

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, December 7, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Suzanne Gann, Recreation Coordinator
Joe Brosseau

Others Present

Lester Fuller
Art Williams
Kathleen Hemmens
Jodi Lew-Smith
Jerina Page
Nicole Miller
Ron Wiesen

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 regular Select Board meeting of November 16, 2017

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of November 16, 2017 as written.

6:02 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- None

6:03 P.M. – Communication from the Audience - None

6:03 P.M. – 6:11 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on the Town cold storage facility, water system well source exploration, water/sewer rates, Lamoille Housing Partnership loan refinancing, and the economic development project at the yellow barn (See attached report for more details).

6:11 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported on road work, redecking the swinging bridge and repairing the lights, coverage at the sewer plant, and assisting the electric department (See attached report for more details). Jon also mentioned the updated winter operations plan which now included a section discussing the necessity of snow tires and the inability to maintain bare roads (See attached plan for more details). The Board, Jon and Tom discussed the specific plow routes and how to classify the top priority roads. Tom also discussed attending a clean water class and how the state was discussing changing the rate structure to be based off mileage of roads or population versus a flat fee. The State also recommended changing class 4 roads to legal trails.

6:25 P.M. – 6:27 P.M. Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported about the 260 incidents in November including motor vehicle crashes, citizen disputes, domestic disputes, and burglaries (See attached report for more details). He also mentioned the past Thanksgiving, and upcoming Christmas and New Years traffic campaigns.

6:27 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Item #1, Select Board to hear noise concerns near Spring Street by Lester Fuller.

Lester explained that he had been having issues since the summer with a neighbor who is turning up their music so loud that he felt it was unbearable to live next to. He explained that at times the lights are off, no vehicles are in the yard, and it happened at all times of the day and night. He requested the Town start a noise ordinance for the village. Aaron reviewed the state statute (See attached for more information) and explained that this had happened in other Towns in the past and the state's attorney said they would not enforce the criminal charge prior to 11pm and without more than one neighbor complaining. Eric asked Aaron to verify with the current state's attorney on this matter and asked Lester to check in with the other neighbors to see if they would also report the issue so the police could take action. Elizabeth asked what could happen if the Town put forward a stricter ordinance, and Aaron warned that if the Town went too far

with an ordinance that it most likely would be challenged in court but that they could set specific time frames and issue a \$50 civil ticket.

6:42 P.M. – 7:04 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to consider accepting COPS Grant for \$125,000 and moving forward with increasing Police Department staffing levels

Eric explained that the Board had discussed applying for the COPS grant but now they had to discuss whether or not to accept it. Eric reviewed the suggested budget for the grant (See attached report for more details). Elizabeth asked if the grant was accepted, how the PD could show that this was worth it, and Aaron said the crime would continue to increase so it would be hard to show. Aaron said that they could try track arrest rates or how many cases were completed in a specific time. Jon explained that he felt that the cops would be seen out in the community more as the patrol officers would stay patrolling while the detective covered the cases all himself. Kory said that he supported the police department but felt the budget of a new cop would be difficult to increase the budget by that much. Eric felt that another officer would help with efficiency of the department but it was a really big cost and he felt that crime could be decreased with an increase of children activities and economic development instead of just additional policing.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board considered whether or not to accept the COPS grant. After discussion Elizabeth Dow tabled her motion and Shari seconded that.

7:04 P.M. - 7:42 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to discuss Trails, Recreation Committee & Jeudevine Library Budgets for FY2019.

The recreation committee, trails committee, and library trustees went over their budget requests (See attached budgets for more details). The recreation committee explained their increases were to satisfy additional programs for children to include sports programs, basketball camps, swim program, and a \$5,000 grant match to be put into their capital fund for a new playground for Mackville Pond (See attached report for more details). The Trails committee explained that their increase was to satisfy the need of giving Wayne a raise, especially since many hours he puts in are volunteer. Shari suggested that the Trails advertise more so people knew where to find them and what events they held, Alberta agreed and had many people who come to her looking for that information. The library trustees said they didn't have many changes but would like to only be expected to bring in \$3,000 in miscellaneous revenue. Eric suggested that they budget for all of their revenues and not just the miscellaneous revenue. Brittany explained that she suggested the \$5,000 the year prior because the Library brought in additional revenues that were not budgeted for and the fund balance continued to grow, so additional funds were available to offset the budget. Jon explained that the purpose of a fund balance was for emergencies but since the Town owned the building, they would be responsible for any emergency situations there, but the Library was authorized to carry a fund balance.

7:42 P.M. - 7:55 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to discuss Cemetery Budgets for FY2019.

Brittany explained that this line item budget was for the appropriations to Fairview cemetery, Main Street & Maple Street cemetery, Sanborn cemetery, and the Town's small cemeteries. Eric discussed future repairs at the Town's cemeteries to include fence repairs and stone repairs.

7:55 P.M. – 7:59 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to consider approving the redemption of a property by the Town of Hardwick, which was purchased by the Town at tax sale. The property is located at 415 VT RTE 14 south in the Town of Hardwick. The redemption if approved would be made to Winston Jennison Investments LLC.

Eric explained that the Town bought this property at a tax sale in 2016 and ended up receiving ownership of the property in 2017. The property was put back up for tax sale in 2017 before the transfer to the Town and it was purchased by another buyer. Jon recommended the Town redeem this property from the second buyer. Alberta explained that if they did not redeem it, the new owner would end up gaining ownership in 2018 and the money the Town put up in 2016 would be lost.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Board voted to approve the redemption of the property located at 415 VT Route 14 South.

7:59 P.M. – 9:12 P.M. Item #6, Select Board to discuss the FY2019 Town Budget, presented by Brittany Currie, Business Manager.

Brittany went through the draft FY2019 budgets (See attached for more details). The Board asked to increase the highway line painting to \$1,500, change the name of COPS Grant Expense to New Officer, increase the fire department equipment to \$6,100, change the capital equipment schedule for the excavator to be \$20,000 in FY2019 and push back the purchase of a new one for 5 years. The Board also requested that an estimate be brought forward to replace the Town Garage furnace to be able to budget for that in FY2019 as well.

Select Board Reports - None

New Business – None

Old Business – None

9:12 P.M. - *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to enter into an executive session to discuss legal matters regarding real estate to include the Town Manager.*

9:23P.M. – The Select Board came out of Executive Session. No decisions were made.

9:23 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