

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
10:30 A.M. Tuesday, January 26, 2021
VIA ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Elizabeth Dow, Vice Chair
Lucian Avery
Shari Cornish
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane

Others Present

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

Others Present

10:32 A.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

10:32 A.M. – 10:35 A.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – Add Item #3 about the Depot Lease to Hardwick Historical Society and add an Executive Session to discuss the Greensboro police contract pursuant to Chapter 5 V.S.A § 313.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda as stated.

10:35 A.M. – 10:40 A.M. Select Board to review and approve the 2021 Town Meeting Warning

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the 2021 Town Meeting Warning.

Eric asked Alberta if she could share submissions for the open Select Board seats.

3-year term: Shari Cornish

1-year term: 3 people have submitted

Alberta also reported that she received a request from one person for the Hazen seat for the 3-year term but did not get anyone for the remaining 2 years of a 3-year term. OSUED Board has 3 applications for seats, so that will hopefully fill the needed seats there.

10:40 A.M. – 11:18 A.M. Select Board to provide feedback on preferred plan for Pedestrian Bridge Project

There is a grant deadline coming up, so the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) needs to know what the Board wants to do about the bridge in terms of replacement or repair of the bridge. Ceilidh asked if the Town is planning to apply for a grant to USDA regardless of what we do. Yes, we just need to determine what project we are going to do. Ceilidh also asked if this is for moving forward no matter what or just for the USDA opportunity. Shaun said that we are moving forward thinking that we will get a grant to help cover the costs.

Geoff (CDC) mentioned previously that it would be more difficult to go back to the same agency for more money if we decided to replace later. The Task Force wants to do a replacement. It looks like about a half million for replacement, but Shaun indicated that we do not have the match at this time. Shari asked about the matching options. Shaun said that we would have a 2-year window in which to get started on the project. We would need to say that we are committed to finding the match with the \$250,000 USDA grant. Lucian

mentioned that the cost of replacing has gone up significantly since the original research, so he thought the repair option was looking like a better option that it did at first. Elizabeth said that it does not make sense to spend \$50,000 on repair.

Shaun indicated that we would have to indicate where the other sources of money would be for the total project on the \$250,000 grant. This grant is only available on an annual basis. Eric said that identifying where the match is coming from makes it a stronger application. Realistically, we should plan on \$100,000 in Town funds, if we can get grants for the rest of the project (assuming it is a \$500K project) along with the \$250,000 USDA grant we are hoping to receive. Elizabeth mentioned that we might be able to fundraise the \$100,000. Eric said that we should decide if we want to a repair or a replacement strategy. Elizabeth thinks we should pursue replacement.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted by majority to commit up to \$100,000 from the Town Fund balance when it is needed to support the design and replacement of the pedestrian bridge located in the downtown of the Village of Hardwick, that traverses the Lamoille River from South Main Street on the south end of the bridge and Daniels Road on the north end of the bridge.

Role call:

Eric – yea

Elizabeth – yea

Shari – yea

Ceilidh – yea

Lucian- nay

11:18 A.M. – 11:14 A.M. Select Board to discuss extending the Depot Lease to the Hardwick Historical Society

Elizabeth shared that the Hardwick Historical Society (HHS) made a large investment last year creating climate-controlled storage at the Depot. A fire suppression system is still needed. Elizabeth learned about a program through the Historic Preservation Trust from the 1772 Foundation which will support brick and mortar projects for historical preservation projects. However, the guidelines indicate that the buildings should not belong to municipalities or churches. In this case, the HHS takes care of the inside and the Town takes care of the outside. Elizabeth inquired about it and was told that it is worth submitting a Letter of Intent. Elizabeth is asking for the next lease to run for a period of 15 years to help them with this grant. Shari mentioned that NEKArts has received grants from this agency for the Town House and they have a similar arrangement with the Town as the Depot has. Eric suggested that another strategy might be a contract with options to renew automatically every 3 years. Eric indicated that the Board could direct the Town Manager to negotiate the lease. Elizabeth likes the idea of an option, so it is not a perpetual lease.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to have the Town Manager engage with the HHS to develop a lease contract that renews on a 3-year basis.

Select Board Reports: Shari provided a correction to a previous report about the Town House fundraising campaign. The previous reported amount included two years. They have raised close to \$30,000. Eric reported that skiing is good on the Hardwick Trails, as well as fat biking, snowshoeing, etc.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

11:34 A.M. *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session to discuss contracts pursuant to Chapter 5 V.S.A § 313; to include Town Manager.*

12:09 P.M. Exited Executive Session. *No action taken.*

12:09 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager