

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, March 23, 2017
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Alberta Miller- Town Clerk
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Matt Moore, Housing Vermont
Jim Lovinsky, Lamoille Housing

Others Present

Charlie Burbank
Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Terry Coolbeth-Connie's

6:03 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the regular Select Board meeting to order

6:03 P.M. – Select Board to consider approval of the minutes for its regular Select Board meeting of March 23, 2017

Danny Hale made a motion to accept the presented minutes, seconded by Kory Barclay, but Elizabeth asked to strike out the Alternative seat on the CVSWMD Board as that seat stayed vacant.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow to amend the original motion, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of March 23, 2017 and to allow for the one change.

6:05 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda- Brittany mentioned she would be presenting the Road Foreman Report as Tom was absent.

6:05 P.M. – Communication from the Audience - Alberta reported that dog licenses were due on April 1, 2017 and that she would be open on Saturday, April 1st from 9am-1pm. Danny asked if they needed to bring rabies and spay certificates in yearly, and Alberta said that people should call and check on their dog.

Alberta also reported that the Library bond vote would be April 4th from 9am-7pm at the Memorial Building, but that absentee ballots were available now.

Lastly, Alberta reported that the tentative date for the re-vote for both Hardwick Elementary School budget and the Hazen Union school budget would be April 11th from 9am-7pm at the Hardwick Elementary School.

6:08 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Brittany Currie

Brittany reported on topics such as the Vermont Community Development Program, Town Garage project, decorative streetlights, Buffalo Mountain Trail, the Town water system including the asset management grant, consumer confidence report, water meter bond project, and Church Street project, economic development loan, Town lister job opening, health inspections, uniform contract, street sweeping, and website updates (See attached reports for more information).

6:17 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Brittany Currie

Brittany reported on topics such as summer road work including the paving of Brown Farm Road, meter pits, water line upgrades, and stormwater work. She also reported on recent road work, equipment repair and maintenance, water system support, village support, truck bids, and paving bids (See attached report for more detail).

6:29 P.M. – 6:37 P.M. Police Chief Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported that February had 240 incidents which was very normal. He said that the new cruiser was currently in Massachusetts and the remaining parts were ordered so it should be completed shortly. He said that there would be a Congressional Delegation Town Meeting on Saturday, March 25 at 1:30pm at the Hazen Union high school including Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Representative Welch for which

the organizers have requested 2 of Hardwick's uniformed officers and 1 un-uniformed officer. When Danny asked who would pay for this detail, Aaron responded that he thought the Town would have to cover it. Aaron reported that Kubo had graduated drug school so he was now on the road and fully certified. He added that Atos had officially retired, but still attended work occasionally. Next, Aaron reported that Sergeant Glodgett had become certified for the State of Vermont as a K-9 trainer so he could hold trainings in Hardwick and Kubo would be able to stay in Town for trainings. Danny mentioned the poor visibility on the corner of Mackville Road and South Main Street due to cars being parked differently. Aaron said he would look into the situation but the traffic ordinance was not in effect at that location. Danny asked for a friendly request to increase traffic safety.

6:37 P.M. – 6:39 P.M Item #1, Select Board to review and approve the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory

Brittany explained that this was for an annual certification to VTrans stating the Town would continue to follow the standards set back in 2013.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

6:39 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to consider various liquor and tobacco licenses for businesses located in the Town of Hardwick

Alberta listed the first class liquor licenses (See attached report for more details) and explained that those locations serve alcohol onsite.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the presented first class liquor licenses.

Alberta listed the second class liquor and tobacco licenses (See attached report for more details) which sell liquor and tobacco for offsite purposes.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve the presented second class liquor and tobacco licenses.

6:41 P.M. – 6:52 P.M Item #3, Select Board to review and consider approval of a public records policy and fees for public records request to the Hardwick Police Department.

Elizabeth asked if the question from a previous meeting, specifically the authorization of charging specific fees for these types of records had been resolved. Aaron explained that per state statute, Departments can set and charge by their own rate schedule, but if they do not set a rate schedule they have to charge per the state rates. He further explained that since the state policy is so unclear, VLCT has recommended contacting an attorney for advice on which records are public. Aaron stated that many Departments are doing their own rate schedule to be able to recover the actual expenses that are involved to provide the records. Danny added that this was a good idea as people will be more likely to only ask for the necessary records. Eric asked why the DVD copies were more expensive, and Aaron explained that DVDs cost more and this fee was recommended by the state attorney. Aaron further explained that many policies are just approved by the chief, but in order to charge people by the suggested rate schedule, the Select Board had to also ratify them. Elizabeth asked about the section on public records that did not exist. Aaron explained that only documents that exist will be provided, new ones will not be produced.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to adopt the public record inspection, copying and transmission policy.

6:52 P.M. – 7:42 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to consider Lamoille Housing Partnership and Housing Vermont's request to refinance a Community Development mortgage of \$530,000 for 7 South Main Street and mortgage of \$327,820 for 38 Slapp Hill Road & 143 Highland Avenue in the Town of Hardwick

Eric explained that the Board welcomed a presentation to discuss this project, but had been recommended to not vote on this item until VCDP could further review the request and gather more information. Matt responded that he had worked with VCDP for 10 years and did not foresee any issues on their end of things. Danny asked what the purpose of the original loan was, and Matt explained they were for the rehab of the original properties. Danny asked why they wanted to refinance now, and Matt explained that between the 1993 and 1998 loans, there were 4 properties and they would like to combine 3 under a new entity to rehab them, and leave one property out of the equation for now. He further explained that the current system was not working, so they were proposing a new structure of financing to include setting up capital accounts with yearly allocations to them. Danny asked how the properties were taxed, and Matt explained that the tax rate was the same, but the assessment of the property was income based. Jim explained the whole idea was to keep housing affordable. Danny expressed that he did not like how responsible landlords in Town that invest their own money and maintain their properties have to compete with non-profit housing which receive free money and do not maintain their properties. Elizabeth asked how these models were originally set up, and Matt explained that he did not want to get into that but it started with President Reagan in 1976 and that 1/2 of the money was private investment with the other 1/2 being federal HUD funds.

Jim did a presentation in which reviewed Lamoille Housing Partnership's portfolio (See attached slides for more details).

Elizabeth asked if at the time that LHP took on these various properties, if private investors were interested and trying to compete to purchase, and both Jim and Danny agreed that it would be hard to speculate on what could have happened.

Brittany stated that once further information was gathered from Vermont Housing in regards to the refinance request, she would forward that information on to VCDP and ask for their comment and report back to the Select Board.

7:42 P.M. – 7:45 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to discuss Refinancing Request for Connie's Kitchen Economic Development Loan

Terry Coolbeth explained that the purpose of refinancing this loan was to purchase new equipment. The Board explained that the revised application had the information they needed and had no further questions.

Select Board Reports- Shari reported that the next event at the Town House would be a ballet showcase on Saturday March 25, 2017 at 7pm.

Kory reported there would be a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 1:30pm at Hazen Union high school to include both State Senators and a local Representative.

Danny reported a recon he had done on snowmobile on the Hardwick Woodbury Rail Trail, with all looking fine.

New Business- Brittany reported a request had come in from AWARE to place signs on Town property in recognition of Sexual Violence Awareness Month (see attached report for more details) as they did the year before. The Board were okay with this request, stated the appreciation of removing them after and expected the same this year.

Old Business- Eric reported about meeting with the Center for Agriculture and the NVDA to discuss the yellow barn project and although they were still waiting on the result of the EDA funding application to conduct a feasibility study, they learned there may be other money available from Northern Borders.

Danny asked if there had been any other open appointments in Town aside from the lister appointment, and Alberta said she would look into this and get back to them. He asked if there were to get them advertised.

7:52 P.M. - Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to enter into

an executive session to discuss an economic development loan application to include Brittany Currie.

8:07 P.M. – The Select Board came out of Executive Session. Eric reconvened the regular meeting.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the refinance revised loan application for Connie's Kitchen.

8:08 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