

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, November 19, 2015
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair, late
Kathleen Hemmens, Vice Chair
Lawrence Hamel
Shari Cornish
Elizabeth Dow

Others Present

Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Brittany Cote, Executive Assistant
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Jamie Dailey, HED
Dan Sculley, Cooper Lighting Rep.
Ray Bellavance
Joan Camp
Evelyn Lavelli, United Church
Mary Westervelt
Dave, Scott & Joyce Merrill
Vanessa Fournier
Sara Urban

Others Present

Sharyn Salls
Betty Dukette
Yvonne Smith
Judy Bellairs
Tod & Lori Ferland
Jim Lovinsky
Michael Gravel
Nancy Nottermann
Veretta Vance
Mary Piper
Art Williams
Mary Wheeler
Norma Spaulding

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

6:01 P.M. – **Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of November 5, 2015.**

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the November 5, 2015 regular Select Board meeting minutes as written.

6:01 P.M. – **Set/Adjust Agenda-** None

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

6:03 P.M. – 6:12 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported about the Vermont Rural Development steering committee meeting on December 16th, 2015. Other topics he discussed were water supply goal setting, water meter installation issues, Town insurance changes, South Main Street sidewalks, and health inspections (See attached for more information).

6:12 P.M. – 6:16 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that the guys had been doing ditching work and had also put in the storm water pump tank near the Mountain View Snack Bar. Other things they had done included spot grading, putting the holiday flags up, pressure washing the equipment as well as undercoating them. Brittany added that they had also helped her finish cleaning out the basement of the Memorial Building, preparing for renovation.

6:16 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Item #1, Lamoille Housing Partnership is requesting that the Hardwick Select Board approve resolutions pertaining to two grants, one for improvements to the Evergreen Manor Mobile Home Park and one for the refurbishment of other properties owned by Lamoille Housing Partnership in the Town of Hardwick. The individual grants are for \$500,000 each and will be in the

form of loans from the Town to Lamoille Housing Partnership

Jim Lovinsky explained that he was back to continue on with the projects he proposed a few months prior and that he had started two separate applications. He explained that both projects were in the zoning process to get the necessary permits in addition to the Act 250 permits. He said that he felt that both projects were in compliance with the Town and Regional Plans. Eric asked what form of monies would be used on these projects, and Jim said one would be in a form of a grant, the other in a loan form as there were tax credits involved. Eric asked for more details on the length of the loan, but Jim said they would discuss those options later along with the option of further deferring the existing loan or forgiving it completely. Elizabeth asked if the Board could see copies of the supporting documents, and Jim said he would have to upload them all to the grant application site.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve a resolution, that as the applicant for the grant, (the Town of Hardwick), approves Jon Jewett, Town Manager to serve as the authorizing official for a grant for improvements to Evergreen Manor Mobile Home Park.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve a resolution to apply for a grant to renovate Hardwick Housing's Highland Hill and to authorize the Town Manager to serve as the authorizing official for this grant/loan.

6:29 P.M. – 6:38 P.M. Item #2, MOU between the Town of Hardwick & the Jeudevine Library Trustees for use of the former Senior Center, Select Board to approve and sign.

Eric asked if the Senior Center Group were all moved into their new location in the Public Safety Building, and Jon said that the work was mostly done and the seniors would be occupying the space shortly. Eric read aloud the MOU with the Library Trustees (See attached for more information). Jon also mentioned that the Town (Select Board) was in charge of what would happen with the former Senior Center, not the Library Trustees. Ray Bellavance asked what would happen if the seniors wanted their building back. Eric explained that with the agreement between the Town and the Senior Center Board, and the Town and the Library Trustees, the Senior Center would not get the property back. When asked about the Library plans for expansion, Jon replied that it would be up to the Trustees, but the Select Board is allowing the Library to have additional space. Eric suggested that Ray attend a Library Trustee meeting, which fall on the opposite Thursdays of Select Board meetings.

Upon motion by Larry Hamel, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Hardwick Select Board voted to approve a memorandum of understanding that outlines conditions relating to use of the old Senior Center property for a potential expansion of the Library.

6:38 P.M. – 6:43 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to discuss the cover photo and dedication of the Town Report.

Brittany mentioned a few ideas that she had been given for the cover photo for the Town Report: the new fire truck, the Mackville Road reconstruction project, and the new water reservoir. Kathleen mentioned doing a photo of the East Hardwick Grange and its members.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to have the 2016 Town Report cover photo be of the East Hardwick Grange, chosen by the committee, and taken by Vanessa Fournier.

Brittany mentioned the ideas she was given for the Town Report dedication: Charlie Smith and Dave Morse.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to have the 2016 Town Report dedicated to both Charlie Smith and Dave Morse.

6:44 P.M. – 7:53 P.M. Item #3, Streetlight discussion with residents that are concerned about the Town’s plans to discontinue some streetlights and those who want a reduction in lighting. There is a planned demonstration of LEDs vs. Sodium Vapor Lamps.

Jon introduced Jaime Daily from HED and Dan Scully from Cooper Lighting. Jaime and Dan held a presentation for those present, to demonstrate the two different types of lighting that is present in Hardwick.

7:02 P.M. – Hardwick residents asked questions and expressed concern over the future of the streetlights.

*Art Williams asked what the difference in energy consumption was along with the lighting ability. He said in the past, half of the streetlights were shut off and it was a ghost Town. He suggested all lights be switched to LED.

*Dan Sculley explained the current lights are 83 watts with all the apparatus in-place. The LED lights will be 53 watts of more efficient lighting. The current lights are incandescent and are refracted through a lens and the LED lights are direct lighting from the lamp to the ground. The light is sent to the ground in a rectangle of 120 feet in width and 45 feet in length.

*Jon Jewett explained that the lights would be much lighter on the ground, less into car and house windows.

*Ray Bellavance asked what the cost would be per light. Shari Cornish said nothing, and Mary Westervelt explained that Efficiency Vermont would cover the existing stranded costs of the old lights (the value still in them) and the new lights would be paid for using a rental fee collected from the Town of \$7.23 per month.

*Evelyn Lavelli asked if they had to reduce the number of lights in order to get the money, and Mary explained they would get this benefit no matter how many lights they switched off or on.

*Nancy Notermann explained that once the LED lights were purchased, it would be more expensive to remove them again as there is a fixed cost that needs to be paid back.

*Lori Ferland asked what the process would be to get a targeted light on after the original switchover to LED, and Eric said they would need to come up with a process to determine process if people wanted to pay for their lights.

*Tod Ferland asked what the cost would be for HED to come around after the initial switch over, and Jon explained that new lights are intended to be installed for free. Jaime Daily confirmed this saying that there were no installation costs, only the monthly rental cost. Eric added that he wished to be as efficient as possible.

*Sarah Urban mentioned that many lights were out around Town and she hoped the LED lights would be better quality. Eric said the current process is that when anyone sees a streetlight out, they call it in to HED so they can know to replace it. He also said that the LED lights are supposed to require much less maintenance.

*Lori Ferland stated that the current lights on Main Street were awful, and Eric said those lights were different and completely Town owned. He also mentioned that those lights needed cleaning and the Town would need a plan to replace them with LEDs in the future.

*Mary Wheeler stated she appreciated the effort to save energy, but downtown is a pedestrian area and people such as seniors and children walk because they feel safe. She also said that Cottage Street has 2 lights and they were both targeted, but felt they were needed because there is no sidewalk in that area. She also asked who was responsible for accidents once the lights were out.

*Joan Camp said to save lives instead of money.

*Norma Spaulding stated that there should be lights at intersections and crosswalks, but she did not need 2 lights in front of her house on Brush Street.

*Judy Bellairs said that she felt the Town had come up with a reasonable plan and supported it. She also mentioned that the Town of Rockingham's crimes decreased, with no increase in accidents when they went through this change. She said the Town should try it, and put a few back later if needed.

*Mary Piper stated that the light in front of the senior housing units on Maple Street was out and it was too dark. She also said the light near her house was off, but she was ok with that. Lastly, she mentioned that shutting off lights on Slapp Hill would be a bad idea.

*Dave Merrill said the light in front of his house on West Church Street was targeted and asked how long before those lights could be reconsidered and Eric said he was not sure of the timeline yet but guessed a matter of months.

*Scott Merrill wanted the lights to be considered on a street by street basis and wanted all of them on West Church Street to be left on.

*Reverend Lavelli said on behalf of her church, they need their 2 lights because of on street parking. She suggested the Town allow people to express concern within their own areas. She also asked when this process would begin, and Eric said he hoped the coming winter because of the HED free schedules.

*Scott Merrill asked who would be charged for the West Church Streetlights to be turned on after the initial change, and Eric said if the Town agreed to turn certain lights back on, they the Town would pay for them, but if not then any person can take over a specific light and pay for it on their own.

*Art Williams asked what the problem was to change all of the lights and why couldn't they chose which lights to shut off after the switch to LED. Mary Westervelt explained that the cost would be too high to HED, since LED lights would have a 30 year cost built into the monthly rental. Art said that all tax payers were also rate payers.

*Larry Hamel said that the tax payers and rate payers would both have to pay these costs one way or another, but he felt the Board should be careful on how many lights they take down.

*Jon Jewett asked Jaime Daily to explain how this process would work, and Jaime said that for now only beginning steps would be taken and it would be easy to turn lights on and off. Once this project gets to an end, the entire fixture would be taken down but it would be a long time before that happens.

*Tod Ferland asked who would decide on which lights could be turned back on, and Eric said it would be up to the Select Board.

*Sarah Urban said the Town should keep all lights on for security reasons and wanted a figure on these costs. The savings on removing 95 lights would be approximately \$9,000, the cost for having all the lights is approximately \$30,000 per year.

*Evelyn Lavelli wanted the Board to convince the Town that this was the right decision and asked that the people who wanted lights turned off to speak up.

7:53 P.M. – 8:13 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to discuss location of upcoming Town Meeting.

Shari said she had asked for this to be discussed because of the new Nekarts lease that was now March 1st-Nov 15th to accommodate school stuff, etc. She wanted to bring Town Meeting back to the Town House, the original location. She stated that 2016 maybe isn't the best year, but wanted to see this happen in the future. She stated that there was a live feed for HCTV to air the meeting right to local TV and felt it was more of a community space than the school was. Eric stated he liked it better at the Town House, but there were concerns for adequate parking and voting, which Shari explained there is now additional parking and that chairs are no longer attached to the floor so a new floor plan could be developed. Elizabeth mentioned they would need to bring the building to temperature for Town Meeting and asked who pays for it. Shari said Nekarts would after March 1st, the Town prior to that date. Mary Westervelt stated that she had collected

signatures for a petition to support this effort and many people were in favor. She also mentioned re-votes had to happen in the place of the original vote. Alberta stated that because the presidential primary would be in 2016, the voting would not happen at the Town House, as people need privacy. She agreed 2016 was not the best year, but would consider this for the future, but the feedback she had heard was not positive because of parking, privacy, location of voting, re-voting, and OSSU wanted votes at school because parents will be more likely to vote. Kathleen stated that she had gotten negative feedback as well, and Larry stated he preferred it at the school. Kathleen mentioned that HCTV having live feed was not necessarily a positive thing as it might encourage residents to stay home and watch, but Shari said that people who wanted to speak would still attend. Eric stated that because of people feeling both ways, 2016 was not the right year but they could talk about this for 2017. Tom mentioned that if there were a snow storm on Town Meeting day, his crew would not have the man power to keep the Town House parking area plowed. Eric suggested taking no action for this year.

Select Board Reports - Larry reported about being the Town service officer. Kathleen suggested finding a local solution for helping people who don't conform to DCF requirements for assistance with emergency housing.

New Business - None

Old Business - Eric asked the budget timeline and Brittany said at the December 3rd and 17th meetings, they would be discussing this.

8:22 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Brittany Cote, Executive Assistant