

**Selectboard**  
May 24, 2022  
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](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 851-1592*

Members Present: Brian Shackett, Chair; Vice-Chair; Roland Boivin; Matt Morin (6:30 p.m.); Susan Bartlett  
Members Virtual: Chasity Fagnant  
Members Absent: None  
Attendees Present: Michael Patch; Bob Malbon, Chair of the Planning Commission  
Attendees Virtual: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Benji Clause; Katie Buckley; Mark French; GMATV did record this meeting.

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

1. **Welcome.** Public comment. Michael Patch asked for town fill from the highway crew operations ditch cleaning for a site in Johnson, noting he needed about 20 loads. Chasity asked if it could be left to the road foreman. Brian suggested that if too open ended, it could cause issues. A release should be given by the landowner after Mark inspects the site and has no other cost-saving sites in Hyde Park. Michael Patch thanked the board for their time.
2. **Zoning Amendments - PUBLIC HEARING** – Jeannine Chalue, Webster Rd participated remotely. Motion by Susan to accept the 02-14-2022 Proposed Zoning Amendments as presented by the Town Planning Commission. Seconded by Roland. Discussion: Bob Malbon stated that the new Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay is updated and clarifies the threshold for permit requirements. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
3. **NEMS Ambulance** – Scott Griswold was present to ask for signatures on the FYF2023 contract. *(Matt Morin appeared at this point)* Scott reported that the new contract for the amount voted at Town Meeting. Motion by Susan to approve the FY2023 NEMS contract. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Scott will send the Town a fully executed copy after meeting with the other partner towns.
4. **Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD)** – Motion by Susan to approve the FY2023 LCSD contracts for patrol and communications. Seconded by Roland. Ron noted the contact amounts were approved at Town Meeting. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
5. **ARPA Project Ideas** – Information from Katie Buckley, VT League of Cities and Towns ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) contact person for municipalities planning the spending of one-time grant funds. Hyde Park was allocated approximately \$740,000 with funding required to be spent by December 2026. Katie stated that other towns are working on Immediate needs, such as land record digitization, IT upgrades and hybrid meeting equipment, using ARPA as grant match to other grants, as well as heating and ventilating improvements. The Board reviewed the project list that is on the town website home page. Katie noted that the GVH community building is eligible for historic community building grants, with match funds possible from ARPA and state legislature, in H.518, is encouraging municipal building improvements like energy improvements to move to renewables (heat pumps), in addition to high-speed internet access, with that funding being up to \$500,000. HVAC improvements at town highway garages don't have access to a lot of other grants but maybe if those upgrades are part of a consolidation plan with Fire/EMS services. HVAC for three town buildings (library, town office, highway) could be bundled and VLCT is working on how best to tailor these types of grant projects. Katie noted that funding for community water supplies is eligible use. Katie noted that NHP Water system would only be ARPA now unless added to the state capital funding list. NHP revitalization could use brownfield grant funding and ARPA funds. Community facility grants for the ballfield upgrades and other state grants may be available, then ARPA can be used to match those grants, similar matching can be done for stormwater, water, and sewer projects. FEMA grants are available for fire department equipment, but those requests need to be as large as possible to be competitive. Moving public records online is about 100% ARPA currently with no other

1 grant sources to leverage. Katie noted that other towns are asking for similar items, with computer  
2 hardware, internet security, software, ventilation, and improved community space, each being  
3 needed for town operations during the pandemic. Outdoor recreation like trails and library services,  
4 now going beyond books to services like food services, Wi-Fi to outside were important during the  
5 pandemic. Katie noted that some towns are contributing to their regional fiber districts. Some towns  
6 are looking at buying dilapidated buildings for future use as affordable housing or economic  
7 development purposes and planning expansions of water and sewer services to support housing.  
8 Brian noted that some places are buying land for free RV parks to draw support for village centers.  
9 Katie stated that the limits on the use of ARPA are the same as what current property tax dollars are  
10 spent on and if the use can be justified as economic driver, then that really helps everyone and is  
11 encouraged. Brian thanked Katie for her time and sharing her wealth of information. Matt Morin  
12 asked when the Recreation Committee can come in and Susan said sooner than later with the high  
13 cost that would be needed for improvements at the ballfield. Matt stated that the basketball court,  
14 playground and fencing all need to be improved. Ron noted that depending on the list of needs, there  
15 are other grant sources that could be explored with ARPA used as a match. The Board would like  
16 to move forward with soiling borings at the Manosh 25 ac with his permission and to update the data  
17 on remaining resource at the town's existing gravel pit.

- 18 6. **Highway Summer Work Plan Review** – Cooper Hill Road is the next large road project for the crew,  
19 partially funded by a Grants-In-Aid state highway grant. They are working on the end of the spring  
20 work, finishing leftover items from 2021 and trying to get to new summer work. Brian asked if  
21 questions should go to the road foreman about town highway issues, and Mark stated that all  
22 complaints and inquiries should go to the town garage first as most can be answered quickly by the  
23 crew – 888-4625. Pike has completed the Center Road warranty repair work from cold pav issues  
24 last Fall, and Mark French stated it was better than what it was. Mark explained that the paver took  
25 off with a cold start creating an unstable finished wearing surface. Mark reported that the new  
26 excavator's trailer parts are on back order, but he expects them to arrive in about two or three weeks.  
27 Roland wanted to look somewhere else if the new trailer doesn't arrive soon. Mark reported that a  
28 quote came in at \$197.00 a month for GPS service on town highway equipment and Mark stated  
29 that this is an extra charge that the department should put to other uses. The Board discussed pros  
30 and cons of the service, the fact larger municipalities are using the service, and costs being paid  
31 from other sources, not the highway operations budget which is already set for road work. Motion by  
32 Susan to try Verizon GPS for one year. Seconded by Brian. Voting: 4 in favor, 1 against (Chasity for  
33 cost). Motion passed. Matt stated that he wanted to let Mark know that the new service would be  
34 monitored by him and the crew to gauge its value and the cost could come from FEMA  
35 reimbursement or other sources.
- 36 7. **Letter of Hire** - Highway summer seasonal worker, Blaine Delisle. Ron reviewed the letter to Blaine  
37 for permanent on-call duty. Motion by Matt to hire Blaine Delisle at \$19.00/hour for on-call service  
38 as highway equipment operator with CDL. Seconded by Chasity. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion  
39 passed. Brian noted that use of town vehicles for commuting could have a risk assessment tied to it  
40 per his discussion with the town attorney. Chasity noted that when the road foreman is called out he  
41 is being paid and would be covered for that risk. Mark confirmed he only uses the truck for town  
42 business.
- 43 8. **Road Naming** – Green River Woods Drive (off Diggins Rd) - Benji Clause from Green River Woods  
44 Association confirmed that the road name is approved by the landowners. Motion by Matt to approve  
45 Green River Woods Drive. Seconded by Chasity. Discussion: The proposed name has been  
46 reviewed by the State E911 Board for no conflict with other exiting road names in Hyde Park and  
47 surrounding towns. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 48 9. **Other Business** – Discuss Annual Stipend for Town Fire Warden. Motion by Susan to award the  
49 town fire warden an annual stipend in the amount of \$300.00, for volunteer service in the prior year,  
50 which can be made in in either one or two payments per he preference of the fire warden. Seconded  
51 by Roland. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Chasity due to Ryan being her brother), motion  
52 passed.

- 1 10. **Minutes** – Deferred 04/26/2022 & 05/10/2022 minutes to the next meeting.
- 2 11. **Licenses for private utilities in public highways and public trails.** Ron noted that this was a new  
3 step in the 1111 highway access permit process after speaking with the town attorney David Rugh.  
4 Motion by Susan to authorize the Chair of the Board to sign license agreements with landowners as  
5 part of the 1111 permit process. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 6 12. **Town Orders** – Motion by Susan to approve the town orders. Seconded by Matt. Voting: 5 in favor,  
7 0 against, motion passed. Matt asked for some background on why the town contracts with LCSD  
8 for patrol, as the cost seems very high. Susan said patrol service options have been an on-going  
9 discussion for a while now, specifically regarding sustainability of the service within LCSD, cost to  
10 taxpayers, and staffing challenges and turnover resulting, in part, from the mandatory 30-year  
11 retirement plan compared to 20-year plans offered by other police agencies.
- 12 13. **Retirement for Ron** – The Board discussed Ron’s existing letter of hire which is for 6-month terms  
13 that renews unless terminated by the Selectboard or resignation. If by the Town, a “parachute”  
14 payment of two months’ salary is paid by the Town. Ron explained that he is open to discussion on  
15 how to best transition to new employees and would like to discuss retiring but coming back at less  
16 than 24 hours on mostly remote basis. The Board and Ron agreed to work on a transition plan.
- 17 14. **Village Charges** – The Board discussed the recent Village invoice for water and sewer improvements  
18 on Prospect St that the Village completed during the recent town paving work and the new town  
19 highway garage water charge. Deferred.
- 20 15. **Adjourn** – Motion by Susan to adjourn, seconded by Roland, so voted at 8:51 p.m.