

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 15, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair-late
Danny Hale, Vice Chair
Kory Barclay
Shari Cornish
Elizabeth Dow

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Mike Sullivan, Hardwick Electric

Others Present

6:02 P.M. – Danny Hale, Select Board Vice-Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its regular Select Board meeting of June 1, 2017

Upon motion by Kory Barclay, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of June 1, 2017 as written.

6:03 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Jon mentioned that Aaron would not be present to do a police report.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda as stated.

6:03 P.M. – Communication from the Audience - None

6:03 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported on the South Main Street sidewalk project, Church Street water line project, trash complaints, cemetery mowing and fence project, Recreation Committee updates, Police Department union updates, and an upcoming VCDP grant meeting (See attached report for more details).

Danny asked about the status of the can donation box at the fire station, and Shari responded that it was still there and asked to give the group a deadline to remove it.

A discussion was held to discuss the future of mowing at Town cemeteries. Jon and Brittany suggested to hire a seasonal employee to mow all Town managed cemeteries as currently different ones are being done by different people and combining them may save money. Kory suggested putting the job out to bid for contractors to give an estimate.

Jon requested a member of the Select Board to accompany him in negotiating the new police union contract, Danny volunteered himself, and the Select Board agreed to that.

Danny stated that he didn't feel as though the early roadside spot mowing was financially responsible in that the field behind it was not mowed at the same time which defeated the purpose of the project. He acknowledged that there was a serious problem with evasive species around Town, but felt that more discussion should be help prior to continuing the spot mowing in the future.

6:30 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported on grading, major repairs on Brown Farm Road, the status of Brent's new truck, an upcoming meeting with the State stormwater program, sand bids, summer paving and crushing schedule, and other water and wastewater system support (See attached report for more details). He also mentioned that 2 guys would be on vacation the next couple weeks so they would be working with a smaller crew.

Eric asked if Ward's Hill would/could be paved this summer as the price was such a great deal, Jon explained that this had been suggested as there had been complaints of water running off that road.

6:41 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report – Given by Mike Sullivan

Mike updated the Board about the Main Street project and said that the new poles had all been set, trees were trimmed, next would be to hang the transformers, and work would be complete by June 20. He suggested that someone push the other companies to move off the poles soon and stated that HED would have to go back after to remove the old poles once all were off them.

6:45 P.M. – 6:46 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to consider Development Review Board and Planning Commission reappointments – John Mandeville (DRB), John Page (DRB), Diane Grenkow (PC), and Kenneth Davis (PC) all for 3 year terms.

Eric stated that all of the current members were requesting re-election in their current terms.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to re-appoint the four current members for the 3-year terms.

6:46 P.M. – 6:48 P.M. Item # 2, Select Board to review a one year contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for dispatch services.

Jon reported that the increase for FY18 was minimal (\$700) and that other options had been considered (Barre City & Montpelier) but one was much more expensive and the other recommended to stay with the current contract with Lamoille County for now.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve the one year contract with Lamoille County Sheriff's for dispatch services.

6:48 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item # 3, Select Board to discuss and approve new FY18 water/sewer rates. Rates are increasing by approximately between 2.3% - 2.9% for both water and sewer.

Jon reviewed the increases in the water and sewer rates and explained that the meters would need to be read within a certain time frame throughout the next year in order to have accurate data needed to set new rates based on water usage. He hoped the new rates would be ready for next summer.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve the presented water and sewer rate schedule for FY2018.

6:51 P.M. – 6:52 P.M. Item # 4, Select Board to approve and adopt Hardwick's local emergency operations plan.

Jon reported that there were no changes on this document from the previous year.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the 2017 local emergency operations plan for Hardwick Vermont.

6:53 P.M. – 7:05 P.M. Item # 5, Select Board to consider a COPS grant application to increase the department from seven to eight officers.

Eric stated that this item was brought back from the previous meeting in which the Board requested time to consider. Shari asked if the application were to be approved, if there would be a later time in which it could be stopped before it was executed. Danny responded and said that if the Board had reservations to stop the process, that they should not apply to begin with. Kory stated he felt that the cost to the Town would be quite expensive in the end. Shari mentioned that the Department was currently changing unions, so maybe now was not the time to put in for this grant. Danny stated that this additional officer had been approved years ago and this grant helps slowly enter the cost of an additional officer into the budget slowly instead of putting it all up at once and he felt that the additional officer would be needed eventually. Eric asked if the Town of Greensboro had been notified of the possibility of the department growing, and Jon said they had not but that the way their contract read, they are only responsible for up to a certain % of an increased budget.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to move forward with the COPS grant application. This motion passed 3 to 2.

7:05 P.M. – 7:13 P.M. Item # 6, Select Board to consider potential part time economic development coordinator and/or part time maintenance position.

Danny stated that the maintenance position did not need further discussion for now and recommended talking about these positions closer to the budget season. He also asked if there were other entities that already do this work (economic development) for the Town. Elizabeth asked what the economic development position would do, and Eric explained that they would help new businesses move into Hardwick and help with various needs such as finding space. Jon added that they would also help with finding and administering economic development grants for the Town. He also explained a budget-neutral way to fund this position for one year to see if the position was worth the investment, would be to have the economic development fund pay for it from the yearly interest it makes on the outstanding loans. Elizabeth mentioned she would like to see this position also help the downtown commission consider making Hardwick a designated downtown. The Board settled on asking Jon to draw up a job description before a decision was made and to re-visit this at the next meeting.

7:13 P.M. – 7:21 P.M. Item # 7, Select Board to review status of Town Economic Development fund.

Jon reviewed the current position of the economic development fund (See attached sheet for additional information). Danny asked about the length on one loan being past the 10 years, and Brittany explained it was due to a bankruptcy filing which pushed the original loan back. She also stated that only two loans were delinquent: Vermont Supper Club and Vermont Cedar Chair Company. Jon explained that the Supper Club loan had real estate attached and the Cedar Chair loan was being discussed currently on what to do next, specifically whether to pursue collecting the equipment to sell. Danny asked about the yellow barn loan, and Brittany explained that it had no collateral but the hopes were for grant funding to come in to repay that loan back eventually.

Select Board Reports - Shari reported that the 6th grade graduation was at the Town House that night. Eric reported about a meeting with NVDA discussing the yellow barn project and working towards getting a feasibility study going.

New Business – None

Old Business – Danny asked for an update on Buffalo Mountain Trail, and Jon reported that Bill Davies had misunderstood the issue at hand. He said that Bill recommended to try and make a deal with Patten without lawyers involved as it could speed up the process as well as save money. Danny said he would like to move forward with a new attorney as private agreements haven't worked with Patten, and Shari agreed. Jon said the Board could chose to move forward with any attorney they wish. The Board decided to draft an agreement with Patten and try and send it directly to him and scheduled a meeting for June 20 at 9am to do so.

Elizabeth asked about the dog that attacked that person, and Jon said the dog was picked up by the police but after the owners registered it and got the shots up to date so they were able to bring it back home.

7:39 P.M. - Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Brittany Currie, Business Manager