

**MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 18, 2016
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Cote, Business Manager
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Jessica Manchester, Recreation Coordinator

Others Present

Jerina Page, Library Trustee
John Page
Judy Bellairs
Gary Michaels
Samantha Avery
Derek Demers

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 February 4, 2016.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to approve the February 4, 2016 regular Select Board meeting minutes as written.

6:03 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Jon mentioned that he would like to remove the Police Report as Aaron was absent, and he asked to replace that with a Recreation Committee report by Jessica Manchester. He also asked to add Item #4, Select Board to discuss and decide on the Rutland resolution.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to amend the agenda as stated.

6:04 P.M. – Communication from the Audience- None

6:04 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about the next community visit, to be held on March 16th; upcoming CVSWMD special and household hazardous waste events; the reappraisal progress; roadside mowing; VCDP Evergreen Manor grant; USDA Rural Business Development Grant; Buildings and General Services Grant; and the Town Manager's Office move (See attached report for more details).

Alberta added that the reappraisal company was sending out letters to all households that still needed to be visited for the town-wide reappraisal and would need to be scheduled in the near future. She also explained that April 1st would be the end of the property evaluations and a book would be made and sent out to all homeowners, then grievances would continue through the summer.

Eric made a comment that he would like roadside mowing to be earlier this year. Jon explained the money was used in FY16, but they could overspend that line this year to get back onto a preferred schedule. Jon also mentioned that roadside mowing would go back out to bid for this year to give other companies a chance to propose an estimate.

6:17 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that the Town crew had been on the roads salting and fixing quite a few water line leaks and breaks. He also said that electronics at the Bridgeman Hill water reservoir were not working at that time.

Eric asked if the broken water lines were Town-owned, and Tom said that most were private water lines. He continued to report that the crew had been plowing and cleaning out frozen culverts that week and helping at the sewer plant. They had also repaired a large problematic spot on Bridgeman Hill and were aware of others.

6:22 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Hardwick Recreation Committee – Given by Jessica Manchester

Jessica reported that the Recreation Committee had been considering changing their name as there had been comments at the Rural Development meetings of people wanting more community events, not just specifically recreation and she felt that their committee did have a larger focus group outside of just recreation. She also wanted to discuss the community calendar and how she would like to take over some of the administration of it and add new software in order to have a more interactive calendar for events. Shari commented that the Chamber of Commerce were the ones who currently ran the community calendar and doubted they wanted to give up that responsibility. Elizabeth asked for the cost of the new calendar, and Jessica said it was \$25 per month and she also mentioned that it was in the Recreation Committee's budget to pay for it. Jessica stressed the community comments about wanting a recreation center and felt it necessary to move forward on creating this. In a discussion of what Jessica's title may be, Alberta suggested the name Community Activities Coordinator. Jerina Page commented that the current calendar's scrolling of events calendar is too slow. The Select Board took no action on the proposed name change or the website request. The Chairman asked for more information and proposals in writing.

6:43 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. Item #1, Select Board to review and consider the appointment of Gary Michaels to fill a current vacancy on the Jeudevine Library Board of Trustees.

Jerina introduced Gary as a proposed Library Trustee and explained that he was already a member on the Downtown Committee, was well known in Town and had expressed his interest in wanting to assist the Board on their vision of the future of the Jeudevine Library.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to fill the vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees with the applicant Gary Michaels.

6:45 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item #2. Alberta Miller to provide Town Meeting update to Select Board.

Alberta reported that Town reports were in the mail as of Tuesday. She also wanted to take a minute to go over Town Meeting day, with the polls opening at 9am at the Elementary School. She said there will be 2 separate checklists so they can track who is voting on the primary ballots and who is voting on local ballots. She explained that since this year was also the federal primary voting, people would have to declare which ballot they would like as they enter: either Democrat or Republican. Absentee ballots were available as well. Eric asked about the deadline for absentee ballots, and Alberta said the Friday before Town meeting was the last day for mailing them out and they had to be back in by 7pm on Town Meeting Day. She also mentioned that she would need extra help at this year's Town Meeting with counting votes as the machine would count the primary votes, but there are 4 other ballots that need to be counted by hand.

6:52 P.M. – 6:53 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to review and approve liquor and tobacco license(s).

Alberta reported that Rite-Aid and Jiffy-Mart (Hay's) were both up for license renewals and neither had any issues.

Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve a Class 2 tobacco license for Rite-Aid and a Class 2 liquor and tobacco license for Jiffy-Mart.

6:53 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to discuss the Rutland Resolution

Eric mentioned that the first solar project had been in a Vermont Town had been denied by the Public Service Board and wondered if it had any relation with this resolution, which asks the VT Legislature to amend the current law to permit greater local voice in the listing of large scale energy projects. Shari said she couldn't see anything negative about signing this resolution as she would like to see Towns have more of a say in potential solar projects. Eric said it could be negative if someone owned land and the Town stopped the potential project from moving forward. Eric also mentioned that he would like to see specific language in the Town Plan specifying areas that the Hardwick Select Board felt appropriate for these types of projects.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Larry Hamel, the Select Board voted to resolve to adopt the Rutland Resolution regarding renewable energy projects.

Select Board Reports- Kathleen mentioned that she, Aaron, Chip Troiano, and Katherine Lovinsky were seeking improvement in agency responses to mental health emergencies in Hardwick.

Shari mentioned that the Town House would open on March 1st and the first event was on March 10th & 11th being the Hazen one-act plays. Following that was a concert on the 12th and pirates of penzance at the end of the month on the 29th.

Jon mentioned that the State Senate had passed a bill to eliminate Town Service Officers, but the house had not voted on it yet. Larry said he had helped 15 people with help from DCF only twice.

New Business-None

Old Business-Shari mentioned that the next Town Community Visit would be March 16th at 6:30pm.

7:09 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, Business Manager