

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 3, 2021**  
**20 CHURCH ST. MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**Select Board**

Eric Remick, Chair  
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Dow  
Shari Cornish  
Michael Deering - *absent*

**Others Present**

Jon Jewett, Town Manager  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager  
Aaron Cochran, Police Chief

**Others Present**

Doug McClure  
Jason Bahner  
Holly Bolio

**Regular Meeting**

**6:00 P.M.** – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**6:00 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – None

**6:01 P.M.** – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of May 20, 2021, and the Special Meeting minutes of May 26, 2021

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021 regular meeting and the minutes of the May 26, 2021 special meeting, as written.*

**6:01 P.M.** – Communication from the Audience – Jason Bahner wanted to thank Hardwick Police for their efforts in reducing speed violators in Town. He and many others appreciate their stepped-up efforts.

**6:02 P.M. – 6:08 P.M.** Town Manager’s Report– Given by Jon Jewett

Jon reported he has been dealing with two health cases and two dangerous buildings cases throughout Hardwick and East Hardwick.

He fielded a complaint of speeding by Peck Electrical staff on Billings Road. Peck Electric is installing the Hardwick Electric Solar panels in the Town pit. Jon spoke to Aaron about talking with the company as a first step of communication.

The library and its architect are preparing for the new Library preconstruction meeting.

The Town has been awarded a \$10,000 Northern Forest Center Grant – award dates of May 24,2021 to June 30, 2022. The Selectboard will need to authorize the Town Manager to sign and execute the grant agreement for the Town.

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board voted to authorize Jon Jewett to sign the grant agreement for the Northern Forest Center grant of \$10,000.*

**6:08 P.M. – 6:18 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report – Given by Aaron Cochran**

Aaron provided the incident report to the Board prior. The reporting system is in the process of becoming more centralized between departments/State. There is some implication that the State might take on the cost of this new system.

Aaron worked on the Burn Ordinance to get it to a final draft, which will be presented later in the meeting.

Aaron is looking into ordering a new cruiser for the next fiscal year. They looked at the Ford Explorer, but he found that the Dodge Charger AWD sedan was significantly less money, so we are likely to go with that.

The portable speed signs have been out in the Village area. If people have suggestions on where they could go, please reach out to the Police Department.

Given the time of year, Aaron wanted to remind everyone that fireworks permits are available through the Police Dept.

Aaron also reported that they did extra patrols last week under the Distracted Driving grant program.

Ceilidh suggested that we make a Front Porch Forum post reminding people about the fireworks permits.

**6:18 P.M. – 6:26 P.M. Item #1 Discussion about Pedestrian Bridge Community Engagement Workshop**

David Raphael was not able to attend this evening. Shari is working on the Community event that will happen on July 17 in the afternoon in the Daniels parking lot (north side of the bridge). Shari has put in a request for a sponsorship donation through Price Chopper's Golub Foundation to cover the cost of 2 tents and some food during the event. It has not been finalized but will likely start around 1:00 p.m. and include a couple of interactive sessions with a break or two to have a meal. The workshop is facilitated by David Raphael, Architect/Landscape Designer and Bob Neeld, Engineer. They will develop two or three designs from the community input, for the new bridge and take into consideration both ends of the new bridge and how access can be complementary for future planning. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote on which design they like most.

Doug asked about the ARPA funds and if they would be used for this project. Eric explained that we applied for \$200,000 through USDA RBDG for the bridge project and we have not heard back on that yet.

Eric attended a webinar about ARPA and learned that we should be patient because we have not received it yet and we have a few years before we must decide what we are using it for and then additional time to spend it.

Shari plans to promote the event with posters and social media.

**6:26 P.M. – 6:48 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to review and consider request from Hardwick Recreation Committee to put money into their capital fund from this year's regular budget**

Jason Bahner, Recreation Coordinator and Holly Bolio, Recreation Committee Chair came to ask the Select Board about taking \$5,000 from their regular budget to put into capital for future projects. Their regular budget

has a significant amount not used because they were unable to host events due to COVID.

Eric explained that typically when a department underspends, typically that excess would go to the Town's fund balance or help to offset another department that might have overspent. It is not typical for departments to get money put into capital if they underspend.

Holly mentioned that if they wanted to do another project and apply for grants, they need match money. She also indicated that they would like to do picnic tables and benches at the Mackville area.

Jon said that typically the capital money set aside is for specific projects and not just a lump sum of money due to being under in the regular budget.

Jason asked what happens when something comes up and they need to take money out of their regular budget. Eric indicated that you could overspend one line and underspend another, provided they do not go over the overall department budget.

Jason talked about creating a public basketball court and redoing the tennis courts at Hazen. He would like to see us use some of the money for these projects.

The Board indicated that they would like to have the Committee come back to the next meeting with more specific details about what they want to do for capital improvements. However, Shari opted to make a motion instead since they do have a general idea of what they want to use the money for.

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board voted to approve moving \$5,000 into capital from the regular budget.*

*Eric – yea*

*Shari – yea*

*Elizabeth – yea*

*Ceilidh - abstain*

**6:48 P.M. – 6:51 P.M.** Item # 3 Select Board to authorize Town Manager to sign the Step III Construction Loan Application and Amendment for the WWTF Upgrade Project

These documents are part of the next step (construction) for the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade. The Step III application needs to be signed by the Board, as well as Jon and the Town Clerk.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the Step III Construction Loan application.*

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Loan Application and the amendment.*

**6:51 P.M. – 6:54 P.M.** Item # 4 Select Board to review and consider appointment of Downtown Commission members

Eric indicated there it was great to see such excitement about the Downtown Commission. We received many submissions for interest. The Commission was set up to be 5-7 members, so we will not be able to appoint all

that submitted. Shari indicated there will still be opportunities for people to help even if they are not specifically selected for the Commission.

*Shari nominated the following people for the Downtown Commission:*

Shari Cornish ~ Katie Tandy ~ Gary Michaels ~ Tobin Porter-Brown ~ Bethany Dunbar ~ Emily Hershberger ~ Sandy Scott

*All present Board members voted to accept the slate of nominations to the Downtown Commission.*

**6:54 P.M. – 7:07 P.M.** Item #5 Select Board to review and consider approving the “final” draft of the Burn Ordinance

There were some changes about the waiver penalty and about who the primary and secondary contact would be. The Town’s attorney has reviewed this draft. Aaron went over the waiver penalty and the specific changes.

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the final draft of the Ordinance for Regulation of Open Fires and Incineration Solid Waste.*

The Town Manager’s office will work on posting the proper notice of the ordinance as there is a waiting period in which residents can petition to not enact the ordinance.

**7:07 P.M. – 7:09 P.M.** Item #6 Assign Jon as Deputy Health Officer, Delinquent Tax Collector, CVSWMD Alternative Representative, Town Safety Officer, Caspian Beach Committee

Shari indicated that we did not need to appoint Jon as an alternate for the CVSWMD, as she always attends and plans to continue that.

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board voted to appoint Jon Jewett to the following roles: Deputy Health Officer, Delinquent Tax Collector, Town Safety Officer, and a representative on the Caspian Beach Committee.*

**7:09 P.M. – 7:17 P.M.** Item # 7 Select Board to review and consider approval of the FY22 Water Expense budget (sewer to be done at next meeting)

The Business Manager went over the proposed water budget for FY22. She indicated that we tried to keep it as lean as possible knowing that the sewer budget will see a larger increase due to the upcoming Bond. See attachments.

The sewer budget will be talked about at the next meeting. There was some brief discussion about the rates and looking at the low user cost when we set rates in a couple of months.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the FY22 Water Fund budget as presented.*

**7:17 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.** Item # 8 Select Board to review and execute contract for FY22 dispatch services with Lamoille County Sheriff’s Dept. (LCSD)

There was some discussion about the percentage split between Hardwick and Greensboro on the Rescue side. The calculations we were sent showed 65% Hardwick and 35% Greensboro. Eric was able to decipher how it was calculated related to both population and each Town's grand list.

There was some discussion about radio challenges the Police Dept. has experienced relating to the equipment that LCSD has. While Aaron said that overall, their experience has been good, there are some technical issues with communication technology that he would like to see resolved.

Jon suggested that Aaron prepare a formal letter to send to Lamoille County Sheriff's Department requesting them to investigate the communications issues. This would be sent from the Select Board.

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Board authorized a letter to be sent to LCSD for making the necessary improvements and to authorize Eric to sign the letter on behalf of the Board.*

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve and sign the FY22 dispatch services contract with Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.*

**Select Board Reports:** Eric reported that he, along with other Town employees and Shari Cornish, attended a kick-off meeting with VTrans about the State paving project for 2022. There was conversation about parking, bike lanes, and other issues that might pop up. The Town might need to do some sidewalk work. He shared parts of the overall discussion with the group. There was some discussion about doing the work at night and it is expected to happen in the Fall of 2022.

**New Business/Old Business:** none

**7:39 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