

**MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 2, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Kathleen Hemmens, Vice Chair
Kory Barclay
Shari Cornish
Elizabeth Dow

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Jerina Page, Jeudevine Board Chair
John Page
Dave Gross
George Hemmens

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Lynne Gedanken-HED
Ryan Christiansen
Michael Demers
Joyce Mandeville
Gary Michaels
Jodi Lew-Smith

6:00 P.M. – Select Board Chair to call regular Select Board meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its regular Select Board meeting of January 19, 2017

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of January 19, 2017 as written.

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda

Jon requested to adjust the agenda by adding item #5: Select Board to consider approving the Town Manager to sign loan discharge for past Evergreen Manor Grant from the Town. The discharge agreement removes the covenants from the earlier grant to be replaced by covenants in the new grant. VCDP staff approve the discharge of the covenants.

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

6:00 P.M. – 6:01 Communication from the Audience- None

6:01 P.M. – 6:08 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about the Federal Economic Development Administration Grant, Town Report, Complaint of garbage and trash on Edgewood Street, and Delinquent Accounts (See attached report for more information).

6:08 P.M. – 6:11 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about road work, village support, and different repairs around the area. (See attached report for more information).

6:11 P.M. – 6:15 P.M Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported that January 2017 had 243 incidents. Within those incidents, there have been multiple crashes, multiple DUI's, and some stops that have included drugs. On January 26, 2017 the Police Department held an open house for Atos in honor of him retiring. Atos and Officer Glodgett received many awards, and appreciates everyone who came. Aaron reported about the upcoming event, Coffee with a Cop, where people can go and have a cup of coffee and a conversation with a member of the Hardwick force. The

first one will be on February 15th from 9-11am at Connie's Kitchen, and the second date will be announced and take place at the Village Diner.

6:15 P.M. – 6:30 P.M Hardwick Electric Report – Given by Lynne Gedanken, Chair, HED Board of Commissioners

Lynn Gedanken reported that the Cooperating Response Center Service, the phone service that answers after hours and during power outages, went live on January 30th, 2017. If power outages need to be reported, please call 888-472-5201. Hardwick Electric is planning to upgrade their voltage system from 2400volts to 7200volts in order to reduce distribution losses, improve service quality, and increase cost savings. Next, Hardwick Electric has been trying to automate the net meter billing, which is now complete and working well. For new net meter customers, there will no longer be a cap, so anyone who wants net metering can have net metering, but the rates have changed and there are now two adjusters that can be applied; a renewable energy credit adjustor, and a siting adjustor. Solar credit does not apply to new customers. Lynn also reported that for Energy Conservation, the state has three tiers that Hardwick Electric has to pass. They have passed tier one, tier two, and are working on tier three, which is due in 2019. Lastly, Hardwick Electric has hired a new meter reader, Glenn Holderby.

6:30 P.M. – 6:42 P.M Item # 1, Select Board to hear request by Minty Conant, Chief Financial Officer of Caledonia Spirits to subordinate the Town Economic Development Loan to assist with facility financing plans. Action necessary.

Ryan Christiansen, owner of Caledonia Spirits since 2015, presented to the Board that there had been a dramatic increase in the company. What started out to be a small company in a 6,500 square foot building has grown quicker than anticipated. Ryan stated that it was impossible to have everything he needed for the company under one roof. His goal is to have a 30,000 square foot building and is looking for land that would help him achieve that goal. The company currently is seeking additional financing to build their inventory. The financing is not intended for a move out of Hardwick, and the Town's subordination position varies the same as it was under the previous loan. Jon Jewett added that the Town attorney recommended that a clause be added to the subordination agreement stipulating that Hardwick's economic development loan would be a demand note payable immediately should Caledonia Spirits move out of Hardwick. Ryan Christiansen agreed.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve the Town Manager to sign the Subordination Agreement, pending the change that the Town Lawyer recommended.

6:44 P.M. – 7:20 P.M. Item # 2, Library Addition Update and request for the Select Board to consider approval of Library bond resolution certificate for bond vote to be held on April 4, 2017 – update to be given by Jerina Page, Chair, Jeudevine Library Board of Trustees. Action necessary.

Jerina Page reported to the Select Board about the plans for the new library addition and presented sketches of the addition; inside and out. Within the inside there would be an activity/meeting room, children's area, adult area, offices, and much more. The building would be wheelchair accessible in more than one area. The outside of the building would have a plaza in front of it, in which outdoor activities or concerts could be held. The bond would be for \$1.9 million dollars, of which the Board of Trustees hoped to raise \$415,000 in donations, and receive \$600,000 in grants. This included the demolition cost for taking down the Senior Citizen building. They planned to go for a total of \$950,000-30 year loan. Kory Barclay asked about the

increase in utility costs and increase in employment. Jerina stated that there was no intention in increasing staff, and as far as utility costs, the engineers estimated that extra fuel cost per year would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and the extra electricity cost per year would be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Aaron Cochran spoke about his concerns as a tax payer. He stated that there were buildings throughout the town that needed improvements, school budgets that kept increasing, and businesses that couldn't find room in Town, forcing them to look elsewhere. He's concerned that growth in Hardwick is at a standstill and needed change before losing community members and businesses due to the dramatic increase in taxes. Jerina responded that human beings have a lot of needs and traditionally it's important to provide those needs.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted four to one to approve the Library bond resolution certificate to go to a bond vote on April 4, 2017.

7:21 P.M. – 7:33 P.M. Item # 3, Discussion and update on Pent Road/Old Town Road with Town Manager.

Jon reported that Michael Demers has a sugarhouse on his land in Woodbury, and the only way to access it was through a road off of Mackville Road, in Hardwick. Michael Demers is requesting an E9-1-1 address, but before the address is assigned, the road must be named. The road had been unofficially called the Pent Road/Old Town Road in the past. When this road was classified as a Class 4 road, it wasn't officially named, nor was it put on the highway maps. The Town Manager has been working efficiently with the state on this project. The Town needs to get the road surveyed and get an official length of the road; then the E9-1-1 Coordinator for the Town of Hardwick would propose an official name for this road to the Select Board. Michael Demers's driveway would be off of this road.

7:33 P.M. – 7:39 P.M. Item # 4, Request Select Board approval of purchase and installation of new grit removal system at the municipal wastewater treatment facility. Estimated cost of the equipment is \$57,175.00. This was the low bid by the Maher Corporation. Action necessary.

Jon described the new equipment options and recommended that the Town purchase the combined package.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve Jon to purchase the new grit removal system at the municipal wastewater treatment facility.

7:40 P.M. – 7:42 P.M. Item # 5, Select Board to consider approving the Town Manager to sign loan discharge for past Evergreen Manor Grant from the Town. The discharge agreement removes the covenants from the earlier grant to be replaced by covenants in the new grant. VCDP staff approve the discharge of the covenants.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted four to one to authorize Jon to sign the mortgage discharge for the past loan for the Evergreen Manor Grant.

Select Board Reports- Elizabeth Dow reported that the Section House along the rail trail on Church Street was moving to the Depot soon.

New Business-None

Old Business – Eric reported that there was one opening available on the Planning Commission. Kathleen reported that there are three openings available on the Recreation Committee. Jon mentioned that the Lister's position would be written up and advertised soon. Lastly, Kathleen mentioned that she would like

the Planning Commission to attend a Select Board meeting and give an update on re-working the more difficult parts of the bylaws.

7:47 P.M. - Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Atwood, Payroll & Benefits Administrator