

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 4, 2016
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Gina Campoli, HED

Others Present

Barbara Graham
Ted Graham
Wesley Warren

6:02 P.M. – Select Board Chair to call regular Select Board meeting to order

6:03 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of January 21, 2016

Upon motion by Shari, seconded by Elizabeth, the Select Board voted to approve the January 21, 2016 meeting minutes as written.

6:05 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda. Eric asked to postpone the Rutland Resolution discussion until next meeting as he didn't have time to review all of the nuances relating to the resolution.

Jon requested that the agenda be amended to reflect that the Hardwick Electric report was to be given by Gina Campoli rather than Mike Sullivan.

Jon requested to remove the liquor license approval from item #5 and replace it with approval of the Hardwick Electric line truck loan documents.

Upon motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Shari, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve the adjustment to the agenda as requested by the Town Manager and the Select Board Chair.

6:07 P.M. – Communication from the Audience – No communication from the audience.

6:10 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon's report started with notifications about the next community visit, which will be held on February 15, 2016 at 6:30P.M., at the Knights of Columbus Hall and he reported that Hardwick residents could bring leftover Christmas trees to the Town garage for disposal.

Jon discussed the Town's efforts to finalize a consultant to do the final designs for the gravel parking lot that is part of the overall bike path and sidewalk project. Larry asked about why the Town needed to build the parking lot. Jon explained that the Town has to follow through or pay back the money. The parking lot was initially designed in 2006 using a federal earmark and if it is not eventually built, the Town would have to pay back the federal funds used for the design. The parking lot would act as a trailhead for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and would serve the Town House and the old Railroad Depot. The winning proposal was

from Holden Engineering for \$8,461.89.

Jon reported that his office had offered employment to Amanda Atwood (to replace Joyce Chase who left Town employment in November 2015). Amanda is a Hardwick resident who was selected for the position of Payroll and Benefits Administrator for the Town. Amanda has accepted the offer and will start working for the Town during the week of February 15, 2016.

Jon also reported on complaints he had gotten about vehicles parked at the bottom of Bunker Hill Road at the intersection of Route 15 West. He said that The property is owned by Russell McAllister and McAllister had agreed to let Holbrook use the parking area. This property is not owned by the Town and the vehicles are parked outside of rights of way for both Bunker Hill Road and the Route 15. Jon said that he had met with Adam Holbrook and asked that he voluntarily park his equipment (the bigger stuff) further away from Route 15 and Adam had agreed to do that.

Jon mentioned that he had talked with Rod Kerr and he would be turning the heat on at the Town House during the week of February 26, 2016. There is a scheduled event for the next weekend.

Upon motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Larry, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve offering the parking lot design contract to Holden Engineering of Concord, NH for \$8,461.89, and directed the Town Manager to move ahead with the contract documents.

6:150 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Jon Jewett as Tom Fadden was absent.

Jon reported on a sewer line blockage on Elm Street Extension and a waterline break at a residence on Highland Avenue. Jon said that staff found roots in the sewer line and removed some of them. Staff plan to do a more thorough job in the spring, but for now, the line is open. The waterline break that was discovered on Highland Avenue was at a residence. The property owner was notified and the water was turned off to prevent damage.

The pothole on South Main Street was discussed. The hole was filled today by highway staff. Everyone was happy that it was taken care of. See attached report for more information.

6:25 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Police Department Report – Given by Aaron Cochran. Aaron reported that there were 291 incidents this past month which was up a little from normal.

Larry asked about the armed robberies in Cabot and East Hardwick and wanted to know how the Hardwick Police were handling it. Aaron said that he was meeting with concerned business owners to tell them how to protect themselves and their staff during an armed robbery. He said that he recommends that employees let the robbers leave the store as it isn't a good idea to initiate a confrontation in the store as others could be injured and the money isn't worth someone getting hurt or killed for. Aaron said he recommends to let them go and call the police. He said that he wanted the general public to be aware and if you see something suspicious call the police. He said that people should be vigilant and report any odd occurrences they see. Aaron added that if you have a security system make sure it's in good operating condition.

Aaron commented on the Community visit and concerns related to the evolution of the State's mental health programs or lack thereof over the last few years. Aaron said that he and Kathleen had met and now have a

meeting scheduled with Chip Troiano to see if they can find out more information on the mental health system and possibly initiate some changes to make the process work better for the local police.

Aaron reported that he and Officer Tetreault took K9 Kubo around Town to meet residents and business owners. Aaron said that Kubo did a good job keeping up. He added that there are plans to bring Kubo to both schools to introduce him to students. Aaron reported that the Governor's Highway Safety Program has increased the grant amount it provides to local police departments from \$5,000 to \$8,000 this year. The grant is used to buy such things as highway safety equipment, lights for the new cruiser and signs for check point notifications.

Aaron announced that Detective Lehoe is planning to initiate a benefit basketball game (battle of the badges), between the Police Department and the Fire Department. A tentative date and location for the event are: April 2, 2016 at Hazen High School. The winning team will donate the money from the event to a local charity.

Aaron told the Select Board that the Police Department has already raised \$260 toward a protective vest for Kubo. He noted that Orise Ainsworth started the fund request for Kubo.

6:35 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report – Given by Gina Campoli. Gina reported that the Greensboro circuit upgrade is ahead of schedule and is going smoothly. She announced that there is new customer service software being brought online within the next few weeks that will make paying a power bill via the internet easier for customers. This software will allow customers to look at more data and the information will be timelier than what a customer would get in a monthly paper bill. Gina reported that the H11 solar project is winding its way through various planning meetings to determine if HED will go ahead with the project. Gina said that the LED Streetlight order is on its way with 215 lights ordered. She noted that if the Town wants more lights, just to let them know and they will order them.

Eric asked about HED meetings being televised. Gina said that she didn't know why it didn't happen, but it should be easy to do. HCTV staff were present and said that they would happily attend the HED meetings to televise them. Gina said she would work on it.

6:45 P.M. – 6:47 P.M. Item #1, Select Board to review and consider the appointment of Tom Lowenthal to the Hardwick Development Review Board.

Upon motion by Shari, seconded by Elizabeth, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve the appointment of Tom Lowenthal to the remainder of a vacant term that ends June 30, 2017.

6:47 P.M. – 6:50 P.M. Item #2. The Select Board to review and approve the Hardwick Certificate of Highway mileage. This certificate notifies the Agency of Transportation that the Town intends to maintain a certain number of miles of roads in return for a small payment from the State of Vermont.

Upon motion by, Shari seconded by Elizabeth, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve and sign the Hardwick Certificate of Highway mileage.

6:50 P.M. – 6:58 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to discuss grant incentives from Better Backroads to perform a survey, evaluation, and mitigation of erosion issues on Town roads. This grant allows Towns to obtain

funding to survey and plan for repairs of roads that may be eroding or in danger of eroding. This grant will support a \$10,000 project for inventorying roads up to a \$50,000 project for erosion repairs and culvert replacements. The funding is 80/20 not 100 percent.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the funding and whether it will help the Town meet its storm water commitments. The question was asked if the Town should take the larger amount of money and do some major work on embankments and culverts repairs. The Town Manager said that the Town didn't have a clear picture of what needed to be done relating to prioritizing major culvert or bank maintenance and that he hadn't heard about any major issues relating to culverts at this time. The Town did two major culvert/bridge replacements in 2012 and 2014. Eric said that the Town should probably do the inventory first and then plan for more major project efforts after we know what we have and what we need. Elizabeth asked if there was a time limit on spending. The Town Manager said that the funding must be spent within one year fiscal year.

Upon motion by, Elizabeth seconded by Shari, the Hardwick Select Board voted to resolve that the Town Manager will move ahead with a grant request to perform an erosion inventory of Town roads.

6:58 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to consider Rutland Resolution that resolves to allow towns more involvement in the siting alternative energy generation units and in the process of gaining a certificate of public good. Eric asked this to be tabled and put on to the agenda for next meeting. (See above).

7:00 P.M. – 7:05 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to approve and sign the loan documents for the new Hardwick Electric line truck. There was a question about the \$200,000 bond documents the Select Board was being asked to approve. Eric questioned if this request had gone to a public vote or not. Gina said that she didn't know about the bond vote. Jon said that he thought it had been voted and passed, but this was an HED and Town Clerk process and he couldn't remember for sure. Jon went on to say that the documents probably wouldn't be at the meeting for signing if the vote hadn't taken place.

*Upon motion by Larry, seconded by Elizabeth, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve and sign the loan documents authorizing the Hardwick Electric Department to borrow funds necessary to purchase a new line truck pending clarification of the bond vote. **The bond vote was initiated and passed on 10/20/15***

Select Board Reports New Business

Old Business Shari said that there was a really good turnout at the Community visit and that people should put February 15 on their calendars for the next community forum to be held at the Hardwick Knights of Columbus.

7:08 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Jon Jewett, Town Manager