

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
5:00 P.M. Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Memorial Building- 20 Church Street and via Zoom

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Lynne Gedanken, HED Chair
Mike Sullivan, HED General Manager
Nat Smith, HED (Zoom)

Others Present

Michael Ambrosino, HED
Roger Prevot, HED
Vince O'Connell, HED

Special Meeting:

5:11 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

5:12 P.M. Adjust Agenda - Lynne asked that there be an item added to talk about communications and how the two boards can work together. Ceilidh asked for an item to be added in reference to HED's website. Lynne also asked to add an item to talk about the Energy Coordinator.

5:13 P.M. Communications from the Audience - none

5:14 P.M. Item #1 Recap/follow up on information covered at the Special meeting held May 11, 2021

No one had comments about the last meeting.

5:15 P.M. – 5:40 P.M. Item #2 Strategy on Communications between the Select Board & Commissioners

Lynne Gedanken started the conversation suggesting that the Trails committee gives updated as to projects they are working on. Some of the trail projects could affect the projects that HED members are working on. Eric stated that Hardwick Trails will start giving updates to the Select Board members, HED Commissioners, and also notifying the school boards.

Ceilidh mentioned that a Commissioner attends Select Board meetings once a month, and even though that's great, she suggested that the Commissioners could possibly elaborate on projects that they're working on. Lynne stated that Select Board members could also come to HED meetings. She, however, disagrees with Ceilidh's suggestion due to not having all Commissioners or Select Board members at the meetings. Without all members being included, information and/or suggestions could get lost within the communication. The census was to email the Select Board agendas to the HED Commissioners, and to include Mike Sullivan, and for HED to email the Hardwick Select Board members their agenda.

The Select Board brought up the Pilot program & Errors and Omissions that was discussed at the Select Board meetings of October 21 and November 4. The Select Board apologized stating that they didn't know all the details ahead of the October 21 meeting, and that on November 4, they approved the Errors and Omissions due to the fact that the parcels were classified as taxable when they should've been non-taxable. This mistake would have affected the Grand List. The Board felt that this change needed to be corrected first, and then they would

discuss the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program later. Lynne stated that she didn't feel like it should've been discussed or approved at either meeting, without HED getting more information. Mike Sullivan stated that he didn't see the issue and spoke with the State, and he sees issues now with the assessment amounts. Mike Sullivan has done research and can't seem to find any agreement. The Town Manager stated that Alberta is also researching to try and find the original agreement. The PILOT amount that HED owes is yet to be discussed and determined. Mike Sullivan is going to reach out to the lawyer that they work with to see if he has any information. The Select Board has asked that the Town to reach out to Davies Law.

5:40 P.M. – 5:42 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to get a clear understanding on the HED's website

Mike Sullivan stated that all HED meetings are taped by HCTV and posted on their website. He also stated that there is a new website that should be live in about 3 weeks. Their current website is not allowing them to post anything due to an error message.

Ceilidh would like the Town to have a specific link on the Town's website that leads right to HED's agenda and minutes.

5:42 P.M. – 5:45 P.M. Item #4 To discuss the new Energy Coordinator

Ceilidh mentioned that Bill Chidsey is the new Energy Coordinator for the Town. He is working on various projects and trying to gather all information about electric and gas for Town buildings and trying to see if there's anything the Town can do to become more Energy friendly. He is also trying to provide residents with proper resources.

The Energy Commission needs members. They meet every second Tuesday of each month. If you're interested, please contact Bill, or the Town Manager's office.

5:45 P.M. – 6:13 P.M. Item # 5 Select Board/Commissioner Reports

Shari mentioned that she would like to improve the downtown lighting for the holiday season. She's currently working on a grant, which is due on Friday. Her hope is the wrap the light poles; however, those need outlets placed in them. She's also hoping to decorate the trees differently near the Village Diner and the trees near the Bridge. She would like white lights on the poles and colored lights on the trees. She's asking that HED and the Highway Department work together on this project.

Shari mentioned that Gary Holloway from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development oversees a grant program for EV charging, and asked what the update was on this. She also heard of an EV station going in front of the Buffalo Mountain Co-op. Norwich Electric was in Town recently and determined three targeted areas, however the poles didn't have the proper facilities. There would be wires that would need to be run in order for those areas to work properly. There was further discussion on other locations besides in front of the Co-op. One question that was brought up was, who would own the charger, and what the size battery it would. The size of battery would determine what tier to get. Mike Sullivan and David have decided to work together to figure out some of these details.

The next joint meeting will be February 8, 2022.

6:14 P.M. Eric Remick, Chair, adjourned the Special meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator