

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, September 1, 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
Brittany Currie, Business Manager
Aaron Cochran- Police Chief
Tom Fadden- Road Foreman
Orise Ainsworth
Bert Bellavance
Lizanne & Ken Blair

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Coco Holton-Brown
Rick Holton
Stephanie Fraser
Robin Grant
Bertha Johnson
Kelly & Dean Mercier

6:01 P.M. – Select Board Chair to call regular Select Board meeting to order

6:01 P.M. – Approval of the minutes of the regular Select Board meeting of August 18, 2016

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2016 regular Select Board meeting as written.

6:02 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 on the water asset management project, water meter project, paving, traffic ordinance, dangerous building, tax sale, and the FY16 Audit (See attached report for more details).

6:12 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported about recent work such as grading, hauling gravel, and Brent assisting with the asset management work. Tom said that work on the Montgomery Road would be starting soon. Kory asked about the number of working trucks and Tom said as of now only 2 were working but the new one would be in hopefully by the end of the month. Tom reported that the crushed gravel was about gone but he would haul in crushed ledge for Montgomery Road next week. He mentioned that the first meter pit was installed today and went well. He said ditching still needed to be completed and winter sand was being hauled in when the weather wasn't pleasant.

6:19 P.M. – 6:32 P.M. Police Department Report- Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported there had been 281 total incidents in August. He mentioned his meeting with an NKHS staff member to work on the remote emergency assessment project. He is pushing to get this set up at the police station instead of the NKHS. He also mentioned that there had been a few prisoner transport issues, as the Sheriff's Department is no longer doing transfers. Hardwick PD are having to do them on their own but were billing these costs out for reimbursement and pushing to get these costs recovered. Aaron then announced that there was a current campaign for GHSP for Labor Day weekend including checkpoints to check for DUIs. Lastly, he announced that recently at the Elementary School ball field there were issues with people sleeping there, beer bottles being broken, and a soccer net being ruined. Aaron suggested putting up new street lights in the area.

6:32 P.M. – 6:56 P.M. Item # 1, Select Board to discuss recommended changes in Tax Collection Policy with Stephanie Fraser and Robin Grant.

Eric mentioned that there had been a letter sent out prior to the meeting stating the Select Board's decision to not make any changes as the Town had consulted with four separate attorneys and all suggested that the Town should not vary from the statute. Brittany explained that the Town Clerk's Office bills out water/sewer and taxes; the Town Manager's Office handles delinquent taxes, and the Town lawyer's office handles the tax sales. She explained that once a tax sale occurs, the Town receives the money owed and the account goes into a current state. At this point a lien is filed in the Town Clerk's Office and when title searchers comes in, they are referred to the lawyer's office to check on previous tax sale liens. She explained that going forward, the Town Manager's Office would keep track of who has redeemed a property and who hasn't, but they would still be required to refer title searchers to the lawyer's office in addition. Eric recommended that Stephanie bring her recommendations to the state, as the way to make changes in this process would be to change the state statute.

6:56 P.M. – 7:02 P.M. Item # 2, Select Board to consider request by Annette King to close off the portion of Elm Street Extension that ties into Brook Street. People with loud trucks use this road in the middle of the night and are being disruptive and damaging the road. Select Board to consider approving change action necessary.

Jon explained the request to close off the Elm Street extension from road traffic (See attached map for more details). He also mentioned he could add signs to let people know of the change as well. Jon explained that in the winter, the road is not passible now.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Board voted to close off the section of Elm Street that ties into Brook Street.

7:02 P.M. – 7:25 P.M. Item # 3, Select Board to consider idea of drafting an ordinance regulating solid waste stored on private property within the Town of Hardwick.

Jon explained that he had been getting a lot of complaints about neighbors who don't pick up their trash; with potential health issues, environment issues, etc. He believes it may be a good idea to move forward with an ordinance as health officers cannot control these issues without one. He acknowledged that some people may be against this ordinance because of privacy issues, but many people are in support already. Dean Mercier explained that there were many unregistered vehicles on one property and Jon said this ordinance can help the Town take action when it is just one vehicle instead of now it being more than three. Bertha Johnson mentioned that this ordinance would be for the safety and protection of the people. Ken Blair asked about when this could come into effect and Jon said 60 days after it was voted on. Ken Blair asked how it could be enforced. Jon explained that the Town would give properties a 2-week notice to clean places up, and if it was not done then they would get a 72 hour notice before the Town would go in to clean the solid waste up, with the Town costs being added to the person's tax bill.

Select Board Reports- Elizabeth reported about First Friday on September 2nd with a movie at 7:30pm.

Shari reported about attending the Solid Waste Management District meeting with Jon and discussing the ARCC, recycling timeline, etc. There were 5 towns with representatives and they discussed suggestions on how to improve recycling. Jon said they could do an extra "Green Up" day and collect items that accumulate throughout the year, making the community a cleaner place.

New Business - None

Old Business – Kathleen asked about the request Robert Dragon made at the last Select Board meeting. Jon said he had the Town Clerk's Office do some research and found that the Town does not actually own the land so they could not give the authority to cut that wood.

7: 34 P.M. - Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to enter into an executive session to discuss an Economic Development Loan to the Center for an Agricultural Economy.

8:12 P.M. – The Select Board came out of executive session.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kory Barclay, the Select Board voted to approve The Center for an Agricultural Economy economic development loan for \$10,000 for 6 months to secure an option on the former Greensboro Garage property on Wolcott Street.

8:13 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