

Selectboard
February 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting Minutes

All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped and posted on YouTube; GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 851-1592

Members Virtual: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Dave Gagnier; Roger Audet, Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett
Members Absent: None
Virtual Attendees: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Tim Labombard, IBEW Local 300; Road Foreman Mark French; Brad Carriere; 3 unidentified, Ally Judkins; John Rohleder; Chris Jones; Brent Lanpher; Alli Cusson, Town Finance Director, GMATV did not record this meeting.

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

1. **Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage** – Ron confirmed that the last mileage changes were done in 2019 and no changes are reported this year. Motion by Roland to approve the annual certificate with no changes. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Motion by Roland to authorize Susan to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
2. **Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending** – This annual report confirms that the published town Grand List will not be modified by pending taxpayer appeals. Motion by David to sign the Certificate. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Motion by Roland to authorize Susan Bartlett to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Zoning Administrator** – Susan stated that the Town Planning Commission met recently and voted to recommend Ron Rodjenski as town administrative (zoning) officer. Motion by David to appoint Ron Rodjenski to a 3-year term as Town Zoning Administrator. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **Chief Engineer (Fire Chief)** - Ron reported that Brad Carriere was elected by the Town Fire Department membership on 02/11/2021. Susan stated she would like to sit down with Brad to discuss the roles he has taken on over the years now that the fire officers have voted Brad to be the new Fire Chief. Roland noted that he was not supposed to oversee FAST, ambulance EMD and Fire Chief per prior conversations. Brad said he would attend a meeting to review everything. Susan, Brad and Roland will meet to discuss administrative matters and report back to the full board as soon as possible. Susan asked Board members to send her questions before the 23rd.
6. **Grievance** – Tim Labombard was present from IBEW Local 300 to review a soon to be filed grievance from the highway department. Ron stated that Step 1 in the process is to receive the paperwork from the Union and the Town would respond. The draft form was received just prior to this meeting, but it was unsigned by the grievant so any town response would be to a signed form. Tim noted that Ryan is the designated shop steward and Ron advised not skipping any steps as outlined in the contract, noting that the matter may be resolved before the next Selectboard meeting or he would have questions for the Board.
7. **Written Protocol Work at Home & Vaccinations** – Ron reviewed the policy and noted that a lot of towns and businesses are drafting policy now due to the pandemic emergency. The Board discussed the need to have internet security measures in place, employee wage taxes are based on the state the employee is working, 24/7-hour access to employees can have pros and cons, employees may have online hours for the public and town officials with a return call / email time limit. Work ethics vary by person so oversight and reporting should be part of the work agreement, including how ETO calculations and training are done. Security training for employees is important and Brian noted he does this through his state job. Susan stated that remote working may feel like a concern but having someone sitting in an office does not mean they are productive. Dave suggested punching in and punching out while at home and Susan agreed that efficiency can be higher at home with less

1 distractions with being responsible to the town. Selectboard members and the public have access to
2 employees from their homes, but it will take time for everyone to get used to the new technology and
3 some work is best done in an office like using the copier or helping those that do not have access to,
4 or capacity to operate, the technology. Ally Judkin asked about wage adjustments and Ron stated
5 each case is different and could result in pay changes for the employee if work agreements change.
6 Susan said VLCT is working on policy development as are a lot of businesses and it's a work in
7 progress.

8 8. **Fire Chief** – Ron reported that he received text message asking what the impact of not acting was
9 on the Fire Chief appointment. Roland said he would leave the fire chief decision to the members,
10 and they have spoken by electing Brad Carriere 10-7 to replace Chief Ed Webster. Ally Judkins asked
11 how many hats Brad have; from helping with town plowing, to Hyde Park Emergency Management
12 Director, FAST Squad and now Fire Chief. Susan agreed it does need to be sorted out with Brad to
13 see what he is willing to give up. Dave felt a split vote may result in loss of firefighters. Ron suggested
14 that every two years the Fire Chief and Selectboard should meet to go over operations and discuss
15 any concerns. Roland thought he might be able to meet with Brad this week, but his election as Chief
16 should be accepted by the Selectboard and the voters have voted. Dave agreed and the discussion
17 is to sort out the expectations of the Town for a Fire Chief. Roland stated that when the FAST Squad
18 was created it was discussed, even though it may not be in writing, that a person on FAST could not
19 also be a firefighter. Roger noted that 17 people voted only and asked should more have voted since
20 there are 25 on the roster. Roland said he will ask Brad why only 17 voted. Susan said that some
21 may have chosen to not participate. Motion by Roland to approve Brad as Chief Engineer. Seconded
22 by Susan. Voting: 2 in favor (Susan, Roland), against (No one), abstaining Roger, Dave, and Brian.
23 Dave felt he would like to see more answers, including transparency issues, before deciding and
24 Brian agreed. Susan tabled the motion as discussions on the multiple roles is sorted out beginning
25 on 2/23/2021 with Brad meeting with Susan and Roland and questions to Susan by Friday.

26 9. **Town Orders** – The Board reviewed the orders. Motion by Dave to approve the town orders,
27 seconded by Brian. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 objection, 1 abstain (Roger A – did not get them).

28 10. **Other Business** –

- 29 • **Law Enforcement Study Group** - Roger A. noted that questions will be going to Sheriff
30 Marcoux and Ron will connect Roger A. with Duncan Hastings tomorrow.
- 31 • **GVH \$1,500 short in FY22** for Wi-Fi and Ron will look at their annual \$3,500 budget for FY22
32 first then work with Liz and Al on how to cover the Wi-Fi expenses next year.
- 33 • **Selectboard's 2/22 and 03/01** at 6:00 p.m. – Town Meeting Informational Hearings
- 34 • **VT Arts Council Grant** - Daniel Gottsegen was selected by the project Steering Committee as
35 the sole finalist to be considered for the LVRT to Main Street art project using the VT Arts
36 \$5,000 design grant. A site visit will be scheduled soon and the committee is hoping to
37 create a project that attracts visitors to Hyde Park, like the Cambridge silo artwork did.

38 11. **Road Commissioner** – Matrix – Susan suggested that the Road Foreman be the Road
39 Commissioner. Brian stated that the Road Commissioner job duties need to be written up and he
40 would send some example job descriptions to the Board from other towns. Brian said the Town of
41 Johnson has good road commissioner job description. Roland noted that Morrystown has a
42 superintendent to deal with complaints and relieve the work crew of those responsibilities, but not a
43 road commissioner. Road Commissioner is used in Wolcott. Dave felt that it was good practice to
44 have both – foreman and commissioner – with the foreman being judge and jury and someone else
45 could act impartially to come up with a resolution. Susan noted that the Road Commissioner JD and
46 Fire Bylaws would be good to get done this year.

47 12. **Village Water Charges** – Move by Roland seconded by Dave to move into exec session to talk about
48 the discussions with the County and school review the new charges and the highway grievance. So
49 voted.

50 13. **Fire Chief** – Roland stated that the Selectboard will honor the vote of the fire department's
51 membership making Brad the new Chief Engineer and the Board would not start a new practice
52 tonight of voting on the appointment of fire officers after the membership voted.

53 14. **Adjourn** – Motion by Brian to adjourn, seconded by Roland. So voted at 8:42 p.m.