

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, December 21, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief

Others Present

Judy Bellairs
James Patten
David & Dawn Draper

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

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its special Select Board meeting of December 18, 2017

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the special Select Board meeting of December 18, 2017 as written.

6:03 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Eric mentioned that two items needed to be added to the agenda. Item #4 Select Board to consider allowing the Town Manager to sign the right of refusal documents for Jeudevine Limited Partnership and Item #5, Select Board to vote on the 2017 Town Report cover photo.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda as stated.

6:04 P.M. – Communication from the Audience – James Patten and David Draper, sons of late David Patten, were present on behalf of their father to ask what they could do about their father's back taxes now that he had passed away. They explained they were unaware of the situation until now, and that they would like to pay back what was owed and asked if they could set up a meeting with the Board in the future. Jon explained that this property had become Town-owned property after the taxes from a 2016 tax sale were not paid. Eric recommended that they call the Town lawyer's office, May & Davies in Barton.

6:10 P.M. – 6:32 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on the Town cold storage facility, water system well source exploration and other long range plans, water/sewer rates, the economic development project at the yellow barn, health insurance switch from BCBS to MVP, Bike Path grant funds, and the FY2017 Town Audit. He also read an article from the Hardwick Gazette that reported about important dates from the Town Clerk's Office (See attached reports for more details). Eric asked what the target was for the new water rate structure, and Jon said he was hoping for July 1, 2018. The Board discussed that the change in the water rate may not be big changes for people as the total base rate needed to cover all fixed costs. Elizabeth mentioned that the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail would be interested in working in Hardwick if the Town was motivated and could put some matching funds towards the project. Danny said he was on the LVRT committee and felt that the Town could definitely do some work on the trail through Hardwick, but that there could be limitations on using federal grants funds to match other federal funds. The funds the Town has available are from the federal earmark for the Bike Path. These funds are administered by VTrans. Brittany also mentioned that any officer reports or other items for the Town Report are due no later than January 15th as this year, the printers are mailing Town Reports, so the information is due earlier.

6:32 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on road work including sanding and salting, the costs of a new wheeled backhoe and the town garage furnace options (See attached report for more details). Jon reminded the townspeople that the road crew only can do so much with the limited number of staff, equipment, and budgeted funds. He went on to say that people living in Vermont need to properly maintain their vehicles including appropriate winter tires. Eric and Danny both mentioned that sanding in the village would help (the Highway sands all side streets regularly). Danny recommended a group of Board members visit the Town garage to review what would be

needed to properly winterize the building. Eric suggested having contractors look at it to provide pricing.

6:41 P.M. – 6:59 P.M. Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported about his research into the noise ordinance issue. He said that the Caledonia State's Attorney told him that the hours of the day for a noise complaint generally isn't what she looks for when determining if the case will move forward or not. What she specifically wants to see is there more than one neighbor who is complaining about the same situation and the type of noise (gun shots, shouting, or a stereo). She recommended a restorative process first. Aaron went on to hand out a summary police report for the year and highlighted comparisons to previous years, (see attached report for more information). He noted that there has been a 70% increase in drug related offenses from 2014 to 2017, and in 2017 there were 30 drug related offenses. The good news is that the alcohol related offenses showed a 6% decrease from 2014 to 2017.

6:59 P.M. – 7:09 P.M. Item #1, Hardwick Select Board to consider approval of Cabot Creamery to dispose of reverse osmosis permeate from the Cabot production facility. This would be a test to determine the impact on the wastewater treatment process. The test may go from one to six months to get adequate data. The discharge would be stopped if negative impacts were identified.

Jon explained that Cabot Creamery had contacted him and asked if the facility could discharge treated bring their RO water to our plant. This permeate is very clean, almost pH neutral, very low in organic contents, and contains only a small amount of nutrients from the whey. Kory asked about the price the Town would be receiving for the discharge. Jon explained that he was still discussing an appropriate rate but he wanted to test the process for a short period to determine potential impacts on the system. Jon recommended a two or three month trial period of 15,000-20,000 gallons per day to get a good test result.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve Cabot Creamery's discharge of RO permeate to the Town WWTF pending the results of a several month test run to be arranged and overseen by the Hardwick Town Manager to include reports back to the Select Board.

7:09 P.M. – 7:20 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to discuss the COPS Grant and the potential of increasing the police department staffing levels.

Eric said that the COPs grant discussion had been tabled at the last meeting to allow a full Board to vote. Danny said that a few years ago there was an extensive discussion about having the Police Department remain a 24hr/7day per week department or shut down at a determined time similar to the Vermont State Police. After trying the limited night shift, the Police Department went back to full shift coverage because there were a high number of call-ins and arranging for vehicles to be taken home and paying for on-call status really didn't save any money. Danny said that after seeing the Police Department data relating to the increasing drug arrest rate and other consequences of the opioid epidemic, he felt that a change was needed for a better functioning department. Danny said that to date he hasn't heard of significant opposition to the staffing increase. He said that he knows there are residents who will oppose an increase in staffing, but there are others who strongly support it. He went on to say that generally, he believes that the Town supports the Hardwick Police Department. Citizens will not have the opportunity to vote on the COPS Grant at Town meeting. Kory said he looked at other similar towns to Hardwick and he felt that the number of police officers on a per capita basis relative to the local Hardwick population is high in relation to surrounding areas. Aaron disagreed with this and used Morrisville and Saint Johnsbury as examples.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to accept the COPS grant and the staffing increase that will accompany the funding. The vote was 3 to 2 in favor of accepting the funding.

7:21 P.M. – 8:25 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to discuss the FY2019 Town Budget, presented by Brittany Currie, Business Manager.

Brittany presented the revised FY19 budget to include changes from that were agreed to at the 12/7/2017 Select Board meeting, including updates to the Police Department budget that required additional funding due to implementation of the new 3 year collective bargaining agreement (See attached budgets for more information).

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to accept the revised budget presented for \$3,208,240.00 for FY19. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor of the budget.

8:25 P.M. - 8:28 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to consider allowing the Town Manager to sign the right of refusal document for Jeudevine Housing Limited Partnership

Jon explained that the Town lawyer asked to have this paperwork drawn up to ensure that the Town would have a guaranteed interest in the buildings if Jeudevine Housing or the project should go bankrupt.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to allow the Town Manager to sign the right of refusal document for the Jeudevine Housing Limited Partnership.

8:28 P.M. – 8:31 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to vote on the 2017 Town Report cover photo

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to use an historical photo of the Old Flood Zone Building for the cover photo for the 2017 Town Report.

Select Board Reports – Elizabeth Dow reported that Ray Small gave the Historical Society a large quantity of historical photos that were once used in past publications of the Hardwick Gazette.

New Business – Danny reported, in his role as Executive Director of VASA, he is working to make the Wright Farm Road trailhead a permanent fixture in that area. The trailhead would allow parking for use of the Wright Farm road/trail and for canoe portage around Jackson Dam.

Old Business – None

8:35 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