



Village of Hyde Park

Monday March 10, 2025

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes

Trustee Members: Present: Frederika French, Chair; Peter Gallo, Clerk; Amy O'Toole, Sue Trainor
Staff Present: Karen Wescom, Village Clerk; Brian Evans-Mongeon, Village Manager
Other: Barbara Potter, DPS Commissioner Kerrick Johnson

Chair French called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM. There were no citizens requesting time to present.

1. Additions or changes to the Agenda: The Village Manager requested time under the Village activities to report on discussions with the Union Bank on interest bearing accounts.
2. The Chair indicated that she did not have a report.
3. Amy O'Toole made a motion to approve the minutes of the Trustees' February 6, 2026 meeting. Sue Trainor seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously, with one (1) abstention.
4. Warrants were distributed and signed.
5. Union Bank: The Village Manager indicated that he has been having discussions with Union Bank on them continuing higher interest rates on our accounts. Last March 2024, the Bank agreed to offer higher interest-bearing rates as the Village maintains all of their business checking and savings accounts there. The agreement would have the higher rates until March 2025 with the possibility of renewal. The Manager reported that initial discussions would have the Bank continue the higher rates but a final decision could not be made until the later half of March 2025. The Bank would notify the Village of its decision then.
6. Fleet Coverage: The Village Manager reported that the Village received three (3) sets of responses from differing local car dealers, they being Lamoille Valley Chevy, Lamoille Valley Ford, and St Johnsbury GMC. A fourth dealer did not respond. Of the responding dealers, Lamoille Valley Chevy offered us the best pricing on the two (2) vehicle choices we asked for. The Manager asked for permission to further negotiate with Lamoille Valley Chevy for the vehicle. The Trustees supported negotiations and the Manager indicated that he would bring any recommended purchase to the Trustees for approval to purchase.
7. Customer Survey: The Village Manager reported that as of the meeting time, 24 survey responses had been received. The survey continues through March 28. A final report and analysis will be posted following a final review of the responses.
8. DPS Commissioner Kerrick Johnson: The Village Manager introduced Commissioner Johnson to the Trustees. Mr. Johnson, talked about his work experience and how he came to be recommended as the Commission by Governor Scott. He also highlighted his engagement with and through Hyde Park when he was a student at Johnson State College. Throughout his presentation, he talked and stressed the importance of collaboration and engagement amongst the parties, including the Department of Public Services.

9. Development Review Board (DRB) Appointment: As there are openings presently on the DRB, Amy O'Toole as a neighbor to David Whitesell, who lives on Church Street, to be a member of the DRB. Peter Gallo made a motion to appoint David Whitesell to the Village Development Review Board effective immediately. Sue Trainor seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, without abstention.
10. Water System Phase II project: The Village Manager reported that the Village has selected a new consulting engineer for the water system as the contract with the former engineer has been terminated. The new engineering firm, working with the Village, has submitted an application with the State of Vermont for some funding to replace the Fitch Hill Reservoir. The new design is more in line with the historic structure being a roofed inground structure.
11. Water System winter issues: The Village Manager reported on two (2) instances where water line proximity to ground level and the deeper than usual frost this year have broken. Repairs have been made but the instances probably still need to be addressed as future conditions could mean additional future breaks.
12. Depot Street Manhole: the Village Manager reported on wastewater manhole that is having issues due to inground water movements and frost. The thawing and warming up has created structural integrity issues. The Village worked with the Town to post signage and slated it for repairs this spring.
13. Town Relations: The Village Manager shared that the Town had recently appointed a new Town Administrator and that we were scheduled to meet with each other on Monday March 17 at noon.
14. The Village Manager indicated that there was no emergent need for the Executive Session. There was no call for an Executive Session.
15. Motion to Adjourn by Amy O'Toole seconded by Sue Trainor, motion passed unanimously without abstention. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.