

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, December 3, 2015
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Cote, Executive Assistant
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Nat Smith, HED Commissioner
Mike Bielawski-Gazette

Others Present

Jessica Manchester
Dave Mitchell
Ron Wiesen
Warren Miller Jr.
Ray Bellavance

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

6:01 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of November 19, 2015.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the November 19, 2015 regular Select Board meeting minutes as written.

6:01 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Eric mentioned that there would be no police report as Aaron was not present.

6:02 P.M. - Communication from the Audience – Ron Wiesen spoke from the audience and introduced Jessica Manchester, the Recreation Coordinator and asked to do a preview of the Recreation Committee's proposed FY17 budget. Jessica disclosed that they would be asking for additional money in order to continue to fund her position, but would also be looking for grant funds to further develop their programs.

6:06 P.M. – 6:16 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about upcoming meetings with the VT Rural Development Steering Committee and the Hardwick Electric Dept. regarding street lights. He also reported about the water supply asset management classes, South Main Street sidewalks, and zoning updates (See attached for more information).

6:16 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about the meter installation in Town, stormwater program meeting, propane heater at the Town Garage, O&M of Town equipment, and brush cutting (See attached for more information).

6:22 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report – Given by Nat Smith

Nat reported about an HED employee retiring, current finances, solar array, net metering, and LED street lights (See attached for more information).

Eric asked if the Town's solar project could continue even if HED did not continue with their part. Jon mentioned that he had worked out a new deal and was looking into a different option so that Town could continue on their own.

6:28 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Item #1, Hardwick Electric Commissioner Appointment – Select Board to discuss and approve candidate for a three year term ending June 30, 2016.

Dave Mitchell introduced himself and said he was a Hazen Union School teacher for the past 28 years, and

how he would like to further serve the community. He said he had a good idea of how electricity worked and would like to join the HED Board of Commissioners. Elizabeth asked if he had retired yet, and Dave said he had a few years of teaching left.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Larry Hamel, the Hardwick Select Board voted to appoint Dave Mitchell to the HED commissioner board for the remaining term of a 3-year spot ending June 30, 2016.

6:31 P.M. – 6:36 P.M. Item #2, Town Grand List Report “Errors and Omissions adjustment by Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

Alberta said she was present to represent the Town Listers. The situation was that the LeBlanc family had purchased an adjacent property, which they planned to sell to another family member shortly after. This sale did not happen yet, but the Listers had not joined the two properties either, so the State stepped in and said that must be done for the current year's Grand List. This required a motion from the Select Board to accept the errors and omissions for the Town of Hardwick's FY16 Grand List.

Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Hardwick Select Board voted to accept the errors and omissions for the combination of Roger & Patricia LeBlanc's properties for the 2015-2016 Grand List.

6:36 P.M. – 6:38 P.M. Item #3, Streetlight update – criteria for keeping lights on and appeal process for lights being turned off to be discussed by Select Board.

Eric explained that there would be a meeting between the Town and HED the following week to help come up with a plan on how to handle the streetlights. After this meeting occurs, the Select Board plans to discuss the plan at the next Select Board meeting on December 17, 2015. Ray Bellavance spoke from the audience and said he wanted the streetlight in front of his house to stay on.

6:38 P.M. - 6:45 P.M. Eric called for a 5 minute recess.

6:45 P.M. – 7:51 P.M. Item #4, Budget update – Draft budget updates for the Police Department, Highway Department, Capital Equipment and Capital Projects

Brittany presented the draft budgets for Highway, Police, Office, Payroll, Town Buildings, Capital Equipment and Capital Projects (See attached for more information).

Select Board Reports – Shari reported that Nekarts were doing their annual fundraising and have gotten a sponsor (Union Bank) to pay for one complete window and a grant that would cover the costs of the remainder of them. Because the grant would not cover storm windows and screens, Nekarts got a sponsor (Henry Jordan Foundation) to pay for 100% of those costs. Nekarts also have gotten a proposition from a supporter to help pay for the ceiling painting, but they needed to find a painter who would be willing to do it.

New Business – Kathleen mentioned that she would like to add to a future Select Board agenda, an item to take a look at the Town conflict of interest policy once VLCT finished the edits on the personnel policies. Eric asked if someone with experience could attend the meeting to be able to give advice on this topic, and Jon said maybe someone from VLCT.

Old Business - None

7:57 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