

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, October 21, 2021
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Tonia Chase, Assistant Town Clerk
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman

Others Present

Michael Ambrosino (HED)
Doug McClure (Zoom)
Bill Chidsey
Matt Krajeski (Zoom)
Alison Low (Zoom)
Jessica Gasper

Regular Meeting

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

6:01 P.M. – 6:02 P.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – David wanted to remove item #6 as the Town needed to gather more information on the Water and Sewer for the Yellow Barn. Eric requested that the Board replace that item with the Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to sign mortgages/liens for the Yellow Barn property related to grants (EDA, VCDP, NRBC) and loans (VEDA, VCLF, NCIC).

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

6:11 P.M. - 6:11 P.M. Communication from the Audience – Jessica Gasper spoke to the Select Board about harassment issues at her apartment complex. She stated that the Town Manager, and the Police Department have been very helpful; however, she just wanted to make the Select Board aware as well. Ceilidh stated that this will be discussed at future Equity meetings.

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of October 7, 2021

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of October 7, 2021, as written. Ceilidh abstained from voting.

6:03 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David has been working with Rural Development regarding the Swinging Bridge. David has sent a revised contract, and the Town is waiting for approval. Once there’s an approval, the design work can begin.

The Town has assisted with further discussion with Josh Allen and a private landowner, and there is a preliminary agreement that has been reached for passage to Josh Allen’s property.

David met with Darcie McCann, who is the Executive Director for the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce. Darcie is looking to revamp the current information booth on Sewer Plant Dr. He offered up some technical assistance if necessary.

Lastly, David reported that there has been another set of plans that have been released for the Downtown Paving project. This current plan includes the stamped Pedestrian Island that was talked about at the October 7 meeting.

6:15 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that the Highway has been working on a water issue, crushed sewer line, and they've been cutting brush on West Hill, West Hill Extension, and Stagehouse Road. The crew will have the chipper until Tuesday, so they will do brush cutting in the Village areas the next few days.

Next, Tom reported that some people may see a job trailer parked near the Health Center. They have permission to park there, and they will be working on the Rail Trail from Danville to Hardwick.

Tom is getting bids for salt, and so far, the bids are coming in higher than last year.

Lastly, Tom's truck is still at the shop waiting on parts. He's hoping to get it back in the next few weeks,

Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Aaron Cochran

There was no Hardwick Police Department report tonight.

6:20 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department Report

Michael reported that the H11 project is finished and should be online in November.

There has been concrete poured at the Wolcott Hydro and should also be online soon.

He also reminded residents that there are two COVID assistance programs that can help with past due electric, water/sewer, telephone lines, and rental bills. These programs will be ending soon.

Michael stated that revenue is up, and expenses are down for the year. He also mentioned that there's been an overturn in staffing.

Eric asked about the status of the upgrade of the website. Michael stated that they are still working on it. Eric requested that the agenda and minutes be posted in a timely manner.

6:23 P.M. – 6:38 P.M. Item #1 Assessor Matt Krajeski to present two Error & Omissions requests

Matt Krajeski presented to the board that there are two error and omissions request that the State has made. One is for a Hardwick Electric property on Craftsbury Road. The current assessment is \$1,936,300. The proposed value is \$4,318,600. The other request is various locations for Hardwick Electric within the Village. The current assessment is \$211,900, and the proposed value is \$479,800.

Alberta had concerns whether it would affect the Grand List, if it would affect the school tax, and whether or not it would affect the PILOT program which is held between the Town and Hardwick Electric.

The Board agreed that they needed more information, and would like to table this discussion for the November 4 meeting.

6:38 P.M. – 6:40 P.M. Item #2 Bill Chidsey, Town Energy Coordinator, to provide update to Board about Energy Committee activity

Bill stated that there was a meeting on October 12, and that two residents attended. He's been working on fuel information for all the Town buildings and will start gathering HED's information soon.

Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at the Memorial Building.

Lastly, he thanked the Town Manager, Casey Rowell, Amanda Fecteau, and Maya McCoy for all their support.

6:41 P.M. – 6:44 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to review and consider approving the Warning for the Special Vote on the proposed Charter changes to be held December 9, 2021

Alberta gave a summary of the proposed Charter changes and presented the proposed warning for the special meeting. There will be two public hearings about the proposed changes. One on November 4 at 5:30 P.M., and one on November 18 at 5:30 P.M. If the public would like to see changes, they can attend the meeting or ask the Town Clerk's office for a copy.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to accept the Warning for the proposed Charter changes.

6:44 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to appoint Town Manager as the new authorized representative for the Planning Loan on the WWTF Upgrade through Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager as the new representative for the Planning Loan on the WWTF upgrade through Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

6:45 P.M. – 6:48 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to discuss if Town wants to “opt in” to the National Opioid Settlement

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to opt-in to the National Opioid Settlement program.

Select Board to consider approval of water and sewer connection applications for the Yellow Barn Business Accelerator

This Item has been moved to another meeting.

6:48 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item #6 Select Board authorize the Town Manager to sign mortgages/liens for the Yellow Barn property related to grants (EDA, VCDP, NRBC) and loans (VEDA, VCLF, NCIC).

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign Mortgages and liens for the Yellow Barn property related to grants and loans.

6:51 P.M. – 6:53 P.M. Item #7 Select Board to consider approval of the 2022 Municipal Resolution for the Municipal Planning Grant

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the 2022 Municipal Resolution Municipal Planning Grant.

Select Board Reports:

- Ceilidh reported that the Equity meeting meets the first Monday of every month. She also stated that there are openings on the committee available, so if there's anyone that's interested in joining, please email her.
- Shari mentioned that the Town House is closing on November 16 for the Winter. She stated that NEKarts is one of the recipients for a \$5,000 COVID recovery program. This program can be used up until December 2022.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- Ceilidh mentioned that there is a mailbox on Church Street and was wondering what the plan is for plowing. David will look further into this.
- Ceilidh also mentioned that it has been brought up in the past about having a community forum to discuss the staffing of the Police Department. She would like more information about the coverage status, the staffing levels, and what the budget will look like without the Greensboro contract. Budget discussions will begin soon, but Ceilidh is hoping to have a forum before the Police budget discussion. David will look into this as well.

7: 08 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