

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:00 PM

Hyde Park Elementary School Library
Main Street, Hyde Park

VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025



A CHARTERED VILLAGE, INCORPORATED 1895

www.villageofhydepark.com

This is the official platform for the Village of Hyde Park, Vermont.

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Village Office 802.888.2310

Normal Business Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

P.O. Box 400, 167 Main Street

Hyde Park VT 05655

Pat McDermott

Customer Service Representative
customerservice@villageofhydepark.com

Karen Wescom

Village Clerk/Village Treasurer/Office
Administrator
accounting@villageofhydepark.com

Scott Johnstone

Interim Village Manager/Zoning
Administrator
GM@villageofhydepark.com
After-Hours – Outage Line
802.888.1732

- Electric Department
- Water Department
- Wastewater/Sewer Department

Stephen McDonald

Zoning Administrator
stephen@hydeparkvt.com


Board of Trustees	
Frederika (Riki) French, Chair	2-Year Term Expires 2027
Amy O’Toole	2-Year Term Expires 2026
Peter Gallo, Clerk of the Board	3-Year Term Expires 2026
Sue Trainor	3-Year Term Election 2028
(vacancy)	3-Year Term Expires 2027

If you are interested in serving the Village, please contact any Trustee.

Positions by appointment of the Board of Trustees

<u>Village Planning Commission</u> <u>(current terms)</u>
<u>Frederika (Riki) French, Chair (2026)</u>
<u>Sue Trainor (2026)</u>
<u>Peter Gallo (2026)</u>
<u>Amy O’Toole (2026)</u>
<u>Vacancies (3)</u>

<u>Village Development Review Board</u> <u>(current terms)</u>
Adam Lory, Chair (2027)
Tom Weeks (2028)
Paul Trudell (2026)
David Whitesell (2028)
Amy O’Toole (2026)
Vacancy (2)

Trustees of Bliss Fund (elected, 3-year terms)	
Edward French, Jr.	Term Expires 2028
Gary Anderson	Term Expires 2026
Adam Lory	Term Expires 2027

**Economic Development Board
Joint Village & Town (vacant)**

**Stephen McDonald, Zoning
Administrator, (2027)**



Chair's Report

Dear Residents of the Village of Hyde Park:

As Board Chair of the Hyde Park Electric Department, I am writing this letter for our Annual Report with heavy, but necessary, full transparency. It is no secret that our utility is facing its most significant financial challenge in decades. Recent state investigations have revealed that our department is effectively insolvent. Mistakes were made over the past few years that led to a review by the Public Utilities Commission. I want to be direct about the situation we are in and the steps we are taking and have been taking since October of 2025.

We have been working with Scott Johnstone, our interim manager, Vermont Electric Power Supply Authority, Ron Shems, the attorney for the Electric Department and Peter Raymond the Attorney for the Village. We are cooperating fully with the PUC throughout this process. We have developed a two-phase plan to help us through this crisis phase and eventually to identify the root causes of our issues and to correct them. Phase 1 of our plan is to ensure that the electric department finances become stable. Once we have accomplished that we will move into Phase 2 of our plan which is to investigate and determine the root causes of our financial issues and to address them. As answers become clear we will take action to organize the finances of each system (Electric Department, the Water and Sewer Departments and the General Department) to remain financially viable for the future. Scott, in the Manager's report, has done a great job of listing all of the steps and accomplishments we have made to date. Please refer to the Manager's Report for more specific information about our activities to serve the Village.

With all of the financial issues facing us I want to reiterate our mission: Our commitment is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric power to the ratepayers of Hyde Park Electric. We have been and will continue to adjust our actions to meet this mission. This year has been extremely difficult for all of us. We are taking accountability for our mistakes by working to mitigate any losses and to reorganize governance structure to reflect better processes including training for Trustees.

We appreciate all of the commitment, courage and hard work it takes for our dedicated staff to help us through this extremely difficult situation. They have been working tirelessly to ensure that the lights remain on and the rest of the village is in working order. We also want to thank Scott, the PUC, VPPSA, and our attorneys for their support and guidance along the way. Many thanks go to the ratepayers and the residents of the Village for your support, cooperation, civility, patience and genuine caring for the future of the Village.



Manager's Report

The year 2025 will be remembered as one defined by both meaningful accomplishment and significant challenge. It has tested our systems, our leadership, and our resilience as a community—but it has also demonstrated the strength, commitment, and character that define the Village of Hyde Park.

Progress and Planning

Despite the challenges we faced, the Village made important strides in planning for the future. We successfully adopted new zoning bylaws, a critical step in guiding thoughtful development and preserving the character of our community. This work was made possible through a collaborative arrangement with the Town of Hyde Park. We are especially grateful to Stephen McDonald, the Town's Zoning Administrator, for stepping in to support zoning activities within the Village, and to the Selectboard for their partnership in making this approach possible.

In addition, the Village adopted a new Hazard Mitigation Plan, strengthening our preparedness for future emergencies, and worked jointly with the Town to adopt an updated Town Plan. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to long-term resilience, sustainability, and coordinated growth.

Electric Department Challenges

This year also brought to light a serious financial crisis within the Village's Electric Department. A significant level of operating debt had accumulated over time, necessitating decisive action. In response, the Village implemented a 20% rate increase—an increase that, while difficult, was essential after prior efforts to adjust rates were reduced at the state level.

As the scope of the issue became clear, Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) stepped in to provide critical management and financial guidance. Their expertise and support have been invaluable as we work through this period of transition.

The situation also led to leadership changes, including the resignation of the Village Manager. Looking ahead, additional steps will be necessary, including a second rate increase, recently filed, and continued engagement with a state review process. So far the largest takeaway is that rates should have been adjusted upward sooner and more regularly to keep pace with rising costs necessary to operate an electric utility to meet reliability for customers and regulatory and policy requirements to comply with state laws and rules.



Community Response

In the face of these challenges, the response from our community has been both thoughtful and encouraging. Residents and customers have asked important questions, expressed understandable frustration, and engaged in meaningful dialogue about the future. This level of engagement reflects a community that cares deeply about its Village and its direction. For that, we are sincerely grateful.

Appreciation for Staff and Leadership

Throughout this difficult period, the Village staff have demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance. They have continued to serve the community with professionalism and commitment, even under significant pressure. Their efforts do not go unnoticed, and we extend our deepest thanks for all they do for Hyde Park and its residents.

We also recognize the Village Trustees. While it is clear that financial challenges developed over time, what remains beyond question is the care, effort, and commitment each Trustee has given to this community. They have helped guide meaningful progress in Hyde Park, often without recognition. In times of difficulty, it is easy to lose sight of those contributions, but they remain an important part of our story.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will require continued focus, transparency, and difficult decisions. However, with the support of our partners, the dedication of our staff, and the engagement of our community, we are confident in our ability to navigate these challenges and build a stronger, more sustainable future for the Village of Hyde Park.





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Period ending December 31, 2025 by
Kittell Branagan & Sargent, Certified Public Accountants
Available later this year

You may request a pdf copy of the auditor's report by email at customerservice@villageofhydepark.com or by viewing it on line at www.villageofhydepark.com (2024 audit currently available on line).



VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK
Tax Collector's Report
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2025

Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 6,924.34
Village Taxes Billed for 2025	\$ 39,562.64
Village Taxes, Interest & Penalties Received in 2025	\$(38,342.26)
Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2025	\$8,144.72

Delinquent Village Taxes 2025

Outstanding taxes	\$8,144.72
Taxes Paid after 12/31/2025	\$(658.17)
Total Taxes Due as 3/25/2026	\$7,486.55

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING ADMINISTRATION

In 2025, the Village Planning Commission worked with the Town to adopt a new municipal plan and worked with Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission to develop and approve new zoning bylaws.



2026 PROPOSED VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK BUDGET

	GENERAL DEPARTMENT REVENUES	2025 Budget	2025 Est. Actual to Budget	2025 Est. Actual	'25 Est. to '26 Budget	2026 Draft Budget
4180.002	Interest Income	1,300	76%	989	31%	1,300
4191.002	Penalty Income	60	142%	85	-29%	60
4400.002	Village Taxes \$.11/\$100	39,568	100%	39,563	16%	46,052
4420.002	State PILOT	4,000	98%	3,907	-10%	3,500
4550.002	Warehouse Rent	25,000	97%	24,177	3%	25,000
4500.002	Backhoe Rent	9,000	100%	7,989	0%	7,989
4551.002	Electric PILOT	300	100%	300	0%	300
4551.002	Office Rent/ Utilities	41,803	87%	36,554	108%	39,478
4175.002	Zoning Income	2,500	63%	1,567	-100%	-
	Total Revenues	123,531	94%	115,667	7%	123,679
	GENERAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	2025 Budget	2025 Est. Actual to Budget	2025 Est. Actual	'24 Est. to '25 Budget	2026 Draft Budget
5030.002	Depreciation Expense	42,000	103%	43,100	0%	43,100
5082.002	Fica Taxes	1,100	166%	1,814	-39%	1,100
5085.002	Property Taxes			-		
5171.002	Development Expenses	1,500	84%	1,259	-100%	-
5270.002	Interest Expense	1,750	100%	914	228%	3,000
5410.002	Street Lighting	6,200	101%	6,277	20%	7,532
5420.002	Village Decorations	-		-	100%	-
5691.002	Maintenance of Sidewalks/Crosswalks	10,000	205%	20,527	-22%	16,000
9310.002	Building Rent & Utilities	42,225		36,923	8%	40,000
5765.002	Sign/Signals		#DIV/0!	101	100%	
5774.002	Park and other Village Services	750	101%	756	-1%	750
9020.002	Accounting & Collecting	3,000	138%	4,149	-28%	3,000
9030.002	Supplies & Exp.-Computer, Postage	2,000	303%	6,066	-67%	2,000
9210.002	Office Supplies & Expense	750	-31%	(235)	-420%	750
9230.002	Outside Services	-	#DIV/0!	17,451	-100%	-
9250.002	Workers Compensation Insurance	225	98%	221	2%	225
9259.002	Employee Contribution to Health	(200)	63%	(125)	60%	(200)
9260.002	Employee Benefits-Health, Dental, Life	1,200	83%	991	21%	1,200
9261.002	Vacation Pay	300	98%	293	2%	300
9263.002	Holiday Pay	175	86%	150	17%	175
9264.002	Sick Pay	200	88%	175	14%	200
9265.002	Retirement Expense	1,000	64%	638	57%	1,000
9300.002	Trustee Stipend	75	64%	48	56%	75
9330.002	Transportation Expense	500	66%	326	53%	500
9350.002	Equipment Maintenance	4,000	12%	500	100%	1,000
9380.002	Snow Bucket Maintenance	950	0%	-	0%	950
	Total Expenses	120,085	119%	143,396	-14%	123,257
	Total Revenues	123,531	94%	115,667	7%	123,679
	Net Change in Retained Earnings	3,446		(27,728)		422
	Equipment notes Payable			Kiotti		3,876
				JD Backhoe		15,515



VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT's Audited for 2024

Consolidated Village Financial 's

	<u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>Business-type</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Totals</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Totals</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>
Cash and equivalents	\$ 74,311	\$ 348,091	\$ 422,402	\$ 548,765	\$(126,363)
Other assets	278,734	974,557	1,253,291	1,171,633	81,658
Restricted assets	13,741	97,640	111,381	110,011	1,370
Investments	-	931,216	931,216	793,196	138,020
Capital/RTU assets, net	606,414	6,356,839	6,963,253	6,890,770	72,483
Deferred Outflows	<u>979</u>	<u>139,800</u>	<u>140,779</u>	<u>224,878</u>	(84,099)
Total Assets And Deferred Outflows	<u>974,179</u>	<u>8,848,143</u>	<u>9,822,322</u>	<u>9,739,253</u>	83,069
Debt	54,430	5,309,065	5,363,495	6,323,031	(959,536)
Other liabilities	225,498	1,428,340	1,653,837	1,606,417	47,420
Unearned revenue	85,719	13,750	99,469	148,502	(49,033)
Deferred Inflows	<u>1,148</u>	<u>113,666</u>	<u>114,814</u>	<u>1,357</u>	113,457
Total Liabilities And Deferred Inflows	<u>366,795</u>	<u>6,864,821</u>	<u>7,231,615</u>	<u>8,079,297</u>	(847,692)
Net Position	<u>\$ 607,384</u>	<u>\$ 1,983,322</u>	<u>\$ 2,590,706</u>	<u>\$ 1,659,956</u>	\$ 930,750

Governmental Activities

<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
General government & administration	\$ 113,779	\$ 7,502	\$ 106,277
Streets and sidewalk	18,815	7,185	11,630
Streetlights	6,171	6,085	86
Village Services/Parks	<u>754</u>	<u>463</u>	291
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$139,519</u>	<u>\$ 21,235</u>	\$118,284



ELECTRIC DEPARTMENTStatement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 2,848,987	\$ 2,627,422	\$ 221,565
Expenses:			
Purchased power, transmission, and distribution	1,969,650	1,877,544	92,106
Customer accounts	344,709	230,181	114,528
Administrative and general	442,165	619,930	(177,765)
Depreciation expenses	121,382	127,854	(6,472)
Taxes	200,805	177,662	23,143
Total Operating Expenses	<u>3,078,711</u>	<u>3,033,171</u>	45,540
Operating Income (Loss)	(229,724)	(405,749)	176,025
Non-operating income(expenses)	<u>36,663</u>	<u>52,296</u>	(15,633)
Change in net position	<u>\$ (193,061)</u>	<u>\$ (353,453)</u>	\$ (160,392)

WATER DEPARTMENTStatement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 363,292	\$ 452,021	\$ (88,729)
Expenses:			
Distribution	68,430	56,627	11,803
Customer accounts	17,115	11,639	5,476
Administrative and general	140,599	45,198	95,401
Depreciation expenses	97,768	96,986	782
Taxes	6,274	5,267	1,007
Total Operating Expenses	<u>330,186</u>	<u>215,717</u>	114,469
Operating Income (Loss)	33,106	236,304	(203,198)
Non-operating income(expense)	<u>1,071,660</u>	<u>847</u>	1,070,813
Change in net position	<u>\$ 1,104,766</u>	<u>\$ 237,151</u>	\$ 867,615



WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 158,810	\$ 159,920	\$ (1,110)
Expenses:			
Distribution	84,062	36,697	47,365
Customer accounts	10,205	6,850	3,355
Administrative and general	92,176	14,974	77,202
Depreciation expenses	47,289	45,926	1,363
Taxes	1,417	936	481
Total Operating Expenses	<u>235,149</u>	<u>105,383</u>	129,765
Operating Income (Loss)	(76,339)	54,537	(107,534)
Non-operating income(expenses)	<u>53,887</u>	<u>(10,503)</u>	43,384
Change in net position	<u>\$ (22,452)</u>	<u>\$ 44,034</u>	\$ (65,615)

VILLAGE OF HYDE
PARK BLISS
LIBRARY FUND

Bank account				
Balance	(12/31/2024)			\$ 1,001.43
Activity				
	Interest Received		\$ 1.43	
	Investment Earnings		\$ 3,251.42	
	Payments to Lanpher Library		\$ (3,251.42)	
Total				\$ 1.43
Balance	(12/31/2025)			\$ 1,002.86
Market Value of Investment Account 12/31/2025				\$ 142,011.48



**A SUMMARY OF THE
April 29, 2025 ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

Chair Frederika French called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 PM

- ARTICLE 1.** Paul Nesky was elected Village President and Moderator for a term of one (1) year, ending in 2025.
- ARTICLE 2.** The summarization of the 2024 Annual Village meeting minutes were approved.
- ARTICLE 3.** Edward French, Jr was elected Trustee of the Bliss Library fund for a term of three (3) years, ending in 2028.
- ARTICLE 4.** Frederika French was elected for a term of two (2) years as Village Trustee, ending in 2027.
- ARTICLE 5.** Susan Trainor was elected for a term of three (3) years as Village Trustee, ending in 2028.
- ARTICLE 6.** There were no nominations for the three (3) year term for Village Trustees. The position will remain vacant until filled either by Trustee appointment, or election at the next Annual Meeting.
- ARTICLE 7.** Village residents voted to accept the report of the Village Officers as outlined in the Annual Report.
- ARTICLE 8.** Village residents voted to approve the 2025 General Department budget and authorized taxes at the rate of \$.0946 per \$100 of assessed property value, to be used for operations of the General Department.
- ARTICLE 9.** Village residents voted affirmatively “to authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow money on promissory notes of the Village and to defray current expenses of the Village.”
- ARTICLE 10.** Village residents voted to approve setting the Village tax due date of August 30, 2025 and an interest rate of 1 percent (1%) for the first three months and thereafter, with one and one-half (1 1/2%) and an eight percent (8%) penalty for delinquent taxes.
- ARTICLE 11.** Village residents were informed of continued work on projects for the Water Department. It was reported the new utility and accounting software will go live August 4.
- ARTICLE 12.** Carol Young expressed her appreciation for the dedication of the annual report to Dan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

I certify that this is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this meeting.

Karen Wescom
Karen Wescom





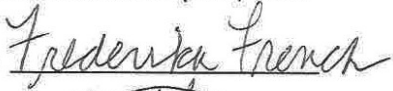
VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK, VERMONT

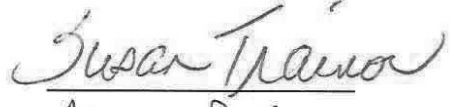
WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Incorporated Village of Hyde Park, Vermont is hereby called, and legal voters therein are warned to meet at the Library at the Hyde Park Elementary School, 50 E. Main Street, Hyde Park, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM for the transaction of the following business, viz:

- Article 1. To elect a President for the ensuing year.
- Article 2. Consideration and approval of the summarization of minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- Article 3. To elect a Trustee of the Bliss Library Fund for a term of three years.
- Article 4. To elect a Village Trustee for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 5. To elect a Village Trustee for a term of three (3) years.
- Article 6. To elect a Village Trustee for a term of one (1) year. – Remainder of
- Article 7. To hear, act upon and accept the report of the Village Officers.
- Article 8. To determine if the Village voters will approve the estimated budget as proposed by the Board of Trustees for 2026, authorize the estimated General Department expenditures of \$123,257, of which \$46,052 is to be raised by taxes at the rate of \$0.11 per \$100 of assessed property value, to be used for operations of the General Department.
- Article 9. Shall the Village voters authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow money on promissory notes of the Village and to defray current expenses of the Village.
- Article 10. To set a due date of August 31, 2026 for Village Taxes and an interest percentage of 1 percent (1%) for the first three months following the due date on amounts remaining unpaid and one and one half percent (1 ½%) for the thereafter remaining unpaid, and an additional eight percent (8%) penalty for delinquent taxes.
- Article 11. To hear from the Village on status of work projects relating to improvements needed for State of Vermont permits for the Hyde Park Water Department and fiscal challenges for electric rates, State investigation of the Village, and other operational updates.
- Article 12. To act upon any other business that may legally be brought before said meeting.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on April 2, 2026

Frederika French, Chair 

Susan Trainor 

Peter Gallo, Clerk 

Amy O'Toole 



End of Annual Report

