

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, April 20, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Danny Hale, Vice Chair
Kory Barclay
Shari Cornish
Elizabeth Dow

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Amanda Atwood Payroll Administrator
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Joshua Molleur, Police Officer
Jim Lovinsky, Lamoille Housing
Matt Moore, Housing Vermont

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Larry Hamel
Charlie Burbank
Faetterri Silver

6:02 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order.

6:02 P.M. – 6:03 P.M. Select Board to approve minutes for its last regular meeting of April 6, 2017

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of April 6, 2017 as written.

6:03 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda-None

6:03 P.M. – Communication from the Audience- None

6:04 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on topics including the Town Garage project, job openings for the Town, the South Main Street sidewalk project, the Church Street water line project, the planned Dog Hearing, and a trash complaint on Prospect Street (See attached report for more details).

6:20 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on topics such as road work, wastewater system support, water systems, village banners, and the road asset management project. (See attached report for more details).

6:28 P.M. – 6:33 P.M. Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported that the last couple of weeks were very busy. He reported that there was a verdict on the Robitille homicide case in favor of the Town/State. He reported that HPD made a drug bust in Hardwick that K-9 Kubo was involved in. The search seized 65 bags of heroin, a .38 special revolver handgun, and nearly \$4,000.00 in cash. Aaron reported that the Hardwick Police Department hired a new officer, Joshua Molleur, in replacement of Officer Cavarretta who left to work for the Berlin PD. Officer Molleur has five years of experience and is fully certified in law enforcement. Officer Molleur will start work on Monday, April 24, 2017. Officer Molleur expressed that he grew up in Hardwick and loves the Hardwick community. He said that he looks forward to serving a community that he calls home. Aaron also expressed that there is a part-time officer that maybe leaving the department in May to work more hours for the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. He stated that he has a full-time certified applicant that is interested in filling the part-time position if it becomes available.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the appointment of Joshua Molleur as the new Hardwick Police Officer.

Hardwick Electric Report - Given by HED Commissioner, Brad Ferland-
Hardwick Electric did not report.

6:33 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to consider approving the removal or trimming of a tree at 499 South Main Street. The tree is preventing the Town from properly maintaining the sidewalk. Jon reported that there is a tree on 499 South Main Street that is preventing proper maintenance of the sidewalk. (See attached picture for more details). He stated that he has brought the concern to the property owner. The owners have given permission to trim the tree in the fall of 2017. The Town Manager will have the road crew trim the tree in the fall. The Select Board generally agreed that the tree could be cut during the fall.

6:35 P.M. – 7:00 P.M Item #2, Select Board to consider Lamoille Housing Partnership and Housing Vermont's request to refinance a Community Development mortgage of \$530,000 for 7 South Main Street and mortgage of \$327,820 for 38 Slapp Hill Road & 143 Highland Avenue in the Town of Hardwick.

Eric explained that there has been previous presentations in which Jim Lovinsky and Matt Moore have presented, and previous conversations with VCDP. Danny asked if there was a plan in place that would make it unnecessary for Lamoille Housing Partnership to come back in 20 years and re-do the whole process. Jim explained that they are in the process of upgrading properties, and it's how the Federal Housing program operates everywhere. Matt added that they can't perceive what may or may not happen in 20 years. Matt also stated that they are capitalizing some replacement reserves within the budget to help them in the future. Kory asked what would happen if the Board didn't approve of the refinance? He asked Jim and Matt if they have ever experienced a no? Matt responded that he 's been doing this work for 10 years, and he hasn't ever experienced a no. He's had communities ask a lot of questions, which is understandable. Matt stated that the Vermont Housing Conservation Board, which is another primary funder, has interest in providing funding and renegotiating its loan with LHP. They have agreed to refinance and write off the old interest, but it's contingent on the Town of Hardwick. Matt is committed to finding ways where all parties can work together and bring in Federal money for low income housing. Eric further explained that if the Board didn't approve the refinance, the Town would be saying no to federal dollars coming into town to fix up low income housing. Charlie Burbank asked if there's depreciation these building? Matt replied that the state formula is based on operating income and expenses. Depreciation is outside of that formula, so no. Both Elizabeth and Shari expressed that there has been a positive impact on people that need this type of housing. Larry Hamel expressed his concern and asked who would be paying for the affordable housing in this community.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the Lamoille Housing Partnership and Housing Vermont's request to refinance the Community Development mortgage of \$530,000 for 7 South Main Street, and mortgage of \$327,820 for 38 Slapp Hill & 143 Highland Ave in the Town of Hardwick.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow to amend the original motion, seconded by Shari Cornish; Elizabeth Dow, Kory Barclay, Eric Remick, and Shari Cornish voted to approve the refinance of the existing loan into 2-30 year deferred loans at 0% interest, one to the new project, and one to the Church Street project. To change the interest rate to 0% on the Hardwick Housing Loan effectible January 1st, 2017, and to forgive the interest to date. Danny Hale voted against the motion.

7:00 P.M. – 7:13 P.M Item #3, Select Board to consider approval of Vermont ATV Sportsmen Association request for trail maintenance within the Town of Hardwick for 2017-18.

Danny proposed trail alteration and modification to Buffalo Mountain Trail, Wright Farm Road, Hardwick-Woodbury rail trail, and the Village Loop behind Tops. Work is scheduled from May 1st through November 1st.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the VT ATV Sportsmen Association request for trail maintenance within the Town of Hardwick for 2017-18 season, expect to pursue some grant funding and to work with the Town Manager.

Elizabeth asked whether, as a matter of policy, the town oversaw town projects being performed by outside groups. Eric responded that if we have any concern, Tom Fadden does offer oversight and supervision.

7:14 P.M. – 7:15 P.M Item #4, Select Board to discuss and consider approval of the Hardwick/Agency of Transportation Annual Town Highway Financial Plan.

Jon explained the annual Town highway financial plan (See attached for more information).

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the Annual Town highway financial plan as written.

7:17 P.M. – 7: 18P.M. Item #5, Select Board to consider approval of a first class liquor license for Blackbird Bar Catering of Hardwick, Action Necessary. Select Board to consider approval of a second class liquor license for D&L Beverage in East Hardwick.

Jon presented a First Class Liquor License for BlackBird Bar Catering and Second Class Liquor License for D&L Beverage in East Hardwick.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the various liquor licenses as presented.

7:18 P.M. – 7:20 P.M. Item #6, Select Board to consider approval of 2017 paving bids.

Jon discussed that paving estimates came in for 2017. Paving will be done on Hardwick Street, Church Street/Slap Hill, Brown Farm Road, and other spots. There were four bids that came in. See attachment for the paving estimates.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve Gray's Paving and Sealing bid to pave the stated areas in 2017, providing that the Vermont paving grant is approved by VTrans.

7:20 P.M. – 7:23 P.M. Item #7, Select Board to consider signing the paperwork and approving the resolution for State Revolving Loan Fund for the Church Street project for \$675,000.

Kory asked why the amount was set at \$675,000; is it because that's what the bond was originally for. Jon replied yes, the engineer's estimate was \$675,000, but the bids came in lower making the expected amount of the project only around \$450,000. Jon noted that there can be change orders that will change the price, but the change orders need to be approved and there's contingencies. Eric asked what happens to the paving? Jon replied that they will pave what they tear up during the project and the Town plans to shim coat the road after the project is completed.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the resolution for utilizing the State Revolving Loan Fund for the Church Street Waterline Project for up to \$675,000.

7:23 P.M. – 7:31 P.M. Item #8, Select Board to consider accepting ownership of the Lamoille Valley Railroad Section House located in the Town of Hardwick.

Elizabeth Dow reported that the Vermont Agency of Transportation has ownership of the Lamoille Valley Railroad Section House located on West Church Street and would like the town to take ownership and move it to Depot Street so the Historical Society could oversee its preservation. At first, the Historical Society didn't have the funds, or the to do the restoration. A community member, Mario Fradette, approached

Elizabeth and offered to help the Hardwick Historical Society with moving and restoring the building. He would like the Town to excavate a foundation area and fill it with stone, then he would move the building over to that spot, next to the depot. Mario has offered to cover most of the cost, with the exception of a new roof or new siding on the building. The Historical Society will cover anything that Mr. Fradette doesn't cover. If approved the Town has a limited amount of time to move the Section House.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the town's taking ownership of Lamoille Valley Railroad Section House from the State of Vermont and add it to the Depot property as an historic Town asset. The Select Board authorizes the Town Manager to draft a letter and sign as necessary the paperwork transferring ownership of the Section House to the Town.

Select Board Reports – In a trail update, Danny reported that there may be more community access to the Lamoille Valley Railtrail soon as he is working with VTrans to try allow ATVs on the rail trail. Elizabeth reported that members for First Friday planning committee have met and are preparing for June, July, August, and September. Jon Added that there will be themes, so if you have a theme you would like, please bring it to their attention.

Shari reported that there will be a VT Vaudeville show to be held at the Town House April 27th, 28th, and 29th at the House. She said - get your tickets early.

New Business- None

Old Business- None

7:35 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Chair of the Select Board

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Atwood, Payroll & Benefits Administrator