

MINUTES SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 2, 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 Cote, Business Manager
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Merrill Bent, Dollar General
Sherrie Olmstead

Others Present

Mike Bielawski-Gazette
Ken Lacasse, American Legion
Bob & Connie Bellavance

6:01 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 May 19, 2016.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016 regular Select Board meeting as written.

6:02 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Jon said that item #3 would be postponed as Victor Densmore could not make the meeting and he asked for item #6 to be moved to item #1 as the representative for Dollar General was present and he didn't expect the Liquor License discussion to be very long.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda as requested by the Town Manager.

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

6:04 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon updated the Select Board relative to the water meter project, explaining that the project is taking a lot of time for both the administrative and highway/public works staff. Jon updated the Select Board about the South Main Street sidewalk project and the gravel parking lot project. Jon also discussed the contracts for the Library addition, the advertisement for winter sand, and the award of the water system asset management grant by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (See attached report for more information). Eric asked why Lisa Gannett (Sunwise Surveying) was seen working around the Library. Jon explained that she was performing a topo and boundary survey, locating all of the property markers. This work will be filed with the Hardwick Land Records. Shari asked if properties were expected to have backflow preventers on service waterlines. Jon explained how those work and why you would need them, but said that the Town didn't have the funding in the budget for them and they are not a requirement for residential customers at this time.

6:10 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Jon Jewett

Jon read the Road Foreman report (See attached report). Kory asked about why the mowing in Town was not completed before Memorial Day. Jon said that staff had been very busy and probably didn't have time to do it as other projects (Granite Street paving, elevating manholes, curbstop replacements and water meter installations) were taking up a considerable amount of time. Shari asked about the Main Street Bridge

parking spaces and centerline painting, as she wanted to know the timeline for deciding if the spaces are to remain. Jon said suggested waiting for month or two to see what problems would develop.

6:25 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Police Report – Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported there were 344 police related incidents in May, which included much heavier traffic enforcement as well. He reported that there were a number of tickets written for people using cell phones while driving. Wiz mentioned that cell phone use often distracted drivers and could cause accidents similar to driving under the influence. Aaron agreed and stated that texting was considered as dangerous as drinking and driving. He mentioned the possibility of borrowing a golf cart for school presentations to help demonstrate the effects of texting and driving. Aaron continued his report and said that the Hardwick PD saw an increase in cases of DLS, DUI, and intoxicated individuals. Aaron mentioned that one of the officers would be running a torch run for an upcoming Special Olympics event. He said the officers had conducted traffic control during the Memorial Day parade and helped with traffic at 2 local proms. He said they were investigating a burglary at Willey's Store in Greensboro as well as an incident that involved the burning of tires that led into an accident and a partial house fire. He said there were 2 arrests made relative to the tire burning incident. Aaron said that he would like to recognize the person who reported the fire, which saved the house and the people sleeping in it. He also reported that the officers assisted with an arrest of an East Hardwick resident who caught with an illegal substance.

6:35 P.M. – 6:38 P.M. Item#1, Select Board to review request for Class 2 Liquor and Tobacco License for Dollar General on South Main Street in Hardwick.

Merrill Bent, and attorney working for Dollar General introduced herself and said she would be happy to answer any questions relating to the liquor and tobacco licenses. Kory asked about what the Class 2 Liquor License included. It was explained that it included just beer, wine, and tobacco products, no hard alcohol.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the request of the Class 2 liquor and tobacco license for Dollar General.

6:38 P.M. – 7:03 P.M. Item # 2, Streetlight Project complaints to the Select Board.

Sherrie Olmstead identified to the Select Board an area on Glenside Avenue, across from her home, where she would like a streetlight placed. She said it was a Hardwick Electric pole (number 6) and it's in a location where the Town trucks normally turn around when they are performing winter plowing operations. The location is immediately after Lamoille Avenue heading east out of Town. Sherrie explained how important it was for safety purposes to have the light installed there that it would help to deter drug use, illegal hunting, and other dangerous activities. Shari asked if there was ever a light placed there before. Sherrie said not as long as she has lived there, but it would only take 20 minutes to put the light up and it would make everyone in the area safer.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Kathleen Hemmens, the Select Board voted to authorize the installation of the streetlight on Glenside Avenue.

7:03 P.M. – 7:16 P.M. Item # 3, Ken LaCasse to report on need to cut down the Memorial Park Spruce Tree.

Ken Lacasse explained that a large spruce tree blocks the Memorial wall in the park across from the Memorial building. He went on to say that the inside of the tree is dead (meaning the needles), but for some reason it doesn't completely die and it keeps growing. He said that the Rescue Squad had said they were

okay with having the old tree taken down and a new tree planted. Kenny said that he has a person who will donate a different kind of conifer tree, which will grow much more slowly. Shari asked who would maintain the tree in the future, and Kenny said that he would be the person who would maintain the new tree. Kathleen said the Memorial could be seen from other views directly on depending on where a person stood. Shari said that she would prefer to let the public weigh in this before making a decision.

No action was taken, as the Board would like to have more support of cutting the tree down.

7:16 P.M. – 7:21 P.M. Item # 4, Sanborn Cemetery Association to request permission to gift land known as Sanborn Cemetery, but deeded to the Sanborn Cemetery Association to the Town of Hardwick.

Connie Bellavance provided the Select Board with an overview of an issue that the Sanborn Cemetery Association wanted to have resolved relating to the ownership of land given to the Sanborn Cemetery Commission and known as the Sanborn Cemetery. She explained that two sections of land are owned by the Cemetery Association and one lot is owned by the Town. She went on to say that it made sense to have the land all owned by the Town and have it protected under the Town's liability insurance coverage. She said the maintenance would stay the same, that they only wanted the Town to be the owner of the property. Jon explained that it was awkward selling cemetery plots when there were two owners and that if the Cemetery Association disbanded, the Town would have to take the property anyway so it would make sense to transfer the property now.

Upon motion by Kathleen Hemmens, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to accept the gift of land known as the Sanborn Cemetery (located Montgomery Road) from the Sanborn Cemetery Association.

Eric asked if the Town had plans to paint the fence at West Hill Cemetery. Jon said that it wasn't on the list, but he could add it.

7:21 P.M. – 7:24 P.M. Item # 5, Development Review Board and Planning Commission reappointments – Cheryl Michaels, Dan Bandit (DRB), and Dave Gross (PC), all for 3 year terms.

Eric mentioned that there are 3 positions that are about to expire on the DRB and Planning Commission. Since all 3 candidates want to continue in their seats (see attached letters) and there were no issues, the Board decided to reappoint all positions. Brittany also pointed out that both boards had open seats as well and Kristen would be re-advertising on Front Porch Forum to try and get some interest in the vacant seats.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to reappoint all 3 candidates for their current seats (as described above).

Select Board Reports – Shari reported the Town House was hosting the Hardwick Elementary Reach Drama Club on June 3-4 and they would be presenting Aladdin. Then on June 11th there would be a ballet show as well. Shari reported that the Hardwick Elementary School 6th grade graduation would be held on June 13th at the Town House. She also reported that First Friday would be on June 2nd and events would include a wine tasting, gin tasting, book reading, and the Historical Society would be doing a Hazen Union reunion display with some items for sale at the old Claire's building.

New Business – Kathleen mentioned thanking Phil Gallant for cleaning up the Peace Park, and asking Jon

to write the letter.

Old Business – Shari said they were going to be monitoring the parking on the bridge for the summer, but she would also like to hear comments from people as well.

7:36 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, Business Manager