

Selectboard
December 20, 2021
Hybrid 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; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett

Members Virtual: Chasity Fagnant; David Gagnier

Members Absent: None

Attendees Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Scott Griswold, NEMS; Town Fire Chief Brad Carriere; Jerry Smith; Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Nolan; Leslie Rollins

Attendees Virtual: Mary Walz; Town Finance Director Debra Kobus; GMATV did record this meeting.

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

1. **Welcome.** No changes to agenda. The Board welcomed new Town Finance Director Debra Kobus. Planning Commission candidate Leslie Rollins appeared and discussed her interest in volunteering for the open term ending March 2024. Motion by Brian to appoint Leslie Rollins. Seconded by Roland. Discussion: Dave asked if Leslie had met with the PC before applying. Brian withdrew his motion. Susan suggested Leslie attend the January 10th PC meeting and the Board would consider her again on January 17th.
2. **Beam Road – Road Survey & Dates for Title 19 Notice of Reclassification/Laying Out; VTrans Comments.** Ron will prepare a list of Class 4s to be considered for reclassification or discontinuance at the January monthly meeting. Mary Walz on Cooper Hill Road has a Class 4 on their land, and she would like to see that Class 4 discontinued. Mary stated that the Class 4 TH50 is a through-road from Garfield Rd to Trombley Hill Rd but it runs close to the Boynton house on Beam Road and she would like it to be discontinued due to non-use for many years.
3. **Budget FY2023 Draft** –Scott Griswold from NEMS reported that the ambulance service is asking for a 3% budget increase, but Hyde Park would be seeing an increase of 3.7%, or \$4,501, due to higher population growth per the new 2020 Census numbers. Based on population, Hyde Park is now responsible for 34.4% of the NEMS budget in FY2023. NEMS was able to pay off capital debt with COVID funds to reduce the cost burden to towns for the next several years. Scott was hoping to find volunteers to make up short-staffing as full-time employees are harder to come by recently. The Town Fire Department, represented by Chief Brad Carriere; Asst Chief Ryan Nolan, reported that increases for wages is up \$1,000 to address minimum wage increased 01/01/2022 and related payroll tax increase, with insurance slightly increased and adding \$2,000 for equipment purchases due to inflation. Chief Carriere stated that a thermal imager is broken, and a cost estimate will be presented to the board in January. The total budget increase is about \$7,000 more than FY2022. Dave asked about 911 house # signs and Brad reported that installation was delayed by equipment deliveries and lack of volunteers until Spring 2022.
4. **Town Attorney** – Motion by Brian to move into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) – confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **New Road Name.** Three or more homes off Cricket Hill Rd are on the same private access, serving the Ryan Ward residence and two others, and now requiring a new name. The landowners proposed “Acorn Avenue”. Motion by Brian to approve “Acorn Avenue” off Cricket Hill Road. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
6. **Contract with KoFile.** Town Clerk Kim Moulton is proposing to expand the on-going project to scan land records and make available online back to at least 40 years with ARPA funding with a procurement waiver to continue to use the current vendor, KoFile.. Motion by Roland to authorize Kim to sign the KoFile contract for \$16,593.50. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

- 1 7. **ARPA Projects**, RFQ Due Jan 5th. Ron will report on engineering firm responses and the Agreement
2 with Hyde Park Fire District #1 at January's monthly meeting. The town attorney has rafted the Sub-
3 recipient agreement and it may be possible to have both parties sign it in January.
- 4 8. **Volvo excavator** and Trailer Purchases. The Board reviewed the new and used quotes received to
5 date for a 20-ton trailer. Roland suggested checking with Pete's in Morrisville for a price. Brian asked
6 if two jacks would be installed. Chasity asked if highway crew could choose the final trailer. Motion
7 by Brian to approve up the highway crew purchasing a new trailer with a cost not to exceed \$30,000
8 with funding from the \$200,000 excavator loan and any additional due from highway reserve. Voting:
9 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Dave due to concerns for equipment size).
- 10 9. **Town Orders** – Town Finance Director Debra Kobus is completing training on accounts payable and
11 will be preparing warrants soon, but no orders were ready for tonight.
- 12 10. **Other Business** – Manosh wants to sell 25 acres and the Board agreed to ask voters in March to
13 confirm the purchase. The purchase price will be partly based on the soil borings and Howard
14 Manosh wants to keep one small parcel for a home site. Howard also advised that he would owner-
15 finance for 20 years. Dave Gagnier noted that if the town purchased the land, then the neighbor, High
16 Mowing Seeds, would possibly be interested in renting the land until the town needs the parcel. Ron
17 will send a letter to Howard to confirm the proposed offer to the Town. Due to COVID, Town Meeting
18 may need to be hybrid with in-person and remote participation option. Discussion and planning are
19 needed to ensure the meeting has sufficient people to assist in the technical remote operations to
20 ensure all participants find it successful.
- 21 11. **Adjourn** – Motion by David to adjourn, seconded by Brian, so voted at 8:05 p.m.
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