

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, January 7, 2016
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
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Mike Bielawski-Gazette

Others Present

Kory Barclay
Kolin Barclay
Mike Sullivan, HED
Kristen Leahy, Zoning Admin.

6:40 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order.

6:42 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of December 17, 2015.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Lawrence Hamel, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 regular Select Board meeting as written.

6:44 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Jon asked to have Item #3 deleted from the agenda and moved to the next meeting when Brittany could attend. Jon requested to add a new Item # 3 for a discussion and vote about the potential of transferring monies from the Town House Capital Funds to NEKArts for a window project. Jon reported that Tom Fadden would not be attending the Select Board meeting due to a timing conflict. Jon said he would provide the highway report during his regular Town Manager report. Finally, Jon asked to add Mike Sullivan’s name to the agenda, in the reports section, to provide an update for Hardwick Electric.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Lawrence Hamel, the Select Board voted to approve the adjustments to the agenda.

6:46 P.M. - Communication from the Audience – Alberta provided a reminder of upcoming deadlines including that appropriations & other articles for the Town Meeting warning are due to the Town Offices by January 14, 2016 and they need to be signed by 5% of the voting public. She reported that Jan 25th at 5pm is the last day for petitions to run for Town and school office seats.

6:48 P.M. – 6:52 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report – Given by Mike Sullivan

Mike reported on the HED financials from November 2015, revenues are up 4%, expenses are under budget by 2%, so things are going well. He also reported that the 2016 HED budget that was presented is level funded for the year. Mike said that the new LED streetlights for Hardwick were ordered today. The H-11 project (solar farm to be located in the Town gravel pit) is still being considered and that federal tax incentives have been extended to 2018. He reported that the transmission line upgrade for Greensboro is due to start next Monday.

6:53 P.M. – 7:19 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about a Hardwick Community Visit meeting scheduled for January 20, 2016, he informed the Board that we will be mailing out a flyer next week about the meeting to improve community involvement.

Jon reported that the CVSWMD is holding a meeting with owners of commercial (rental) properties to discuss ACT 48. The act transfers some responsibilities for following up on recycling to town health officers. The meeting is scheduled for January 27 at 2pm in the Memorial building. Jon reported that the South Main Street sidewalk project is moving ahead with easements having been sent out to the affected property owners. Jon went on to say that as part of the project the Town has gone to bid for the final design for the trail parking by the Depot. Jon and Eric updated the Board about their efforts pertaining to the LED streetlight replacement project. Both Jon and Eric drove through Town to review the lights they had received concerns about. Jon noted that Delinquent tax payers were notified last week of changes to the Town's Delinquent Tax Collection policy and that the Town is moving forward with a tax sale for those properties that still owe taxes and are in breach of contract with Town. Jon reported that the Town will be moving forward with a bond request at Town Meeting to borrow up to \$700,000.00 for the Church Street waterline project at a -3% interest rate. A representative from NEMRC came Wednesday to convert our Town payroll system from a handwritten paper system to a complete electronic system. They will be returning later next month to train our new payroll person. Finally, Jon reported that he had spoken to the owners of properties that are on private waterlines to see if they wish to have separate meters installed as part of the Town wide conversion to water metering.

(See attached report for more details)

Highway Report- Jon reported that the road crew had been plowing and salting the roads and keeping up with the constant minor snowfalls occurring last week. They did a cleanup of the village streets right before New Year's. They have also been working to fix a failed hydraulic pump in truck #1 and truck #2 has a failed sander. They plan to have all of the equipment operational before the next snowstorm. **(See attached report for more details)**

7:20 P.M. – 7:28 P.M. Police Department Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron showed off a picture of the new K-9 puppy that is 8 weeks old. His name is Kubo and we should have him here in two weeks. He will be residing with Officer Chris Tetreault. Aaron explained that the incident report for December showed 343 calls for service. In the year 2015, we had 3,065 calls, which are up by 50 calls over the 3,015 from 2014. The arrests from January – December 2015 were 205 criminal with 5 officers and January –December 156 criminal with 6 officers. The Police Department participated in the Governors Highway Safety Program again this holiday season. There were 2 DUI's, 1 DLS, 127 people were contacted and 27 traffic tickets were issued.

7:29 P.M. – 7:33 P.M. Item #1, Select Board to review the Village Center Designation and consider authorizing the application for renewal.

Shari reported that every 5 years at the beginning of February we have to re-apply for our Village Center Designation. Kristen reported that the application was essentially ready to go, except for the updated Village Center Map. Kristen noted that she is currently attempting to locate the maps via the NVDA, but if they can't locate them by the deadline, the application can't go forward. She asked that the Select Board approve the application in its current form without the maps and she will work to try to locate them prior the submission deadline. When asked about the benefits of the Village Center designation, she noted that the designation opens up tax credits and grant programs for the local businesses in the Village Center.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the application for renewal of the Town's Village Center Designation.

7:34 P.M. – 7:36 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to review and approve 2nd class liquor and tobacco license for Tops Market, action necessary.

Alberta presented a liquor license for Tops Market and stated that there no violations or problems with this applicant during the year.

Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the Second Class liquor license for Tops Market.

7:37 P.M. – 7:40 P.M. Item #3, Select Board to discuss a transfer of Town House Capital funds to NEKArts for the window repair project, action necessary.

Shari explained that NEKArts has entered into an agreement with a contractor do begin the window project at the Town House, but the contractor is requiring a partial down payment of \$12,000 to begin. NEKArts is requesting that the Select Board authorize a check be written to NEKArts from the Town House Capital Account for \$12,000, which is approximately one half of the funds set aside in that account. NEKArts will use these funds to move forward with the project and access additional funds from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation. NEKArts has an approved Historic Preservation Grant. The total cost of this project, which consists of restoring 15 windows and adding storm windows, is approximately \$36,000.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to accept the transfer of \$12,000 from the Capital Fund to NEKArts for the match to the Historic Preservation Grant.

Select Board Reports – Elizabeth stated that she had to tip her hat to Shari and NEKArts for their efforts to secure the Historic Preservation Grant as the Historical Society had also applied and did not receive funding. Elizabeth stated that there were 56 applications for the Historic Preservation funds and only 17 projects were funded.

Larry reported that he will be attending a meeting as the Town Service Officer on either January 14th or 28th to discuss a warming shelter for the general vicinity of Hardwick and a second one for Lamoille County.

New Business – None

Old Business – Shari mentioned one more time about the Community Visit on January 20, with a community dinner being provided at Hazen Union and she encouraged all community members to join in.

7:46 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk