

SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
Pre-Town Meeting and Bond Hearing
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 25, 2016
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Kathleen Hemmens
Elizabeth Dow
Shari Cornish
Larry Hamel

Others Present

Brittany Cote- Business Manager
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

Others Present

Nate Pion
Wayne Elliott

6:03 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the Bond Hearing to order

6:03 P.M. Bond Hearing presentation provided by Nate Pion and Wayne Elliot contract engineers for the Town from Aldrich and Elliott Inc.

General obligation bonds of the Town of Hardwick in the amount of Seven hundred thousand dollars, subject to reduction of available funding from state and federal grants in financing the cost of making improvements to the public waterline.

The project is specifically located starting on Church Street, to Maple Street and running Slapp Hill, to the intersection with Vermont Avenue. The current water line has been there since roughly 1892. Hydraulic testing in 2012 showed that the waterlines have deteriorated over time. Replacing the existing four inch waterline with a new 8 inch waterline will help with the hydraulics, the quality of the water, and the water flow and pressure will increase. Financing will be at a negative three percent for 30 years. Based on borrowing \$700,000 and a negative three percent interest rate, the loan the payment is approximately \$14,100. Britney explained that currently \$23,000 is set aside per year to complete this project (including Church Street, Maple Street, and Slapp Hill, so there will be no increase in the water rate. The loan payment will not start until two years after the project is completed. Elizabeth asked how much money will we actually pay back? Wayne said typically 60-65%, which Brittany guessed would be around \$423,000. Kathleen asked if any of the existing pipes are lead pipes. Due to the different ages of the pipes, it is hard to tell what the pipes are currently, but they are thought to be primarily cast iron and galvanized). The town manages everything that is in the right of way. Homeowners' service lines are private property and cannot be worked on by the Town. Some homeowners may still have lead pipes, but they will be responsible for upgrading the pipes themselves. The life expectancy of PVC pipes is hard to predict, but +30 years is not unreasonable. Current PVC waterlines have been used for only the last 25 years, so they are still considered new, but PVC has been predicted to have a very high life expectancy. If approved, construction will start in the fall of 2016. Paving will possibly be the year following the construction. This construction will cause a one way traffic flow, less parking for Town employees, other businesses, and homes along these three roads. Please see attached information.

6:29 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the Bond Hearing.

6:33 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the Pre-Town Meeting to order

Eric went over the FY 17 budget, which is also included in the Town Report. He reported that in the general account, there has been no line items added or taken away, however, a number of budget items have been shifted around a little. Town revenues are projected to be up approximately, 6.44%. Proposed spending is up by 4.33%. There has been some adjustment made in the way that the Fire Department and the firefighters are presented in the budget. There are now two different line items. Brittany mentioned that the firefighters will now get a flat rate depending on how many fire calls they attend. Tom Fadden has proposed the change to the firefighters and they are all okay with the change in how they are paid. Brittany stated that this action change does not affect workers compensation for them. We have added two more buildings onto our insurance, the Senior Citizen building and the Depot. According to the Town Report, the percentage in property tax between 2016 and 2017 is estimated to go down 20%. The employees' insurance has been turned into a new line item, but it's not a new item on the budget and Brittany explained that we have saved \$110,000 in insurance costs in this budget.

7:13 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the Pre-Town Meeting.

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

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Atwood, Payroll Administrator