

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
8:30 A.M. Tuesday, April 27, 2021
VIA ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair
Michael Deering
Shari Cornish

Others Present

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Others Present

8:31 A.M. –Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, called the special Select Board meeting to order

8:32 A.M. Set/Adjust Agenda- Ceilidh asked to add an item #2, to discuss forming a Town Manager’s hiring committee

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

8:33 A.M. Communication from audience- None

8:33 A.M. – 8:40 A.M. Item # 1 It is with sadness that the Select Board must act to fill a Select Board term after the recent death of Gary Bellavance. Select Board to discuss appointment of someone to fill the vacant Select Board seat until Town Meeting 2022 as authorized by 24 App. V.S.A. Ch. 123, § 302(d)

Gary Bellavance was just elected March 2021 to be on the Hardwick Select Board. Unfortunately, on April 16, 2021, Gary died unexpectedly. The Town sends their deepest sympathies to Gary’s family & friends.

With Gary’s passing, it leaves a vacant seat on the Select Board that must be filled. This position was a one year term, and the individual appointed today will finish this term, which will expire March 2022.

Eric mentioned that he’s received two letters of interest. One from Elizabeth Dow, and one from Larry Hamel.

Both nominees have served on the Select Board in the past, however, Shari stated that Elizabeth is up to speed with majority of the projects considering she was recently on the Board, and only got off in March of this year.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Michael Deering, the Select Board voted to appoint Elizabeth Dow to fill the vacant seat on the Select Board, with term ending March of 2022.

8:41 A.M. – 8:56 A.M. Item # 2 Select Board to discuss Town Manager’s Hiring Committee

Eric has talked with Jon Jewett, and Jon will be the Town’s interim Town Manager. Eric and Jon are in the process of negotiating a contract, and a final draft will be presented to the rest of the Board on May 6. Eric shared that Jon will be doing between 24 and 32 hours a week, he will be an hourly employee, and is choosing not to take any of the Town’s insurances. Jon has also expressed interest in helping find a full time Town Manager.

Eric explained that in the past there have been community members to join the search committee. When the

Town hired Shaun, there were three community members. However, Ceilidh has received interest from five different community members. Those members are Lucian Avery, Amy Rosenthal, Lynne Gedanken, Ross Connelly, and Danny Hale.

Having five Select Board members, five community members, and Jon Jewett, might be a lot, however it's not out of the question. Eric doesn't have a commitment from VLCT whether or not they can help, but staff from the Town Manager's office can help with the administrative work. This will help with the appropriate steps that need to be taken.

The Select Board decided to have Ceilidh reach out to those five members listed above, and invite them to the next Select Board meeting on May 6. This will give everyone a chance to talk about the process and the timeline. Shari has asked that those community members attend all of the meetings. The committee will be formed in May.

Select Board Reports-

- Shari reported that the Town House officially opens June 1. However during the month of May, the Town has agreed to have it partially opened for spring cleaning.
- Eric mentioned that he is working with Ken Brown to try to get plaques up on the rail trail's bridges in honor of those who helped re-deck the bridges.

New Business- None

Old Business-

- Shari mentioned that she had hoped the Town would keep to the new design, which was discussed and settled on at the April 15 meeting. She also talked about the recommendation that were given by Jon Kaplan, who works for VT AOT. It was generally agreed that Shaun and Tom would continue with the crosswalk painting.
- Eric expressed interest in having Select Board meeting in person again. This will be talked about at the May 6 meeting, and the board will try to come up with a plan going forward.
- Select Board wanted to remind everyone of Green Up Day this coming weekend. Bags will be available at the Whistle Emporium, located on Main Street. The dumpster will be located at the Town Garage on Creamery Road, and tires are not accepted, however please do not throw tires on the side of the road.

9:09 A.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator