

Selectboard
May 17, 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 Present: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Chasity Fagnant; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett
Members Virtual: Dave Gagnier (6:00 monthly meeting only)
Attendees Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; IBEW Local 300 Tim Labombard; Ryan Nolan;
Michael Griggs; Jasson Wells
Attendees Virtual: Fire Chief Brad Carriere; Corey Perpall; Emily Rosenbaum; two unidentified callers;
Mary Walz; Foreman Mark French; Town Clerk Kim Moulton; GMATV did record this
meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Local 300 Union Contract – First Meeting on 2021 Negotiations

Present for the meeting: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; IBEW Local 300 Tim Labombard; Ryan Nolan; Michael Griggs; Jasson Wells; and Selectboard member Chasity Fagnant has previously stated she would not participate as Ryan Nolan is her brother. Motion by Brian to move into executive session to discuss the highway union collective bargaining agreement, inviting Tim Labombard, Ryan Nolan, Jasson Wells, Michael Griggs, and Ron Rodjenski. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. The highway crew members and Tim L. left the room following the executive session.

1. **Welcome - Selectboard monthly meeting at 6:05 pm.** All five members present. Ron requested an addition to the agenda for the appointment of a town representative to the Green Mountain Bylaw Committee. One public comment from Mary Walz on invasive Japanese knotweed in Hyde Park. Mary stated she has taken an interest in knotweed and she is concerned that the existing areas in Hyde Park with knotweed patches should have immediate attention. Mary explained that she would like to work on knotweed control in Hyde Park, suggesting the Town's "Gamble Parcel" on VT100 in North Hyde Park at 100C could be a good place to start. Mary stated that she would work with Ron and Mark French to identify and begin treatment of the invasive plant as pilot treatment sites. Mary suggested options include cutting it back every two weeks and covering the area of growth with a barrier, but not using herbicides or other chemicals at this time. Mary is reaching out to other towns and looking for Selectboard support to continue her work on the topic. Mary stated that towns with conservation commissions often take up invasive plants as a work task. The project name, coined by Ron, is "Knot in Hyde Park". Mary stated that she is interested in working on the issue and the Board supported her on-going efforts.

2. **Minutes:** Motion by Brian to approve the 5/03/2021 and 04/19/2021 minutes, as written. Seconded by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

3. **Emily Rosenbaum** – Lamoille Area Health and Human Services Response Command Center. Corey Perpall, LAHHSRCC presented an overview of the formation of the group during the initial phases of COVID response. Lamoille county worked with the model started for Washington County's non-profits to work together with towns to accomplish the goal of responding to public information sharing needs, such as the regular email newsletter that now goes to about 600 community leaders. The goal of the email is to provide information to town leaders who then share it with the community. Emily provided an example of a program success which connected food distribution agencies with freezers and locations to expand cold storage space in the county. Lamoille Community House is working on homelessness and the group was able to connect available rental units throughout the county when LCH was at capacity. Sharing the emailed information is the best support that towns can provide so the information reaches as many residents as possible. The Board appreciated the overview of this great local recourse.

4. Highway Department

- **Annual work plan** – No comments/changes to the plan which is posted on the highway web page.

- 1 • **Excavator** – Dave thought a 12,000 lb. excavator would be fine and Roland thought it was too
2 small to load dump trucks. Mark French stated 28,000 lb. is what he is hearing from others as a
3 minimum, and rubber track inserts can be used for paved road travel. Brian stated 24-feet is the
4 reach for a 30,000 lb. unit. Mark stated that Ryan, Jasson and Mark F. can operate an excavator.
5 Mark stated that bids could be pursued if the type of machine can be settled. Case and Volvo
6 were mentioned as possible vendors. Susan asked about leasing for a couple of years, with
7 payments being applied to a purchase. Roland stated that there are options for financing, but the
8 fine print needs to be reviewed. Roland noted that leasing can be more expensive than purchase.
9 Dave suggested renting one as a trial for a month or two vs buying because an excavator will
10 not be used for 10 months a year. Roland stated that the purchase gives the most flexibility for
11 the work crew. Roland stated that in Morristown they used it to tear down burnt homes and assist
12 in winter water main repairs so some work with the equipment is possible throughout the year.
13 Mark French stated that a short rental period can be taken up by other emergencies. Susan
14 suggested that leasing for one year could help make a final decision. Mark stated that a steel
15 track with rubber pads with size small enough to swing in one travel lane but big enough to not
16 need to hire out most of the work is ideal, suggesting 28,000 lb. range is good with a reach that
17 works well for placing ledge rock. Regarding a concern for poor repair service by vendors, Dave
18 noted that vendors would not stay in business if they could not get parts. Susan asked for a draft
19 of bid specs to come back to the Board. Ryan Nolan thought the trailer price is about \$25,000.
20 Brian will work on the spec sheet and send it back to the Board for review. Brian will get
21 information on lease programs.
- 22 • **Prospect Street** – The Board proposed May 25th and 26th at 5:00 p.m. pending contact with
23 the neighbors. Ron will connect with neighbors and check on the site plan draft.
- 24 5. **ARPA projects** and Harvey Loan Proceeds – An excavator is priced at about \$200,000. The Town
25 should expect an early estimate of ARPA funds of about \$300,000. One ARPA funding goal is HVAC
26 and air health for employees. The Harvey loan payoff was about \$50,000. Ron will reach out to town
27 departments and the community for project ideas. Michael from GMATV stated that the public access
28 channel can assist in improving the technology for hybrid meetings at the town office to include being a
29 tele-health location for the community.
- 30 6. **Town Fire Department Bylaws** – Firefighters approved bylaws May 6th. Motion by Roland to approve
31 the fire department bylaws. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 32 7. **Fire Department** – New policy question about restarting swimming pool filling, but “from the street” by
33 the town fire department. Ron noted that about three years ago the Selectboard stopped the practice.
34 Dave stated that there is always a liability, and trucks are expensive to run, and it is competition with
35 private commerce. The Board asked for checking in with insurance on liability. Chief Carriere was asked
36 to provide the cost of the town filling a pool.
- 37 8. **Preservation Trust of Vermont’s** grant & proposed easement. After meeting with PTV representatives,
38 Dave reported that he is not yet clear about limits or controls that PTV would have on future building
39 renovations, such as can existing ceiling tiles be replaced with a drop ceiling without review and approval
40 of PTV. Chasity will setup a meeting with PTV to appear before the Board.
- 41 9. **Village Water Project** - Proposed amendment to Village water easement at 212 Centerville Rd (town
42 fire station) – Roland and Chasity will meet with the Village engineer to better understand the impacts
43 of the easement on the town property.
- 44 10. **Town Lister** advertisement / Appoint Ed Clodfelter Interim Town Assessor with no responses to the
45 recent newspaper ad but with a need to file the Grandlist in the next couple of weeks. Without a Board
46 of Listers, the Selectboard may appoint a professional town assessor to complete the required tasks.
47 Motion by Roland to appoint Ed Clodfelter as Town Assessor now through June 30, 2021. Seconded by
48 Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 49

- 1 11. **Sink Hole Project EH05 MM18 Grant** – The recent RFP produced one response for easement appraisal
2 services from O'Brien and Kaffenberger for a price range of \$12,000 to \$16,000. Ron noted that it was
3 good to get one response with firms as everyone is busy at the current time. The work involves
4 completing five appraisals for stormwater easements. Motion by Brian to approve Obrien & Kaffenberger
5 for appraisal services for the Sink Hole project. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion
6 passed.
- 7 12. **Delinquent Tax Attorney.** Discussed engaging Stitzel, Page & Fletcher to support the Collector of
8 Delinquent Taxes (CDT). After considering two attorneys, CDT Kim Moulton is recommending the firm
9 of Stitzel, Page and Fletcher. Motion by Chasity to engage SPF to support the CDT. Seconded by Brian.
10 Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 11 13. **Personnel Policy** – Work on the list of topics to be discussed for possible amendment. Members can
12 send notes, suggestions or questions to Ron or Chasity who will be preparing a strike version soon.
- 13 14. **Town Orders** – Motion by Chasity to approve the 5-17-2021 town orders in the amount of \$95,062.56.
14 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 15 15. **Other Business** –
- 16 • A June 7th special meeting was set to review draft specifications for a new town excavator
17 with financing options and review of personnel policy amendment process.
 - 18 • Unvaccinated visitors to the town office access may be prohibited with new signs posted
19 until the emergency order is lifted and if someone enters the town office without masks,
20 then there would be no questions asked to whether or not the purpose s vaccinated.
21 Hybrid meetings likely to continue with both in-room & virtual options for members &
22 guests.
 - 23 • Michael Bartlett Update – The town attorney has advised to not pay water bill at 5659
24 VT100, noting that court documents for enforcement of the purchase and sale agreement
25 is in process, or force eviction in 90 days. Ron is keeping Roger Audet informed as the
26 manager of the water district.
 - 27 • Green Mountain Byway Committee – Ron has been filling in to represent Hyde Park. Al
28 Spitzer recently expressed interest in serving on the committee as town representative.
29 Motion by Chasity to appoint Al Spitzer as GMB Town Representative to March 2022.
30 Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
 - 31 • Law Enforcement Study – Johnson and Wolcott are interested in continuing discussions
32 with Hyde Park and decide where we want to go – Susan will report on what is next on
33 June 7th.
- 34 16. **Adjourn** – Motion by Brian to adjourn, seconded by Dave. So, voted at 8:12 p.m.