



Village of Hyde Park

Thursday January 2, 2025

Village Conference Room, Municipal Building
167 Main Street, Hyde Park

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes

Trustee Members: Present: Frederika French, Chair; Amy O'Toole, Peter Gallo, Clerk; Sue Trainor
Staff Present: Karen Wescom, Village Clerk; Brian Evans-Mongeon, Village Manager
Other: None

Chair French called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM. There were no citizens requesting time to present.

1. Additions or changes to the Agenda: The Village Manager indicated that the request for approval to establish a revised Net-Metering Tariff was being withdrawn as the information for the Board to act upon was not complete.
2. The Chair indicated that she did not have a report.
3. Peter Gallo made a motion to approve amended minutes of the Trustees' December 5, 2024 meeting. Amy O'Toole seconded and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention.
4. Warrants were distributed and signed.
5. Financial Allocation Methods: The Village Manager shared that the year-end financial effort for incorporating the new financial allocators for shared costs had been completed for the accounts already recognized and discussed. Other shared cost accounts may be recognized and treated similarly as we move forward. This effort is already benefitting the bottom line of the electric department.
6. Rate Increase: The Village Manager reported that the DPS filed supportive comments bt PUC has yet to rule on the rate investigation.
7. Water System Phase II project: The Village Manager stated that the consultant and he had good conversations with the DWG staff at the State of Vermont relative to the phase 2 project. There was a lot of good back and forth and the state's current position is that HPW is moving forward positively and there are no deficiencies with project's needs on the reservoir or the spring.
8. Sue Trainor made a motion to recess the Trustees meeting at 5:24 PM to resume the Planning Commission with the arrival of the LCPC Representative. Amy O'Toole seconded and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention.
9. Amy O'Toole made a motion to resume the Trustees meeting at 5:55 PM. Peter Gallo seconded and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention.
10. The Village Manager highlighted that the Village's Tax Anticipation Note will be due in February and will need to be re-established for another annual period. Paperwork for the new note will need to be signed at the February meeting. He also reported that there have been negotiations with the bank on how to cover the upcoming bond payment due in February.
11. The Village Manager indicated that there is an upcoming need for more vehicles for the operations of the village and utility departments. Currently, personal vehicles are being used to

meet operational needs. The Village Manager reported that he is a on developing a capital plan for fleet needs but would like to suggest that the Village procure a SUV/small Truck to augment its' needs in 2025. Any recommendation will be shared with the Trustees prior to procurement.

12. Sue Trainor made a motion to approve the previously distributed revised Financial Policy. This policy embraces the new allocators for inter-departmental shared expenses. Peter Gallo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, without abstention.
13. As noted above, the Village Manager reported that the information for revisions to the Village's Net-Metering Tariff was still under development. The Village Manager outlined the timeline associated with the project for the new tariff and indicated that there may need to be a special meeting as it would hopeful to implement the tariff submission prior to the next monthly meeting. The revisions are to establish a tariff rider which would require Net-metering customers to pay an additional fee to cover specific expenses that come to HPE directly as a result of their interconnection. The fee has similarities to a cost component included in a GMP net-metering tariff but also has some unique characteristics to it as well. The costs being covered by the tariff charge are directly related to operating costs that HPE will have to deal with and the design does not impact those customers who otherwise don't want to interconnect net-metering resources.
14. The Village Manager asked for authority to sign a new power purchase agreement with Brookfield generating company. HPE would be purchasing electricity from two units for 15 years at a fixed price for the duration. The contract is being facilitated through Energy New England. The Village Manager presented a graphical illustration of current energy supply and prospective entitlements. Peter Gallo made a motion to authorize management to execute the power supply agreements with Brookfield. Amy O'Toole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, without abstention.
15. Roundtable items:
 - a. Sue Trainor mentioned that former Trustee Dan Young had recently passed away and inquired about community awareness and whether or not anything would be done. Riki French suggested a Annual Report dedication could be a possibility.
 - b. Riki French asked about getting the community together on planning for the 130th Anniversary gathering. Management was asked to reach out the Home Day planning group and invite them to the February Board of Trustees meeting to discuss planning efforts.
 - c. Amy O'Toole asked about the racking issue at the Waterhouse solar site. The Village Manager reported that it is still under investigation as to how to remedy the conditions, however, a new issue on solar performance has cropped up and it is being investigated as well.
 - d. Riki French and the Village Manager reported on a meeting they had with the interim Town Administrator Stephen McDonald and the Chair of the Select Board Chasity Fagnant. The discussion shared concerns about the working structures between the Village and Town and ways to improve the interactions. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of January 2025.
16. Peter Gallo made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues relating to personnel matters for 2025. Amy O'Toole seconded and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention at 6:43 PM.
17. Peter Gallo made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:58 PM. Sue Trainor seconded and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention.

18. Motion to Adjourn by Sue Trainor seconded by Peter Gallo, motion passed unanimously without abstention. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.