

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 18, 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
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

Others Present

Doug McClure
Mike Sullivan

6:03 P.M. –Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, called the regular meeting to order

6:04 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Eric requested to add another Executive Session to discuss the Police Greensboro contract pursuant to *1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)* to include the Town Manager and the Police Chief

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

6:06 P.M. – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of February 4, 2021

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021 regular meeting, as written.

6:07 P.M. Communication from the Audience – None

6:08 P.M. – 6:21 P.M. - Town Manager’s Report– Given by Shaun Fielder

Shaun reported that he is finalizing the lease for the Historic Depot. The next step is for the Town Manager and Elizabeth Dow (Hardwick Historical Society President) to sign.

Shaun is assisting the Community Development Coordinator, Geoff, with two grant applications. One is the VTrans Bike/Pedestrian Grant, and the other is a Better Connections Grant. Both grants will be discussed later on in the meeting.

There is data being gathered about the quality of Hardwick’s water, and soon there will be a consumer report to let the customers know how safe the water is. There is routine preventative maintenance work continuing on two of the well sources for the Town. One is completed. Currently the service company has equipment issues, so once they resolve, the second well source will be completed.

In the next couple of weeks, the Town will be releasing bids to replace the roofs for both the Historic Depot and the Public Safety’s Building. This work will happen in the Spring when the weather is warmer. Eric asked about fixing the Memorial Building. Shaun said that he is trying to figure out the options, and possibly looking at grants; however, the other two buildings need to come first considering the current condition.

During the February 4 meeting, Josh Allen discussed his purchase of 42 Depot Street. However, after the purchase, it was discovered there was never an easement to access the property. The Select Board made a previous motion to have Shaun work with Josh and his attorney moving forward. Shaun updated the Board that

he is keeping in contact with Josh and his lawyer, but currently the Town is waiting on more information, and can't do anything at the moment. One possible option is to move the Section House. Shaun will continue to give updates to the board as they come.

There's been a request from a private individual asking the Town for grant support in the amount of \$40,000. There was some discussion whether or not the Town had an appropriate position to give money to this specific party. The Select Board agreed that they couldn't give this individual a grant; however the Town could provide a letter of support. Shaun will give an update to this individual.

6:22 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Shaun Fielder

Tom was out, so Shaun reported that the salt and sand are both in good shape, and that all of the trucks are running well.

In a previous meeting, Tom talked about purchasing a new truck to replace one of the dump trucks. Tom received several quotes, and the best option that Tom is recommending is an International HX 620. The chassis price is \$131,329, plow and body setup is \$74,410 = \$205,739. The trade in value of the dump truck is \$60,000, which would make the total \$145,739. The Town set aside \$180,000 in the capital equipment fund for the purchase, so the money would come from that fund.

The Select Board has asked Shaun to check with Tom to see if he checked with the State for quotes.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve that the Town move forward with purchasing the International HX620.

Shari asked Shaun if he knew when the road crew would be clearing the snow/slush on the downtown sidewalks at the curb, and on the parking side of the street where people get out of the car. Shaun is going to check in with the crew.

6:29 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Police Report– Given by Aaron Cochran

Aaron reported that the department has picked up on foot patrols, and traffic enforcements. They are seeing that a lot of people are driving without a license.

He also reported that there have been some major issues with two of the cruisers. One cruiser wouldn't start when it became really cold. However, this has been fixed, and it was all under warranty. The other cruiser has been experiencing numerous radio issues. This is currently being fixed.

Ceilidh asked about the County Sheriff that's been at Hazen Union High School. Aaron stated that they were on all vaccination sites to provide security, and this was a State contract.

6:35 P.M. - 6:47 P.M. HED Report- Mike Sullivan-

Mike reported that the Purchase Power expenses for 2020 came in 2% under budget. Unfortunately for 2021, the budget is projecting a 6% increase, which will be caused by the transmission fees for Green Mountain Power.

For the past few years, the Town auditors were concerned that HED's audit and the Town's audit did align. The Select Board wanted to talk to the HED Board to further discuss what it all meant, and what could be done about this. Mike talked to Jeff Graham, from Graham & Graham, and Jeff informed Mike that the timing should not do any harm to either the Town or HED. Shaun will talk with the Town's auditors, Sullivan & Powers, and get more information.

HED is going through the second wave of positive cases with COVID. Several employees are in quarantine; however, this will end soon. The illnesses of those employees who have been positive have been mild cases.

Due to the employees being out, Mike has been working with the Library on their expansion project. Mike informed the Board that while working on this project he discovered that the Library is asking for a 400amp service. This amount of amperage could cover about 30 houses. Mike suggested that the Board look into this and reduce it down to a 200-amp service. Ceilidh asked if this was in addition to what they already have. Mike said no, that their service will be taken out, and replaced with a new service. Brian and Shaun will discuss this further next week, and Shaun will talk to the engineer.

6:47 P.M. – 7:05 P.M. Item #1, Town Manager to give an update on the Sunwise Survey research for River Street in East Hardwick

Shaun reported that Sunwise Survey did a complete research of River Street. It concluded that River Street was never considered a Town Highway. It also included that the land under River Street is owned by the East Hardwick's Fire District No.1.

Ceilidh asked if the report was public. Shaun said that yes it's public, and that it will also be a copy attached to the minutes.

Elizabeth asked about the right of way and what exactly it meant for this situation. Eric mentioned that it gives you the allowance to have others travel on that specific property, however you should not shut it down and prevent others from getting to their building.

Shari stated that the most important part of the report is that the land under the road is owned by the Fire District No.1., so the Fire District No. 1 would potentially take the next steps.

The Select Board asked if all of the parcels within River Street were provided a copy of the research. Shaun will get the report to all of the property owners that are on that street, and will provide a copy to the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization.

7:06 P.M. – 7:07 P.M. Item #2, Select Board to authorize the Bond Bank's financing

Alberta explained that in August of 2020, the residents voted on a \$275,000 fire truck. When the paperwork was being processed through the Bond Bank it was discovered that there needed to be an official motion to move forward with the financing.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to approve to move forward with financing the bond for the purchase of the new fire truck.

7:07 P.M. – 7:09 P.M. Item #3. Select Board to discuss & approve various Liquor Licenses

Alberta shared the following for liquor licenses. Elizabeth asked if there were any issues. Alberta and Aaron both stated that there haven't been issues or violations with any of the following.

First Class license for:

RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie Hardwick

Second Class Licenses for:

Buffalo Mountain Co-op

Moreau & Moreau d/b/a M&M Beverage

Hardwick Kwik Stop & Deli, Inc.

Hardwick Village Market, Inc.

Third Class Licenses for:

RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie Hardwick

Outside Consumption Permit for:

RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie Hardwick

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve all of the above liquor licenses.

7:10 P.M. – 7:33 P.M. Item #4, Select Board to authorize support letter for VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program and to authorize the Better Connections Grant

Shaun explained that this project will implement much needed sidewalk improvements from the intersection of Church St. and Main St. continuing to the intersection of Maple St. and Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. This will provide services to the residents of Hardwick, visitors, and those using the LVRT.

There was a recent AARP sidewalk assessment conducted as part of the Hardwick Pedestrian Safety Task Force's efforts, and the study concluded there were significant issues.

The Town will be committed to a 50/50 match, meaning that project's total cost is \$81,760, so the Town would be committed to a cost up to \$40,860.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to approve the letter of support for the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program; and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter of support.

The next grant is a Better Connections Grant which will focus on developing community transportation within the Town. It's important to implement these improvements so that Hardwick is not only a safer town, but it will increase the opportunities for residents and visitors to get to different places such as local businesses, LVRT, etc. The Town would be working with a consultant to do this specific project.

Upon motion by Lucian Avery, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the Better Connections Grant submission.

7:34 P.M. – 7:36 P.M. Item #5, Select Board to review & appoint an Equity Committee Candidate

Ceilidh mentioned that Alexandra Jump who was appointed about a month ago has stepped down for personal reasons. Audrey Grant has expressed interest, and if appointed, Audrey would fill Alexandra's spot, and she would also fill the last spot for those who live outside of Hardwick.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to appoint Audrey Grant to become part of the Equity Committee.

7:36 P.M. – 7:39 P.M. Item #6, Select Board to review & appoint a candidate for the Planning Commission

Shari mentioned that she's been very interested in the projects that they've been working on. Recently she's been attending their meetings, and considering there's two open seats, she wanted to become an official member.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Lucian Avery, the Select Board voted to appoint Shari Cornish to the Planning Commission.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: All-Metals Recycling has applied for a five-year permit to locate and maintain a salvage yard in Hardwick.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board supports the certificate to maintain a salvage yard located at 2141 Route 15 in Hardwick.

Old Business: As this was the last regular meeting for Elizabeth Dow and Lucian Avery, the remaining Select Board and the staff would like to thank them for all of their support, time, and ongoing efforts. They will be missed.

7:48 P. M.: *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to move into Executive Session to review the Police Greensboro contract pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1); to include the Town Manager and Police Chief*

8:29 P. M.: Out of Executive Session.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish the Select Board directed the Town Manager to issue a letter to the Greensboro Select Board to obtain a response by February 28, 2021 if

Greensboro intends to move forward with a contract with Hardwick for a police services contract; current contract ends June 30, 2021.

8:32 P. M.: *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to move into Executive Session to review and discuss one of the Town's Economic Development Loan Contracts pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1); to include the Town Manager.*

8:48 P. M.: Out of Executive Session.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish the Select Board directed the Town Manager to proceed with the agreement with Front Seat Coffee to maintain standing collateral arrangement.

8:50 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator