

**MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, December 15, 2016
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Kathleen Hemmens, Vice Chair
Kory Barclay-Absent
Shari Cornish-Absent
Elizabeth Dow

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Tom Fadden- Road Foreman
Alberta Miller- Town Clerk
Jason Booth-Aldrich & Elliott

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Sabin Densmore

6:01 P.M. – Select Board Chair to call regular Select Board meeting to order

6:01 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its regular Select Board meeting of December 1, 2016 and a Special Budget meeting held on December 8, 2016.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of December 1, 2016 and the Special Select Board meeting of December 8, 2016 as written.

6:02 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Eric reported that the item for Lamoille Housing is being scratched as they are not ready for this item yet.

6:02 P.M. – Communication from the Audience - None

6:03 P.M. – 6:09 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about IBEW highway union negotiations, Creamery Road building fire, Open Mike on WDEV, Federal Economic Development Grant, and Streetlights (See attached reports for more details).

6:09 P.M. – 6:11 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported about recent road work, water system support, wastewater system, and village support (See attached report for more details).

6:12 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Pre Town Meeting updates – Alberta Miller

Alberta reported deadlines for Town Meeting warning for petitions and open seats on local Boards (See attached report for more details).

6:16 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to approve Church Street Step 3 construction engineering agreement with Aldrich and Elliott for \$71,800.

Eric gave an overview of the Step 3 Church Street water line project. Jason explained what is entailed in the presented engineering agreement (ie. bidding, contract administration, construction, etc). He explained that the agreement included 3 of 4 sections that were not to exceed amounts so this contract may come in much lower than the \$71,800 total. Eric asked about the timeline of the project, and Jason said he hoped to advertise for bids in February, open bids in March, and weather depending start construction in mid-April.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to allow Jon to sign the construction phase Step 3 engineering contract with Aldrich & Elliott for the Church Street water line upgrade project.

6:23 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Item # 2, Select Board to hear a request by Sabin Densmore – to have the Town sign a resolution declaring Hardwick a safe community that honors and respects diversity and reasoned discourse.

Sabin explained that he had written a request to the Select Board to ask them to consider writing a resolution declaring Hardwick a safe community (See attached letter for more detail). He explained the currently the Town of Hardwick has a lot of hate, fear, bullying, etc. He would like to see the Board create a resolution for positive affirmation to shut down some of the current negativity, but discussing the issue was the first step. Elizabeth mentioned that she supported Sabin's ideas and requested to work on this item with him in the future after the holidays. Kathleen mentioned she would like to be involved as well.

6:31 P.M. – 6:56 P.M. Item # 3, Update on Town Listers' transition – options for moving forward with new Listers or Town Assessor for property valuation.

Eric explained that he and Jon had met with the current listers and they would like to retire and move out of their positions in a slow fashion. He explained they would like to see a new lyster come on board to be able to train them before they leave. The Board discussed the different options of hiring an assessor versus electing listers and how the laws relate to this, especially with changing the Town charter (See attached for copies of specific State Statutes). Eric recommended doing more research on this subject, especially with the Town attorney to get clarity on how and what they can do and to also to advertise the Town's interest in appointing a new lyster.

6:56 P.M. – 7:24 P.M. Item # 4, Select Board to review all budgets for Town Meeting (FY18) – Operations and Capital and consider approval.

Brittany presented the budgets that were proposed on December 8, 2016. The only change the Board made to the 12/8/2016 budget was to add \$400 on the Historical Depot building maintenance line.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the presented budget of \$3,025,031.

Select Board Reports- Elizabeth reported about seeing the Town plow on Thanksgiving and also in the morning before she leaves her house. She commended the road crew for their dedication. Kathleen thanked the Fire Department for filling up the skating rink on a past Sunday. She also mentioned that the Recreation Department were looking for volunteers to help clear the snow off the rink and for donations of skates as well. Tom mentioned that there was a snowblower available as well for the ice rink.

New Business- None

Old Business- None

7:34 P.M. - Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Brittany Currie, Business Manager