ed Webster; Asst  
11 Chief Brad Carriere; Town Clerk Kim Moulton  
12 **Virtual Attendees:** Scott Griswold, NEMS; Mary Walz, Carol Fano, Michael Rooney, Jack Wool, Alyson  
13 Cusson; Gail Deuso; Brickett and Michelle Bailey; Mark French; Alex Carriere;  
14 Michael Riddle; GMATV called in and was dropped for executive session.

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15 Brian opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

- 16 1) **Welcome** – Special meeting – No additions to the agenda or public comment.
- 17 **Highway Union Negotiations** – Motion by Roger to move into executive session under 1 VSA 313 for labor  
18 contract negotiations. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. GMATV left the  
19 meeting. The Board came out of executive session. The Board came out of executive session.
- 20 **Monthly Meeting** – Susan Bartlett appeared and opened the monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 21 2) **NEMS Ambulance 2020-2021 Service Agreement** – Scott Griswold was available for questions on the contract  
22 noting that the amount requested was approved by the voters in each town at the 2020 Town Meeting. The  
23 contract is substantially the same form as the current annual contract. Motion by Roger to approve the 2020-  
24 2021 NEMS annual ambulance contract. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 25 3) **Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department (LCSD)** – The Board reviewed the two contracts for services, patrol &  
26 communications. The annual contract is in substantially the same form as the current contract and includes  
27 costs approved by voters in each town at the 2020 Town Meeting. Motion by Roger to approve the 2020-2021  
28 LCSD Patrol Services Contract and the 2020-2021 LCSD Communications Contract. Seconded by Roland.  
29 Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Dave G. as he is employed by LCSD), motion passed.
- 30 4) **Closing Eden Street at Route 15** – Neighbors’ letter dated May 30, 2020 was read by Ron asking the  
31 Selectboard to consider temporarily dead-ending Eden Street where the street meets Route 15 for safety  
32 reasons and to allow the town to study the impact of traffic flow changes in the village. Ron noted that the  
33 State highway impacts would need to be reviewed by District 8 and it is likely a State 1111 permit will be  
34 required for work in the ROW and any signs along Route 15/100. Brickett Bailey stated it was intended to be  
35 temporary to allow the impacts to be reviewed after a certain period noting that 100% of the residents on  
36 Eden Street signed the letter. Roland Boivin noted that he has a sewer line crossing under Route 15 & Eden  
37 St. Susan noted that this traffic change was discussed during the 2019-2020 Better Connections community  
38 project. Susan suggested trying to start the road closure this summer and having an initial 3-month period for  
39 the closure. The Board will contact the State about permitting needs and keep the neighbors informed.
- 40 5) **Consolidated Union District** – Carol Fano, Jack Wool and Michael Rooney from the Hyde Park Fiber Committee  
41 provided their committee’s recommendation that the Selectboard vote to join the “Lamoille Fibernet” which  
42 is required to be in the resolution. Michael Rooney agreed to be the town representative, with Jack Wool as  
43 1st Alternate and Carol Fano, 2nd Alternate. The Hyde Park Fiber Committee will likely continue to monitor  
44 the development of this regional entity. Motion by Dave to approve the Communication Union District  
45 Resolution with the Michael Rooney as the town representative and to be effective upon the signing of the  
46 required legislation authorizing Selectboard’s to vote on towns joining a CUD. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5  
47 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 6) **Gihon Valley Hall Committee** – Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grant Application – Mary Walz  
2 updated the Board on the progress to prepare a grant application, due July 27, for fire and electrical safety  
3 improvements and heating improvements to allow use of the building for 9 months. Mary noted that the goal  
4 is to leverage the \$17,500 from taxpayers approved at the 2020 Town Meeting for building repairs. The VAC  
5 grant requires a 50% local match and Mary will be seeking a Selectboard Letter of Support for the application  
6 in July. The Board thanked Mary for the update.
- 7 7) **Donation of 0.25 acres+/-** - The Town received a request from the Trustees of the Jon Cloud Estate to consider  
8 accepting a donation of 0.25 acres on Centerville Road, across the road from Brook Road. Currently the small  
9 parcel has a fire dry hydrant and an old dam used for ice making. Brian noted that a neighbor may be  
10 interested in buying the parcel. Ron noted that if the town does accept and then sell the land, easements  
11 should be added to the parcel for the dry hydrant and town culvert maintenance. Motion by Dave to accept  
12 the donation. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Ron will contact the property  
13 owner regarding the transfer.
- 14 8) **FY2020 Town Audit Engagement Letter** – Glenna Pound CPA – Susan noted that this was the third year of a  
15 three year contract and the Town would bid for the next three years of annual audits – FY2021, FY2022, and  
16 FY2023. Motion by Roland to authorize Susan to sign the engagement letter to complete the FY2020 town  
17 audit. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 18 9) **Letters of Hire** – Summer Seasonal Workers – Ron reviewed the process of hiring summer workers which has  
19 included calling prior employees to see if they are interested. Mark French is recommending two seasonal  
20 employees be hired for 2020. Ron asked if the Selectboard could set the CDL-part-time seasonal wage at  
21 \$17.00/hr. (to match the current winter plowing rate) and \$16.00/hr. for non-CDL summer workers. Motion  
22 by Roland to hire Blaine Delisle for summer 2020 operator work at \$17.00/hr. and Dale Nolan for summer  
23 roadside mowing work at \$16.00/hr. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 24 10) **Selectboard iPad loaner purchase** – Ron reported that he reviewed tablet device options with some lower  
25 cost models requiring software upgrades or fees above the device cost and are not as reliable or secure as an  
26 iPad. Ron confirmed that the intention is to have Alyson trained to setup members needing access to email  
27 and browsing resources while on the Board. Susan advised that Roger Audet would be a good first person and  
28 Ron will coordinate with Eugene Dambach and Alyson to complete the first setup process and report back to  
29 the Board.
- 30 11) **Village Water Project** – The water project requires two easements on town parcels – the town library (141  
31 Main St) and town fire department (212 Centerville Road). The town attorney is reviewing the documents  
32 with the village attorney. Motion by Brian to authorize Susan to sign the legal documents when approved by  
33 the town attorney. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 34 12) **COVID-19 & town facility use update** – Kim Moulton reported that appointments are in use for the public to  
35 access town land records and the office is otherwise closed including no access to the public bathroom. Town  
36 staff is alternating work times to limit occupancy to 2 at one time as the office space is small and having more  
37 than one member of the public prevents proper spacing. Today, the Governor extended the emergency order  
38 through July 15, 2020. Ron and Alyson are primarily working from home with town board and committee  
39 meetings starting to come back to the meeting room, with a max of 10 people in the lower level meeting  
40 room. All public meetings are likely to remain with a call-in option. Other adjustments to reduce public contact  
41 at the town office include an exterior drop box, which would be useful if the fall elections are substantially by  
42 mail-in ballot and improvements to the town office HVAC system to increase the rate of the interior air  
43 exchanges.
- 44

1 13) **Fire Department Stipend Proposal** – Ron stated that the Chief had proposed both hourly wage increases and  
2 stipends for officers in October 2019 and the Board has looked at compensation methods for volunteer fire  
3 fighters, but no decision has been made yet. The Chief’s proposal would spread \$2,250 across the officers in  
4 the department and the hourly increases could add about \$1,000-\$2,000 more of annual costs. Regarding  
5 physicals for firefighters, Susan offered to work with Chief Webster on coming up with a plan and costs.  
6 Motion by Dave to approve \$2,250 for annual stipends to be distributed by the Chief. Seconded by Susan.  
7 Discussion: Roland felt all firefighters, not just officers, should share in the \$2,250. Voting: 2 in favor, 3 against  
8 (Roland, Roger and Brian as stipends only applied to officers), motion failed. Discussion on modifying the  
9 motion. Motion by Dave to approve \$2,250 for annual officer stipends to be distributed by the Chief and to  
10 match the existing hourly rates of the North Hyde Park / Eden Fire Department. Seconded by Susan. Voting: 2  
11 in favor, 3 against (Roland, Roger and Brian as stipends only applied to officers), motion failed. Motion by  
12 Dave to approve new hourly rates for firefighters effective 01/01/2020 that match North Hyde Park / Eden  
13 Fire Department, Inc. Seconded by Susan. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

14 14) **Other Business & Notices**

- 15 • Fire decontamination sprayer discussion – There was a \$600 donation received to help fund the  
16 purchase of the sprayer which the Board appreciated and asked that a thank you letter be sent.  
17 Brad explained that other fire departments are using similar equipment to quickly  
18 decontaminate equipment and vehicles for COVID-19 and an additional benefit to clean  
19 potentially cancer-causing elements on gear.
- 20 • Roundabout Maintenance Plan Information – Ron reported that discussions continue to  
21 develop a permanent annual maintenance plan for the roundabout.
- 22 • Assistant Town Clerk – Kim Moulton is recommending a \$0.50 hourly increase for Kristan  
23 Langlois and the Board asked for more information on the hours being applied to town lister  
24 duties.
- 25 • COVID-19 Property Tax Deadline – The Board decided to not pursue an extension of the August  
26 31, first quarter tax deadline at this time as tax payments appear to be on track based on the  
27 fourth quarter of FY2020.
- 28 • Fire Services - Susan asked if the long-term fire services for the town can be looked at in more  
29 detail, for example a 7-year plan for equipment and level of services provided. Brent Lanpher  
30 noted that the two fire departments were discussing long-term operations and would report  
31 back to the Board in September. Susan volunteered to seek a few residents to help review the  
32 information after it is presented, noting it is important to have folks outside the local fire  
33 community provide a neutral review based on their areas of expertise.

34 15) **Review of minutes:** Motion to approve the 05/18/2020, 05/25/2020, 06/01/2020 & 06/02/2020 as written  
35 with Dave abstaining from May meetings as he was not appointed yet. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 4 in favor,  
36 0 against for 05/18 & 5/25 & 5 in favor, 0 against, for 06/01 and 06/02, motion passed.

37 16) **Executive Session:** Motion by personal matters, attorney-client matter and real estate purchase or lease  
38 options under 1 VSA 313, a, 1-2-3

39 17) **Review Town Orders** – The Board reviewed and signed town orders.

40 18) **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn at 10:56 a.m. Seconded by Brian. So, voted.