

1 **Selectboard**  
2 **August 17, 2020**  
3 **Regular Monthly “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 and some may be found at*  
6 *YouTube search - “Hyde Park Vermont Selectboard”. GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655;*  
7 [info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 802-851-1592

8 Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roland Boivin; Dave Gagnier; Roger Audet, Brian Shackett  
9 Members Absent: None  
10 Others Present: Town Administrator Mark French; Road Foreman Mark French; Melanie Rodjenski  
11 Virtual Attendees: Ryan Nolan, Bretton Gardner, Alyson Cusson, Kim Moulton – Also aired on YouTube  
12 Livestream

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

- 14 1) **Welcome.** A discussion on the delinquent tax collector attorney was added to the agenda.
- 15 2) **Highway Report** – Brian reviewed the plans for the oil-water separator installation which has a total  
16 estimated cost for labor, materials, and rental equipment of \$26,258.00. Roland advised to add an  
17 alarm system for when the tank is full. Brian said 4,000 PSI will be used to create the channel inside  
18 the garage that will then drain to two pipes going to one tank buried on the town office side of the  
19 town garage front paved yard. Dave and Roland felt that the regular full-time staff should work on the  
20 installation of the oil/water separator project with Brian. Mark stated that he has about 3 weeks  
21 remaining to complete the winter sand pile and Brian estimates it will take 1 week for the oil/water  
22 separator installation. Mark noted he has a full schedule before plows go on and Susan stated the  
23 Board would need to understand that some regular highway projects may be left undone with the  
24 crew installing the separator. Motion by Roland to approve the oil/water project as presented by Brian  
25 which includes removal of 6-feet of the concrete floor across the inside front of the garage and  
26 installation of new grates, except for 16-feet near the entrance door, labor by the regular town highway  
27 crew. Seconded by Dave. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Brian reassured Mark that  
28 working together would result in a successful project and save taxpayers money compared to  
29 contracting out this project.
- 30 3) **Fall Paving Bids** – Brian Shackett reported bids were opened today for all five sites; Center Road,  
31 Fitch Hill Road, Sterling View Road loop, Prospect St, and Cleveland Corners Road.
- 32 Whitcomb: \$905,000.00  
33 Hutchins: \$506,526,94  
34 SD Ireland: 804,420.00  
35 Pike: \$378,810.00

36 Roland feels that the town cannot afford to complete all the projects especially with Center Road  
37 reconstruction kicking in Complete Streets considerations for bike lanes/pedestrian. Brian  
38 summarized the outcome of bids as having mixed results. Ron suggested meeting with the  
39 contractors to make sure that the Town takes advantage of bids that could be completed this fall, in  
40 particular Fitch Hill Road, which is part of the Village water project on-going now. Roland stated  
41 going out to bid for the culvert replacements on the north end Center Road (Phase 2) should happen  
42 now, deferring paving until next year for the entire road. The Board agreed that a Phase 2 bid would  
43 include patch paving of all 28 culverts in Phase 1 and 2. Dave asked for a penalty clause if not  
44 completed this fall because the town wants the winter season to allow the culvert fills to settle before  
45 paving next year. Motion by Dave to move forward with bids on the north end of Center Road for this  
46 fall. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Mark and Ron will work on  
47 setting up meetings with the four paving contractors to help select what projects move forward this  
48 fall, which ones are re-bid and deferred to 2021 or canceled.

- 1 4) **FEMA Drainage Repair Bids** – Brian read the bids that were opened earlier today. Roland noted  
2 that J. Hutchins was supposed to have started Center Road Phase 1 culverts from an earlier bid  
3 award but has been delayed and he wondered if they will be delayed coming to Hyde Park for this  
4 FEMA work. The Board felt that there is still time to meet the contract requirements.

5 J. Hutchins – \$88,159.75

6 Blow & Cote – \$130,965.00

7 Motion by Dave to award the FEMA Drainage work to J Hutchins in the amount of \$88,159.75.  
8 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 9 5) **Diggins Road Class 4** – Ron reviewed the history of this road and the need for regularly repairs  
10 especially after 3” or more rainstorms, some neighbors asking in the past to upgrade to Class 3  
11 standards, and the recent MRGP requirements which include stabilizing high-erosion Class 4 roads.  
12 The annual Grants in Aid program is available to correct immediate erosion issues. Motion by Brian  
13 to ask J. Hutchins for a price to work on the Diggins Road GIA grant which is maxed at \$14,769 in  
14 state funds with a 20% minimum town share. Seconded by Dave. So voted. Ron noted that this  
15 grant program will return Hyde Park’s 2020 grant funds to the State if not spent by October 15, 2020.

- 16 6) **Roadside Clearing** - Sept 2020 HP Fairfield Lease. Brian explained that some of the debris from  
17 the roadside clearing, which extends to the edge of the highway right-of-way is a first cut issue, with  
18 larger growth needing to be removed, but in subsequent years the debris will be less. Brian felt that  
19 a chipper on a boom is better than the rotary mower being used now because the chipper would  
20 leave smaller chips which are better for the drainage system. Dave offered that a chipper boom will  
21 also leave debris that could interfere with drainage. Mark noted that the chipper unit is more costly,  
22 and since the first cycle for all roads is almost done, future years of roadside clearing will have less  
23 debris. Mark felt that the first cycle on all town roads will be complete this fall, which is the fifth year  
24 of the program. Clearing to the edge of the right-of-way once every five years is in addition to the  
25 annual roadside mowing which is limited to the road shoulders. Mark stated that the cycle may be  
26 reduced to less than five years. For this year, the Board agreed to stay with the Fairfield rental as  
27 usual for two weeks but with a second crew following the unit to clean up any large debris or hanging  
28 branches to protect culvert inlets and keep drainage ditches clear.

- 29 7) **Hazard Tree Grant** – Funds for Ash Tree removal & replanting – Ron stated that the Ash Borer is  
30 surrounding Lamoille County now, when a few years ago it was not found in Vermont. This grant  
31 provides for ash tree removal and replanting, but Ron stated a detailed plan was not yet ready or  
32 reviewed to be included with the grant application. The Board agreed more specifics were needed  
33 before beginning to remove healthy trees and the town would pass on this grant this year.

- 34 8) **Sustainable police services** – Susan reviewed the need to find a sustainable and affordable way  
35 to fund town police services noting that in Johnson, the Selectboard is appointing citizens to form a  
36 study group to look into long-term funding options and what the community expects from police  
37 services. Susan suggested following what Johnson has done and seek two citizens to work on the  
38 study group. Roger Audet would be available to participate with the citizens. Motion by Roland to  
39 seek citizen volunteers for the sustainable police services study group Seconded by Brian. Voting:  
40 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Dave as he is an employee of LCSD) motion passed.

- 41 9) **Cloud Estate Donation** 0.25 ac – The town attorney estimated the deed work to complete the  
42 donation at 1,000-\$2,000. The representatives of the Cloud Estate are not willing to pay up to \$2,000  
43 to complete the donation. Ron reviewed the benefits of owning the land which includes a fire dry  
44 hydrant and town culvert inlet. The Board expressed concern for the cost and limited benefit to  
45 taxpayers. Motion by Brian to advise the town attorney to not spend any additional time on the  
46 transaction. Seconded by Roland. Voting 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 47 10) **Gihon Valley Hall** – Building Repairs Report. Brian reported that he met with Al Spitzer from the  
48 Gihon Valley Hall Committee and Al explained that window repairs are needed, and other minor  
49 maintenance work, so a volunteer work party is set for Saturday, October 29. Brian feels that it would  
50 be good to put drainage stone along the foundation to bring water to the rear and keep it out of the  
51 basement. Roger suggested getting a basement water-proofing contractor on-site to look at options.  
52 Brian and Roger will monitor the on-going work and report back to the Board as needed.

- 1 11) **Town Listers** – Errors and Omissions correction to 2020 Grandlist – This adjustment regards the  
2 Rollins parcel with a proposed reduction in valuation of \$11,800 due to a computer entry error that  
3 valued a barn structure that did not exist on the parcel. Motion by Roger to approve the E&O as  
4 presented. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 5 12) **Town Orders** – Motion by Dave to approve the town orders as presented. Seconded by Brian.  
6 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 7 13) **Review minutes:** Motion by Brian to approve the 07/20/2020 and 08/03/2020 minutes, as written.  
8 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, Roger abstained due to his absence, motion  
9 passed.
- 10 14) **Highway Labor Union Negotiations** - Possible Executive Session under 1 VSA 313. Motion by  
11 Roland to move into executive session for labor contract negotiations. Seconded by Brian. So voted.
- 12 15) **Adjourn** – Motion by Roland to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Brian. So, voted.