

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, August 17, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief

Others Present

David Gross, Planning Chair
Jerina Page, Library
Judith Ruskin

6:00 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its last regular Select Board meeting of August 3, 2017 and special meeting minutes from August 9, 2017.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of August 3, 2017 as written, and to approve the minutes of the special Select Board meeting of August 9th, 2017 as written.

6:01 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- None

6:01 P.M. Communication from the Audience - None

6:02 P.M. – 6:16 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on the South Main Street sidewalk project, Church Street water line project, Economic Development contractor, Northern Boarder Regional funding on the Yellow Barn, and Water systems (See attached report for more details).

Jon spoke about plans to evaluate several properties in Hardwick that may be viable locations for industrial expansion. The Town was awarded a \$16,000 grant by the State of Vermont to perform an industrial expansion feasibility study.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve finalizing a contract between the Town of Hardwick and Jennifer Brodsky (Kitchen Table Consultants Inc.) for the Industrial Expansion Feasibility study funded by a Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development Municipal Planning Grant.

6:16 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported on road work, including working on Ward Hill, Pumpkin Lane, Mountain View Road, Bunker Hill, Dutton Road, and Carey Road. He also installed new posts to block the Town Village Diner parking lot on the South Main Street side. Next, he met with an electrician to make improvements at the Town Garage. Lastly, he reported on water and wastewater system support (See attached report for more details). Tom helped setup the Northern Boarder event at the Yellow Barn, and helped Desroches on South Main Street.

6:25 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported that there was an arson case in Greensboro on Sunday August 13th, 2017. He reported that by Tuesday, there had been two arrests. Aaron noted that the Labor Day DUI Campaign is coming up and there will be an increase in police patrols throughout the state, between August 18th and September 4th. Lastly, he reported on the new cruiser. Due to recalls on Ford Explorers, the plan is to purchase a sedan and get a new outfitter which is located within the state.

6:30 P.M. – 6:34 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report – Dave Mitchell

Dave Mitchell reported that the large HED upgrade projects are in process at the Wolcott Sub Station, and that the Wolcott hydro plant has generated almost a full year's worth of power so far, due to the maintenance and upgrades, and will be a record year. Hardwick Electric has been working on the H11 project, and making changes as needed. The 500KW solar project in East Hardwick is moving forward. Hardwick Electric is replacing a 500KW hazardous structure down near P&R Lumber. He also noted that Net Metering is almost completed and will be posted in a few weeks on Hardwick Electric's website. Dave mentioned that Mike Sullivan met with Jim Lovinsky regarding the location of Evergreen Manor's playground near the powerlines. After looking at the plans, Mike explained to Jim that Hardwick Electric has to follow Federal code standards, and that a playground can't be built where the plans indicate due to an existing right-of-ways and the closeness of the power lines. Relating to the embezzlement of 2010, Dave said that the deposition relating to the work of the previous auditors should be completed soon and the issue may be headed for court shortly. Finally, Dave reported that HED is 5.5% over budget in revenues and 4.5% under in operational expenses.

6:34 P.M. – 6:37 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to consider Judith Ruskin for appointment to the Jeudevine Library Board of Trustees for a remaining two year term (to 2019). Action necessary

Shari Cornish asked who was leaving the Library board, and Jerina Page mentioned that there is a vacant spot.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to appoint Judith Ruskin to fill the remaining 2 year term on the Jeudevine Library Board of Trustees, with the term ending in 2019.

6:37 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Item # 2, Select Board to review and consider setting the hearing date to the Hardwick zoning bylaws. Action necessary.

The Planning Commission recommends changes in Zoning Bylaws for better consistency throughout the town.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board formally accepts the bylaw changes submitted to the Select Board by the Planning Commission and hereby is setting up a public hearing to be held on September 7th 2017 at 6pm.

6:43 P.M. – 6:46P.M. Item # 3, Select Board to perform a review of Town Hazard Mitigation plan – this is only a draft for the Select Board and the public to review. No action necessary

Jon reported that the All Hazard Communications plan needs to have a lot of changes and the draft shared with the Board is for the Select Board to look at in order to better understand the plan and to help with any of the necessary changes.

6:46 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item # 4, Town garage update – this will be a brief discussion about where we are on the process of bidding the construction for the cold storage shed.

Eric reported that on August 9th the Select Board met and drew up some plans and ideas in order to go forward with the Town Garage project. Jon has sent out the bid information explaining what the Town wants to six different companies. Some companies have written back with questions, and one company has already stated that they can't do the estimate as they are too busy. The Town would like to have a price by the first week of September in order to go forward with the reimbursement from the insurance company. This project could potentially be a six to eight week project. Ideally the Town would like the construction completed by later this year, though its likely that the work won't be completed until next year.

6:51 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item # 5, Select Board to discuss procedure to appoint one new Town Lister and consider appointment of an assessor. This is in preparation for additional vacancies on the

Board of Listers.

Jon reported that currently there is one vacant position open in the Lister's office. There are two candidates that are interested. With possible retirements approaching, the Town would like to look into hiring two people to learn the job. Jon mentioned appointing one person for the remaining term, and then hiring the other as an assessor to replace any Lister position that may come open this fall. The two candidates would work the same hours, and get paid the same amount. The Board generally agreed with the idea and told the Town Manager to hold interviews as necessary.

Select Board Reports - Shari report that tonight was the last night of the Chamber Players Concert held at the Town House. Next, she reported that they are working on getting the final bids for the installation insulation at the Town House. Lastly she reported that there will be one more First Friday which will be Friday September 1st .

Danny reported that there has been progress on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and the western sections. He reported that VAST was awarded a grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to finish the section going from Sheldon to Swanton. Danny also reported that he picked up the left over debris left behind on the LVRT from where the Section House used to be located.

New Business – Eric reported that it appears that V-Trans or someong placed a traffic counter across Mackville Road to count the number of vehicles travelling on that road.

Old Business – None

7:03 P.M. - Executive Session – Personnel include the Town Manager.

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7:25 P.M. Out of Executive Session to open session. The Select Board voted to approve a new two year contract with the Town Manager, Jon Jewett.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve a two year contract with the Town Manager.

7:50 P.M. Adjourn Meeting – Eric Remick adjourned the regular Select Board meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator