

Manager's Report

- Tentatively reserved 2,000 WT (500 DT @ 25% solids of processed sludge) for disposal at the Englobe facility in St. Henri Quebec. The 500 DT amount is a quarter of what P & H Senesac estimations came out to and a little more than half of VT Rural Water's estimations. Englobe needed a commitment from The Town to plan for their 2022 allotment of material they accept. This amount can be changed but they needed something to reserve space. The processing of 500 DT comes out to \$476,830.00 with a disposal fee of \$105,700.00 this does not include trucking which will have to go out for bid when we decide on how much we are going to process.
- I was contacted with a request to bring back the Restorative Justice Program back. We currently have \$9,500 unrestricted program funds still available that we have had for two years. The current Restorative Justice program available to Hardwick is out of the Restorative Justice Center in St. Johnsbury. In the past, they have reached out for community involvement with in Hardwick and people have not stepped forward to get involved. I will continue to speak with these interested folks and come up with a plan to move forward with the board's approval.
- I submitted a request to the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC) for a waiver for Scott Gagnon. Scott has worked for the VT Medical Examiners office as an Assistant Medical Examiner. The wavier request is for a Death investigation Certification. This would eliminate the need for the State Police or another police agency to respond to Hardwick for a death investigation.
- Meeting with the Emily Finnigan from the Caledonia County Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) and the engineers involved in the Stormwater Project in the parking lot at 64 North Main Street (lower level of the Jeudevine Manson). This project involves several easements for construction and maintenance of the system. The town will be responsible for the routine maintenance after completion. I will be attending a second meeting in February with NRCD the land owner and engineers to discuss construction which will have an effect on parking in the area and a mild effect on traffic. This project will be going out to bid in the late winter and will be coordinated by NRDC and run by SLR environmental consulting's Waterbury, VT office.
- LVRT Public Meeting Announcement.

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01/20/21

Memo

To: Town of Hardwick Selectboard

From: Matthew Krajeski, New England Municipal Consultants Ltd.

cc: David Upson, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Date: January 20, 2022

Re: Assessor appointment for elected lister duties

The Listers for the Town of Hardwick have retired effective 12/31/2021. The Hardwick Town Charter currently defines the position of Lister as elected. Although there are proposed Town Charter changes to the State of Vermont, they have not yet been finalized. A temporary appointment will need to be made to statutorily fill the position (17 V.S.A. § 2651c).

The Selectboard has the ability to appoint an Assessor. The Assessor (NEMC) would then be granted the same powers, and able to perform the same duties as an elected Lister under the provisions of Title 32. Duties such as homestead certification or finalizing a grand list require a signature from the appropriate municipal agent. These duties could not be statutorily performed without the appointment to the Assessor.

If you decide to appoint NEMC with these same duties and responsibilities of a Lister, it would be valid until the next annual town meeting. Depending on the status of the proposed charter changes, this issue may need to be revisited after that.

I appreciate your consideration into this matter and look forward to your decision.

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 17 : Elections

Chapter 055 : Local Elections

Subchapter 002 : Town Meetings And Local Elections In General

(Cite as: 17 V.S.A. § 2651c)

§ 2651c. Lack of elected lister; appointment of lister; elimination of office

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary and except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in the event the board of listers of a town falls below a majority and the selectboard is unable to find a person or persons to appoint as a lister or listers under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 963, the selectboard may appoint an assessor to perform the duties of a lister as set forth in Title 32 until the next annual meeting.

(2) The appointed person need not be a resident of the town and shall have the same powers and be subject to the same duties and penalties as a duly elected lister for the town.

(b)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the office of lister.

(2)(A) If a town votes to eliminate the office of lister, the selectboard shall contract with or employ a professionally qualified assessor, who need not be a resident of the town.

(B) The assessor shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under the provisions of Title 32.

(3) A vote to eliminate the office of lister shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote of the registered voters present and voting at an annual meeting warned for that purpose.

(c) The term of office of any lister in office on the date a town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after the vote or on the date upon which the selectboard appoints an assessor under this subsection, whichever occurs first.

(d) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of lister as provided in this section shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of lister. (Added 2003, No. 125 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 2013, No. 21, § 4; 2017, No. 130 (Adj. Sess.), § 3.)

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**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 1, 2022**

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Fire Station at 333 Wolcott Street in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 7 o'clock in the afternoon for Australian Ballot Voting only to act on the following business:

In the Year 2022, Approval of all Articles and Election of Town Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors shall be voted on by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Masks are highly recommended. If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472-5971).

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to govern said Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2021?

Article 3. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?

Article 4. To elect all Town Officers and School District No. 26 Directors as required by the public laws of Vermont and the Town Charter.

Town Clerk	3-year term
Town Treasurer	3-year term
Select Board	3-year term
Select Board	2 seats for 1-year terms
Hazen Union District #26 Director	3-year term
Hazen Union District #26 Director	1 year remaining on a 3-year term
Lister	3-year term
Lister	2 years remaining on a 3-year term
Lister	1 year remaining on a 3-year term
Auditor	3-year term
First Constable	1-year term
Second Constable	1-year term
Town Agent	1-year term
Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber	1-year term
Tree Warden	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Main Street	1-year term

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Cemetery Trustees for Maple Street	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Fairview	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Sanborn	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Hardwick Street	1-year term
Fire Dept. Officers	1-year term (each)
Library Trustee	3-year term
Library Trustee	3-year term
Library Trustee	3-year term
Grand Juror	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds	1-year term
Fence Viewers	1-year term

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of three million five hundred sixty-four thousand eight hundred eight dollars (\$3,564,808.00) to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Article 6. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Greensboro Nursing Home?

Article 7. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of A.W.A.R.E.?

Article 8. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of the Lamoille Family Center?

Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Historical Society?

Article 10. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$3,161.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Human Services?

Article 11. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?

Article 12. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600.00) for the support of Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice?

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Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Community Television (Channel 16)?

Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00) for the support of Rural Community Transportation?

Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Arts Council (Hardwick Town House)?

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 17. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00) for the support of the North Country Animal League?

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of the Craftsbury Community Care Center?

Article 19. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 20. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick are further notified that voter qualifications, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Annual Town Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 20th day of January, A.D. 2022.

Eric Remick, Chair

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair

Shari Cornish

Elizabeth Dow

Michael Deering

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 21st day of January, 2022 at 11 o'clock 00 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Assistant Town Clerk _____