

A meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, April 07, 2011 at 6:00 P.M., in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present

Marcus Brown
Kathleen Hemmens
Shari Cornish
Danny Hale
Rhonda Barr

Others Present

Shirley Colburn- Resident
Rosie Gillen – Exec. Assistant
Susan Earle- Resident
Vanessa Fournier – Gazette
Heather Bryant – Resident

Others Present

Jon Jewett – Town Manager
Tom Gardner- Hardwick Gazette
Roger Howard - Resident
Lorraine Hussey – Resident
Susan Zarzyna - Resident
Reginald Nelson - Resident
Joe LaPorte-HPD
Ann LaPorte - Resident
Tod Delaricheliere - Resident
James Francis – Resident
Toni May – Resident
Aaron Cochran – Police Officer
Kevin LaPlante – Police Officer
Ross Connelly – Resident
Gary Belevance – Resident
Dave Upson Jr. – DRB
Sandy Howard – Resident
Ken Williams – Resident

6:00 P.M. Marcus Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:05P.M. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Select Board meeting held on March 17, 2011 and approval of minutes of special meeting held on March 24, 2011.

- Kathleen Hemmens motioned to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2011 Select Board meeting with changes.
- The motion was 2nd by Danny Hale.
- Motion passed.

Kathleen Hemmens motioned to approve the minutes of Special Meeting on March 24, 2011 with changes.

- The motion was 2nd by Rhonda Barr.
- Motion passed.

6:07 P.M. Set/Adjust Agenda

Marcus Brown adjusted the agenda by adding an action to approve Liquor & Tobacco License for Hays Convenience Store Class II license.

- A motion was made by Rhonda Barr to amend the agenda.
- Motion was ^{2nd} by Kathleen Hemmens.
- Motion was passed.

6:09P.M. Communication from the Audience

There were no communications from the audience.

6:10P.M. Marcus Brown asked for updates from the Town Manager regarding new estimates from the architects relative to the bond cost of the move.

No news yet from the architects. The architects, Keefe and Wesner, are working with the Library director to plan costs associated with moving the Library to the Memorial Building.

The Select Board reviewed the draft "Fact Sheet" which will describe why the offices need to move, why the current location was selected, and why other options were discarded.

The HED will be asked to include the Fact Sheet in with their bills to its Hardwick ratepayers.

Shari Cornish asked whether a date for the bond vote was set. Marcus Brown replied that the date has not been determined and that it needs to be flexible at this point until we get the information we need to move forward.

Danny Hale asked Joe Laporte about the need for a holding cell in the new administrative offices. The Chief replied that he had polled all of his officers and all are in agreement that a holding cell is needed for the department.

Lorraine Hussey – a resident, made a statement that the Keefe design for an addition to the Memorial Building looked liked an "outhouse" and should not be added to an historical building.

Alberta Miller (the Town Clerk) was asked about her projections for vault space. Alberta explained that she has 5-10 years of space, at the most, if she is able to reconfigure the current shelving and add a new fireproof door to the vault in the basement. Considering the situation as is, she explained that there are, at the most, 5 or 6 years of space left. She also mentioned that she does not have any space for general storage of materials.

Marcus Brown explained to those present that the idea to move all of the town offices related to the fact that the Northern Counties building could house more than just the police department. The building has more than 6,000 ft of space available for offices, so Alberta was asked what her future space needs were and as a result, it was determined that moving all of the offices made the most sense for now and the future.

Toni May – a resident, voiced her opinion about the Hardwick Electric building (HED) and stated that her investigation indicated that the Town owns the HED building. The building was purchased by the Town in 1988.

The Town Manager explained that his discussions with Paul Guiliani (bond attorney) indicated that the Town did own the building and probably could take it, but it was not necessarily a good thing to do.

Tod Delaricheliere – a resident, and past Select Board member – told those present that he was generally in favor of the move and did not want to commit more funding to add on to the Library building. His opinion was that the Town could not afford two libraries and that the Town should sell the Jeudevine building.

Toni May explained that she had no problem with giving Town employees better space, but she did have a problem with investing money into a building that the Town does not own.

Lorraine Hussey asked the Select Board to ask the Town's people what they want in a survey.

Heather Bryant, a resident, said that she was thankful for the police department and that they need a holding cell.

Ken Williams, a resident said that, based on his renovation project and experience the bond for the former health centerbuilding should be less than estimated. He also said that the Town owes the police department the space they need to work. He suggested that the Town move away from high priced architects and possibly let a general contractor plan the project.

Aaron Cochran, a resident and Town police officer, stated that the police need a holding cell for safety reasons. He also stated that the police need the carport to cover their vehicles, they need a security fence, and since they are a 24/7 operation, they needed a break room on the same floor they occupy, not one in the basement.

Kevin LaPlante, Town police officer, stated that the residents should be aware that what people see with the current police department represents the Town and that the police department should have a reasonable work area. He said that the police department is for the Town and not just for the police. We should have something we are proud of.

6:45P.M. Police Chief Report

There was an under-aged drinking and driving incident in which several people were taken into custody. There will be a bike rodeo on May 7, 2011, and bike helmets are still available if people want them.

6:50P.M. Town Manager's Report

Please see attached report.

The Select Board asked the Town Manager to speak with Tom Keefe about the Library move project. He is to ensure that the architect does not add more work to the project relating to adding on to the current Jeudevine building.

Dave Upson Jr, DRB member, mentioned issues relating to EMS and the Fire Department and the requirement that fire and rescue become one entity in each community and be cross trained for both jobs.

Danny Hale asked the Town Manager about the status of contract negotiations. The Town Manager said that the IBEW would be getting back to him by next week with a police department offer from the union. The Town is still waiting on language changes by the union on the highway department contract.

7:10pm Draft Traffic Ordinance – Discussion

Joe LaPorte discussed West Church Street and turning it into a one-way road vs. initiating parking restrictions. He explained that the road is too narrow to allow for parking and two way passage of traffic. Concerns were expressed that drivers would use Highland Ave if W. Church was made one-way. Issues are high traffic and speed on both roads. The potential traffic problems on Highland Avenue were reiterated by both Rhonda Barr and Shari Cornish.

There was also a discussion of banning parking on West Church or limiting it in some way. Also, the Town Manager noted to the Select Board that it was his intention to have parking developed behind the HED headquarters and the Town Road Foreman is on board with a spring timeline for developing the area.

Issues – banning parking is not seen as being a business friendly process. Handicap parking for the Food Pantry and the Dentist's office is needed.

Joe LaPorte indicated that if something wasn't done there is an increased likelihood of accidents.

Danny Hale wanted a better definition of the problem because changes there will have a significant impact on the residents of those streets.

Kathleen Hemmens indicated that the Food Pantry needs parking on 3 days per week for 2 hours per day.

Gary Bellavance, a resident, stated that people should use the new parking lot and that parking should be banned from the West Church Street on both sides of the road.

The Select Board then discussed speed changes to the Traffic Ordinance. Marcus Brown indicated that he would like all speeds in the Urban Compact at 25 mph. It was mentioned that the speed for West Church Street should be 20 mph. The Police Chief said that there is no statute allowing speeds on VT roads below 25 mph. Joe LaPorte will research the statutes some more and report back.

It was asked if parking at HED was a sure thing. The Town Manager responded that HED had no problems with the plan to expand parking there.

Danny Hale recommended restricting parking on West Church Street and having 3 spots reserved for the Dentist's office and the Food Pantry.

Joe LaPorte discussed "Booting" cars and explained how it would work with regard to people with a number of violations. Some cars will still be towed if necessary while others could be booted if they were not parked illegally.

The Town Manager was asked to invite all those from West Church Street who will be impacted by any changes, to attend the next Select Board meeting on the 21st.

7:35P.M. Item #2, Action taken to appoint David Upson Jr. as the Town's Representative to the NVDA

Motion made by Shari Cornish to appoint David Upson Jr. as the Town's representative to the NVDA.

Motion 2nd by Kathleen Hemmens.

Motion passed.

7:40P.M. Item #3, Action taken to approve the Town Financial Plan for Highways.

After some discussion of what the plan entailed, there was a motion made by Danny Hale to approve the financial plan for town highways.

Motion 2nd by Rhonda Barr.

Motion passed.

8:00P.M. Break – Meeting back in session at 8:10P.M.

8:10P.M. Item # 4, Town Road and Bridge Standards- Action

There was some discussion relating to the acceptance of new standards. Concerns were expressed about the impact on citizens building personal use roads vs. developments and with State and Town matches to grant funds. The match is currently 80:20 and with acceptance of the standards, the match for construction is 90:10, State to Town. Danny Hale spoke with Shauna Clifford of VTrans relative to the Standards' impact on private owners. Shauna said that there are some gray areas in the standards that will

have to be resolved over time and that the State is not going to enforce each and every aspect of the standards. The Towns will have some leeway on using stone on public roads and jurisdiction on private roads is a gray area. The standards do ratchet down some activities and may pose a problem to some people in the future.

- Shari Cornish motioned to accept the new standards.
- Kathleen Hemmens 2nd the motion.
- Motion passed.

8:20P.M. Item # 5, Liquor & Tobacco Licenses – Action

- A motion was made by Shari Cornish to approve tobacco and liquor licenses for the Grand Union, a Class 1 license for Claire’s Restaurant and Bar, Class 2 license for the Buffalo Mountain Co-op, and a Class 2 license for D&L Beverage at both locations in Hardwick & East Hardwick also Hay’s Convenience Store Class 2 liquor and tobacco.
- Kathleen Hemmens 2nd the motion.
- Motion passed.

6:25P.M. Item # 6, To Award Highway Truck Bids for Tom & Brent’s Truck - Action

- Kathleen Hemmens motioned to accept the Clark’s Transportation bid for replacement of a Town truck.
Clark’s Transportation \$49,622.
 - Shari Cornish 2nd the motion.
 - Motion passed.
- Shari Cornish motioned to accept the Clark’s Transportation bid for the dump body and plow.
Clark’s Transportation \$43,318.
 - Rhonda Barr 2nd the motion.
 - Motion passed.
- Rhonda Barr motioned to accept the Lamoille Valley Ford bid for replacement of a second Town truck.
Lamoille Valley \$12,550.
 - Danny Hale 2nd the motion.
 - Motion passed.
- Shari Cornish motioned to accept the Lamoille Valley Ford bid for the dump body and plow.
Lamoille Valley \$43,685.
 - Danny Hale 2nd the motion.
 - Motion passed.

8:40P.M. Item # 7, Cloud Alliance letter to the Public Service Board – action

- Kathleen Hemmens motioned for the Select Board to sign a prepared letter supporting the Cloud Alliance installation of 3 Towers in and around Hardwick.
- Shari Cornish 2nd the motion.
- Motion passed.

8:43P.M. Item #8, LED Street Lights – action

After a rigorous interrogation of the Town Manager relative to the need for LED street lights, Kathleen Hemmens made a motion to approve allocation of \$2,000 of Town funds to purchase 5 LED lights.

Discussion: The Town signed an agreement with Efficiency Vermont to plan out the installation of lights. HED has been working with the Town, but thought the Town wanted HED to buy lights. HED is not keen on buying lights for the whole town. The cost currently to operate Town lights is \$34,635.84 annually. The Town pays for use of the lights through a tariff of \$7.61 per light per month. There are 317 street lights in Hardwick. The new lights would have a five year warrantee on parts.

Marcus Brown was concerned with buying lights for HED and thought it would set a bad precedent. At this time, Marcus could see no significant savings and the HED owns the poles and lights at this time. Rhonda Barr would like to see actual lights and see them working before she could advocate the installation.

Kathleen withdrew her motion.

The Select Board agreed to the 90 day free trial.

9:03P.M. Approve a list of candidates for the Historic Preservation Commission – action

- Kathleen Hemmens made the motion to appoint the following people to the Historic Preservation Commission:

Shari Cornish

Tracy Martin

Paul Fixx

Dave Upson Jr.

Karen Holmes

- Rhonda Barr 2nd the motion.
- Motion passed.

9:10P.M Select Board Report

Shari Cornish reported that the Town House will open on April 1, 2011. 3pm to 9:30pm, there will be an open house with WGDR radio and different groups playing music. Food and drinks also will be available.

Shari also reported that there will be an E Vermont Broadband meeting at the Town House to be held on April 14, 2011 at 7pm to discuss what areas to pursue.

Kathleen Hemmens asked how the school system's decision to go with Fair Point impacts Sovernet's decision to run fiber optic to Hardwick. Kathleen stated that the Town and the school should work together on issues like this that affect the whole town.

Shari Cornish stated that the schools, Sovernet, and E Vermont are two different issues.

Danny Hale did an update on the LVRT meeting with the Vermont Legislature and various State officials introduced a mandate for support of the project. By April 25th, VAST will vote to move ahead or abandon the project.

9:12P.M. New Business

None

9:15P.M. Old Business

Marcus wants an update on the status of the HED audit pertaining to requirement of the Department of Public Service. He will check with HED.

Danny Hale stated he was unsure how the (HED) land ownership works. The Town should consider meeting with the HED Board to get a better understanding of what the Town's options are. Marcus agreed and stated that HED has a lot of assets that they don't need or want. HED is under the impression that the assets belong to the rate payers and this may not be true. The Town eventually has to get to the bottom of the issue. The Town Manager needs to ask for an opinion of the Town's attorney.

Marcus Brown stated that the Town needs to meet with HED to work through this issue.

9:25P.M. Motion to move to Executive Session

- Kathleen Hemmens made a motion to move to Executive Session – personnel to include the Town Manager.
- The motion was 2nd by Shari Cornish
- Motion passed.

10:25P.M. Out of Executive Session

10:26P.M. Adjournment

- Motion made by Shari Cornish to adjourn at 10:26P.M.
- Motion was 2nd by Rhonda Barr

- Motion Passed.

Marcus Brown, Hardwick Select Board Chair

Minutes Taken by: Rosie Gillen

Attachment

Town Manager's Report
Town of Hardwick
April 7, 2011
Jon Jewett – Town Manager

Free labor - The Chamber has notified the Town that there is an opportunity to have some free labor. The group is a gathering of mainly out of state individuals that went on an agricultural exchange to South America about 30 + years ago. As the years progressed they had families and businesses and such, but each year they would meet and decide on a project or opportunity to "give back" to various communities and organizations. Basically it is a maximum of 12 individuals who provide 3 days, of 6-8 hours each, of free labor on a project and/or projects to benefit the area or town they've chosen. The focus of the work is agricultural in nature. Monty Fisher has also been asked to come up with a project.

Library Architect - Notified Tom Keefe and Lisa Sammet of project with the Library. Lisa has been on vacation, but we hope to have some work start this week. We will keep you posted.

EMS – wants to add 4 feet on to the front of their building to help house a new ambulance. Issue surrounds the closeness of the facility to the road. The other issue is that we are unsure if Creamery Road is a road. The issue is currently with zoning.

Wastewater Treatment – Kenny will be out for a couple of weeks due to knee surgery. Mike Gravel is going to fill in as a provisionally certified backup operator. He is currently studying to take the exam.

It looks like the grand list will likely increase by close to \$1million this year. The Listers have asked that we speak with them if we plan to forecast grand list numbers in the future as they can provide a good estimate of what will be expected.

Water/Sewer budgets are coming up. The Public Works department will plan to begin the disconnect policy in May. The earlier plan was for April, but there is still too much snow. As of March 15, water delinquents were \$24,800 and sewer delinquents were \$40,000 for a total of nearly \$65,000.