

Selectboard
October 20, 2020
Virtual Hybrid 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. And some are posted on YouTube; GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592

Members Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roland Boivin; Dave Gagnier; Roger Audet; Brian Shackett
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Road Foreman Mark French, Jerry Smith, Town Administrator Ron Rodjenski, Matt Morin, Meranda Morin, Christine Griswold
Virtual Attendees: Mike at GMATV; Sherry Hecker; Margaret Marcoux; Susan Trainor; unidentified phone participants

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

- 1) Welcome & changes to agenda to add Hutchins and Seasonal winter plow operator.
- 2) **CTCL COVID-19 Response Grant** – Town Clerk Kim Moulton applied for and received a \$5,000 Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) Grant to support the town’s COVID-19 response during and prior to elections with the purchase of PPE, sanitizing gel, signage, decals for social distancing and laptop for on-site voter data access. Motion by Brian to accept the CTCL grant for \$5,000.00. Seconded Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Motion by Roland to authorize Kim Moulton to sign all paperwork required for the grant expenditure. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Dave asked about the laptop and printer and Ron said he sees laptop on the list from Kim to assist register voters at satellite locations.
- 3) **Hyde Park Recreation Programs Discussion** – Youth Sports – Meranda and Matt Morin were present to seek to support for youth sports programming in Hyde Park as the school has ended their support for an athletic director to organize programs such as youth soccer. Matt and Meranda stated that basketball program and soccer programs are important and need town support, with strong support from parents needing direction. Ron stated that the Hyde Park Ballfields Committee is focused on softball league activities and there is no funding or structure for adding youth sports. Matt noted that he is in discussions with the ballfields committee to understand concerns for sharing the fields on McFarlane Road and Meranda noted that the schools would need to be a part of the planning for indoor basketball league. Ron suggested that the Selectboard could support capital planning, grants, and some annual maintenance costs, but parents need to be the organizers and make the connections to transfer operational responsibilities to the next group of parents and fundraising. Dave suggested looking at other operations and Roland offered his support to help get the new group started. Marianna Donnelly commented that she is available to support the effort with her group Partners-In-Education. Matt said he would report back to the Board in November and Susan thanked Matt and Meranda from coming in to get this effort moving.
- 4) **Road Foreman Mark French** – Mark reported on the following topics:
 - a) **Orchard Terrace** – Highway is working with Norm Andrews on the specific design for the plow turnaround on his parcel and Norm likes boulders to surround the area at the top of the steep slope on the east end of the turnaround.
 - b) **Prospect St** – Ron reported that Summit Engineering was on-site and took field measurements to begin to develop a plan with the neighbors of the winter to address stormwater issues and road width, noting that J Hutchins has a contract to reclaim and pave the road so contract amendments would need to be discussed if the project is delayed for a re-design. Ron noted that Watershed Consulting is looking into options for stormwater treatment and J Hutchins would likely not to object to the modifications if the overall scope of work was about the same as the bid scope of work. Dave mentioned a paved apron is needed at the bottom of Fitch Hill for this winter. Ron noted that EJ from Hutchins is willing to hold their 2020 low bid and Roland advised that the town garage will be a better paved job in 2021 after the oil/water separator project is completed this Fall with new drain lines crossing the yard. Roland offered the delayed work could be made up with other roads that need attention and the Board discussed adding Cleveland Corners at Center Road rather than

1 the town garage yard. Brian and Susan will work on the amended work contract with Hutchins.
2 Marianna expressed appreciation for delaying the reclaiming of Prospect St and Brian apologized
3 for not communicating in the first place that the road redesign was being considered.

4 c) **Oil/Water Separator** – Mark noted the 1,500-gallon tank should be delivered the first week of
5 November by SD Ireland.

6 d) **Seasonal Plow Operator** – Ron reported that the ad was published with one applicant applying
7 for the seasonal position, Michel Renaud, who would be here for his 3rd year. Ron noted that the
8 budget provides for limited hours and Mark French will need to manage those hours. Ron advised
9 that with all new hires, the Board should have a discussion on skills being brought by an employee
10 to determine the value. Ron noted that with one applicant and the deadline to apply yesterday, a
11 new add should be taken out if the Board would like to reopen the position. Roland suggested
12 moving into executive session to discuss personnel matters before deciding.

13 e) **Unclassified Road Discussion** – Beam Road. Jerry Smith was present to seek town maintenance
14 of the ditch on the hill toward the end of Beam Road that needs to be dug out to prevent erosion
15 and runoff. Jerry felt the Class 3 portion, being 0.22 miles in length, extends past Sherry Heckler's
16 property to the south and does not stop at the top of the hill by Clark's driveway. Roland asked to
17 do a site visit to see what the road conditions are and to understand the request better. Ron noted
18 that the Official Highway Map questions on road classification and location have been forwarded
19 to VTrans for review and the Selectboard will need to decide how to resolve any discrepancies.
20 Jerry noted that the last several years the town has stopped ditching and Roland suggested
21 maintaining the ditch as had been done in the past. The Board agreed to visit the site this coming
22 Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

23 f) **Unclassified Road Discussion** – Sylvan Drive, deferred.

24 g) **Grants in Aid FY2021** – for Diggins Road, Upper section. The lower section of the Diggins Road
25 hill was repaired with FY2020 Grants-In-Aid funding. Ron advised that a letter of interest needs to
26 be submitted now to request the funds for additional road work that would need be completed by
27 June 30, 2021. This state grant program requires a 20% local match. Motion by Roger to sign the
28 letter of interest in the FY2021 Grants-In-Aid funding which is currently \$13,900. Seconded Brian.
29 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

30 h) **Purchase Order** – Winter Salt \$92,000 – Dave explained that with the brine operations and
31 reduced per ton of 69.84/ton which is \$25/ton cheaper than last year, noting that computer can
32 save 20% and brine can reduce salt use by 30%, then the \$92,000 in the budget is not likely
33 needed. Motion by Dave to approve Purchase Order #2021-01 for winter salt at not to exceed
34 \$75,000. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

35 i) **Executive Session** – Personnel – Motion by Brian to move into executive session with Mark
36 French. Seconded by Roger. So voted. The Board approved a letter of hire for Michel Renaud at
37 \$18.00/hour.

38 j) **Purchase Order** – The diesel fuel \$55,000 bulk purchase order is based on last year's cost per
39 gallon and this year there is currently a 40% reduction in cost with mileage expected to be about
40 the same. Motion by David to approve the SB Collins diesel fuel bulk purchase order at \$30,000.
41 Seconded by Roland, Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

42 5) **Gihon Valley Hall Committee** – The committee was successful in applying for funds to complete
43 electrical and heating improvements from the VT Arts Council under the Cultural Facilities Grant for
44 \$10,835. Motion by Brian to accept the grant funds and authorize Al Spitzer to sign the necessary
45 grant paperwork. Seconded by Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Ron explained
46 that the grant work is broken up into two requests for proposals and Roger should be meeting with Al
47 Spitzer to go over the RFPs. The Board agreed that Roger Audet could work with the Committee to
48 get the project moving and report to the Selectboard if there was a funding issue to discuss.

- 1 6) **Appoint Lead Animal Control Officer Keith Ulrich** Ron reported that Diane Stoney resigned, and
2 Keith is willing to take the position of Lead Animal Control Officer. Keith and Ron met with Jayson Hill
3 who recently expressed interest in the position of Assistant ACO working with Keith. Motion by Brian
4 to accept Diane Stoney's resignation. Seconded by Roger. So voted. Motion by Dave to promote
5 Keith Ulrich to Lead ACO and Jayson Hill as Assistant ACO with wages being \$17/hr. for Lead ACO
6 and \$16/hr. for Asst ACO to be revisited in 6 months. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0
7 against, motion passed.
- 8 7) **FY2022 Municipal Budget Work Schedule & Updates to Town Insurance Valuations** – Ron reported
9 that the property assessments were recently completed by VLCT and Hyde Park had undervalued
10 properties resulting in about an 8% increase in next year's premiums. Ron asked if the Selectboard
11 would consider modifying the level of insurance, such as guaranteed replacement value which is the
12 highest cost and the level of deductible. Ron will present options for premium costs at the November
13 monthly meeting. Ron explained that the highway budget will be on the Nov 16 agenda, noting that
14 IT costs are increasing for the Town to keep up with cybersecurity. Revenue for FY2022 is showing
15 up and down projections with the biggest down being delinquent tax interest earned as people are
16 paying their taxes on time, with an overall early projection of a \$30,000 to \$40,000 loss in anticipated
17 revenue. Increasing capital reserves is an issue previously discussed with fire departments. The
18 capital plan has a new screen in the current capital plan and would need another meeting to discuss
19 options.
- 20 8) **Town Social Media Policy & Selectboard iPad Loaner Program Policy** – deferred.
- 21 9) **Town Orders** - Motion by Brian to approve the town orders. Seconded by Roger. So voted.
- 22 10) **Minutes:** Motion to approve the 09/21/2020 and 10/05/2020 minutes as written. Seconded by Roger.
23 So voted.
- 24 11) **Possible Executive Session:** Motion by Roger to enter executive session to discuss labor contract
25 negotiations under 1 VSA 312. Seconded by Brian. So voted.
- 26 12) **Adjourn** – Motion by Roland to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Brian. So, voted.