

**MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. Thursday, December 17, 2015  
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

**Select Board**

Eric Remick, Chair  
Kathleen Hemmens, Vice Chair  
Lawrence Hamel  
Shari Cornish-late  
Elizabeth Dow

**Others Present**

Jon Jewett, Town Manager  
Brittany Cote, Executive Assistant  
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk  
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman  
Mike Bielawski-Gazette

**Others Present**

Jessica Manchester, Rec Dept.  
Ron Wiesen, Rec Dept.  
Jerina Page, Library Trustee  
John Page  
Joyce Mandeville, Library Trustee  
David Gross, Library Trustee

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

**6:02 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of December 3, 2015.**

*Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 regular Select Board meeting as written.*

**6:03 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda-** None

**6:03 P.M. - Communication from the Audience** – Alberta provided a reminder of upcoming deadlines including that appropriations & other articles for the Town Meeting warning are due by Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and need to be signed by 5% of the voting public. Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm is the last day for petitions for town and school office seats. Kathleen asked when Eric’s and other Town officials’ reports are due for the Town Report, and Alberta said they are all due by Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**6:06 P.M. – 6:20 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett**

Jon reported about a Rural Development Steering Committee including a future follow-up meeting scheduled for January 20, 2016 (more information will be coming on this). The South Main Street sidewalk project is moving ahead with easements, the zoning planning grant has been accepted, the VCDP Evergreen Manor grant application has been submitted. He also presented an overview of the total health savings to the Town, and sent letters as planned to residents relating to non-town owned streetlights that will be discontinued. **(See attached report for more details)**

**6:20 P.M. – 6:27 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden**

Tom reported that the road crew had been continuing to help with the installation of water meters with the contract plumber and had been working on fixing water shut offs along the way. They were having issues with the excavator and Hardwick Electric had helped the Town cut some trees and brush. He reported on a sewer blockage at Hideaway Acres and about water pressure issues at the Hideaway Acres pump house, but believed that they had resolved both issues. Jon mentioned the water leak at the Knights of Columbus. Larry said he has had a few complaints about the lack of grass trimming around the "Welcome to Hardwick" signs and was wondering if the Town would take care of it. Eric asked about the excavator repairs and if it would have an impact on the late fall work the Town would like to have completed, but Tom said he could hire Gary Bellavance to help out if necessary or the Town could rent equipment from Pete’s repairs.

**6:27 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Item #1, Select Board to review petitioned bylaw changes and schedule a public hearing to take comments relating to the changes**

Eric reported that he had the petition that went to the Planning Commission, which spelled out specific recommended changes to make to the Town zoning by-laws. The Planning Commission passed along their comments and recommendations to the Select Board, which Eric read out loud (See attached letter). Jon recommended holding this public hearing before the next Select Board meeting, setting a small amount of time and going longer if needed.

*Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to schedule a public hearing to take comments about the petitioned bylaw changes to be scheduled prior to the next Select Board meeting January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:00pm-6:30pm.*

**6:32 P.M. – 6:37 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to consider authorizing Hardwick Electric to purchase 215 LED streetlights to replace existing High Pressure Sodium Vapor streetlights**

Eric explained that a few members of the Hardwick Select Board and Hardwick Electric Department met on December 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the overall plan. This plan includes changing the high pressure sodium vapor streetlights to LEDs and to continue with the lights that have been agreed are necessary in Town. Finally, Jon and Eric would drive along to review the other lights that people are concerned about losing to determine if they are to remain or will be scheduled for removal. After the initial switch to LED lighting, residents will have the opportunity to see what the new lights will look like and then propose that additional lights be returned to service for safety or security reasons. The ultimate decision for returning lights to service is with the Select Board and Town Manager's office. HED requested that to start the LED change out process, it needed a formal request from the Town. Eric explained that HED agreed that any additional lights can be requested at a later date by the Town by simply calling HED to request them be turned back on. Jon stated that the Town intended to be responsive to citizen requests as much as possible.

*Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to request that HED purchase the initial 215 LED street lights.*

**6:38 P.M. – 6:39 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to review and approve several liquor licenses, action necessary.**

Alberta presented a liquor license for Positive Pie and explained that license was actually two licenses; one for the indoor space and one for the outdoor space.

*Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to approve the First Class (indoor and outdoor) liquor license(s) for Positive Pie.*

**6:39 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Item #4, Town Grand List Report “Errors and Omissions” adjustment by Alberta Miller, Town Clerk. This relates to an 8 acre parcel owned by Mark DeLaricheliere.**

Alberta explained that the errors and omissions issue was with a property owned by Mark DeLaricheliere. The property was to be sold, so the change in the Grand List was put on hold, but since the property didn't sell and was to remain a free standing parcel, the Grand List would need to be adjusted up to what the new single lot appraisal would be. This was a net increase in the Town Grand List.

*Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Larry Hamel, the Select Board voted to accept the Errors*

*and Omissions report.*

**6:41 P.M. – 6:47 P.M. Item #5, Discuss funding for clearing sidewalks along Main Street in East Hardwick. Mike Tatro has offered to do the work. He is unsure of what the actual workload will be, but would like to consider doing the work for \$1,500. The Town would need to provide sanding and salting.**

Jon explained that Mike Tatro was interested in performing the sidewalk clearing project, but had a difficult time determining what to charge for the work. He decided to ask the Town for \$1,500 and if the weather doesn't cooperate he might have to ask for additional funding. Jon suggested that the Select Board allocate the \$1,500 and see how it goes for the first year. This is the first time that someone has offered to perform the sidewalk clearing operation. Jon reported that Mike did not want to take on the responsibility of sanding and salting, and Tom said that the Town could do it.

*Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Larry Hamel, the Select Board voted to approve spending \$1,500 to have the sidewalks cleared in East Hardwick.*

**6:47P.M. – 8:58 P.M. Item #6, Budget updates and review by the Select Board – possible adoption of the annual budget**

Brittany presented the budgets for Recreation/Trails and the Library budgets. Representatives from each of those departments were present to discuss their budget. Ron Wiesen explained that he needed to increase the budget. He said that times are changing and they are having a hard time finding volunteers and people who are appropriately certified to teach swimming (as an example). There was a broad discussion of budgetary items. The Rec Department webpage and calendar were discussed.

Jerina Page led the Library budget discussion and identified the various needs of the Library. She discussed the need to purchase up-to-date computers and the need to add staff time to allow the Director to have 2 days off each week. There was substantial discussion about the revenues the Library receives from the Jeudevine Friends. Kathleen asked for more information relating to showing the revenue from the Friends in relation to the actual cost of operation the Library. Jerina said that she had the numbers and she could get them together if the Select Board wanted to see them. It was the general consensus of the Select Board that they would like to see the numbers.

Brittany went through the revenues page, the Fire Department budget, and the line item budget. Eric went back to the Capital Projects budget and discussed the need for better identification of major maintenance needs for the Town roads. There was some discussion about Center Road and the need to perform some preventive maintenance, either crack filling or shim coat paving to preserve the road. There was a discussion about paving Hardwick Street and when to do it and how the Town would fund it. Eric essentially would like to have a list of all the Town roads broken out by class and type. He also would like the list prioritized by need and usage level much like an asset management list, so the Town can do a better job of setting aside funding for its roads. There was also discussion about the potential impacts of the new state storm water regulations.

*Upon motion by Kathy Hemmens, seconded by Larry Hamel, the Select Board approved the Town FY17 budget for a total of \$2,938,042.00.*

**Select Board Reports** – Larry reported that he had been speaking with folks from Morrisville about the

creation of an overnight homeless shelter. He said that it was very difficult to find help for some people and it's not fair to help some but not others who may need it.

**New Business – None**

**Old Business - None**

**8:59 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.**

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

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Cote, Executive Assistant