

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, July 21, 2016
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
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Mike Sullivan, HED
Ken Lacasse, American Legion

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Albert Bellavance, Legion
Ken Blair, Legion
Martha Zweig
Stephanie Frasier

6:00 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of June 16, 2016.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2016 regular Select Board meeting as written.

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- None

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

6:02 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on the expected savings for streetlights, expected large savings in the budget, the increase in the zoning costs and the expected increase in the budget for next year, roadside mowing, the health notice on 115 South Main Street, the number of contracts that have been written, and suggestions about paving. (See report for more details.)

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted four to one to approve the Town spending up to \$10,000 of the paving capital fund for repairing part of the Wolcott Street sidewalk and for spot paving within Town.

6:25 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Road Foreman Report- Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that one of the 10 wheeled trucks had a broken hydraulic pump and would be out of service for at least a week. One other 10 wheeled dump truck (of the 3) is to be traded in for a new truck next week, so the Town will be left for the time being with one large dump truck. He mentioned that the body lift was acting up on the one remaining truck. The crushing operation in the Town gravel pit has been finished for about a week. The road crew has been working on ditching and fixing many water leaks within the town water system and will start installing meter pits next week.

6:36 P.M. – Police Department Report- Given By Eric Remick

Eric reported that Aaron sent in his report via email stating that there have been about 340 incidents, including drug and theft related situations.

6:36 P.M. – 6:48 P.M. HED Report- Given by Mike Sullivan

Mike reported on the repairs to the Wolcott dam generating facility, a variety of legal disputes, Emergency Action plans for Mackville Pond, Hardwick Lake, East Long Pond, and Nichols Pond. Mike also reported that one of his meter readers has found employment elsewhere. They are receiving a lot of applications, but the job has not gone out yet as they are not sure what the best step is to take for the Electric Department. Last week Hardwick Electric line crews provided mutual aid to Washington Electric during an outage on power lines between route 2 and route 15 near West Danville.

6:49 P.M. – 7:12 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to consider request by the American Legion that the Town allow the Memorial Park Spruce Tree to be cut down and replaced by a smaller tree. Action necessary.

Albert Bellavance, Legion member, said that he had talked to Dennis Pudvah and Dennis agreed to supply a replacement tree if the current spruce tree at the Memorial Park is taken down. Mr. Bellavance is in favor of cutting it down.

Ken Blair, a Legion member said that he was in favor of cutting the tree down and moving the bell so it's visible on the North Main Street side of the Memorial Park.

Martha Zweig, stated that she was not in favor of cutting the tree down since it's a nice big tree and she likes the way the tree provides privacy to the veterans' memorial. She said that if the tree was to be moved or it was cut down, the memorial would be right on the road. She said that the memorial needs privacy.

Elizabeth Dow said that there appears to be a number of different opinions about the tree, whether it should stay or be cut down and that this matter is likely above and beyond the mandate of the Town Select Board and would be more appropriately decided at a Town-wide vote potentially at Town Meeting. There was a motion made and additional discussion among Board members.

Though there have been a lot of opinions expressed about this subject, the majority of the Town has not expressed their opinion to the Select Board, therefore, the decision should not be made right away, but should wait for Town Meeting.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted that the highly emotional subject (of cutting down the Memorial Park tree) wait until Town Meeting, where the public can vote on the question using an Australian Ballot.

7:12 P.M. – 7:17 P.M. Item # 2, Select Board to consider appointment of David Mitchell to a 3 year term as a Hardwick Electric Commissioner, which term to end June 30, 2019. Action necessary.

Dave Mitchell provided an email to the Town Manager indicating his willingness to serve 3 more years as a Hardwick Electric Commissioner.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the appointment of David Mitchell to a 3 year term as a Hardwick Electric Commissioner.

7:17 P.M. – 7:22 P.M. Item # 3, Select Board to consider allocating up to \$500 to settle the Grant Tax sale litigation. Action necessary.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to allocate up to \$500 to

settle the Grant litigation.

After the motion was approved, Stephanie Frasier arrived at the Select Board meeting to let everyone know that she was upset by the actions that lead up to the Grant law suit and asked that she be placed on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

7:22 P.M. – 7:24 P.M. Item # 4, Select Board to consider approval of an update the Hardwick Personnel Guidelines with the addition a of sick leave donation and personal time for nonunion employees policy. Action necessary.

Jon reported that there have been additions to the personnel guidelines, non-Union staff members will receive three personal days per fiscal year, and Town employees receiving sick leave benefits can donate sick leave to another Town employee who has used up his or her sick leave and is absent from work due to a non-work related illness.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the modifications to the Hardwick Personal Guidelines.

Select Board Reports: Shari report that the next First Friday is scheduled for August 5th.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

7:26 P.M. - *Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to go into executive session to discuss real estate financing and potential economic development in the Town of Hardwick.*

7:56 P.M. - The Select Board came out of executive session. No action was taken.

7:57 P.M. Eric Remick adjourned the Select Board meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator