

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
10:00 A.M. Monday, January 24, 2022
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Others Present

Special Meeting

10:00 A.M. – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

10:01 A.M. – 10:03 A.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – Move Item # 2 to Item #3, so we can add a discussion of the language for the “Right to Know” item proposed to be on the warning as Item #2.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the adjustment to the agenda as stated. Eric was not there yet.

10:04 A.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, joined the meeting and took over facilitation.

10:10 A.M. – 10:17 A.M. Item #1 Select Board to discuss and consider a warning item for retail cannabis

Skip until David arrives. We came back to this when David arrived. There were two examples of warning language that the Town of Johnson used. The Select Board thought both could be used for our Town too.

The two articles we will put on the warning are as follows:

“Shall the voters approve the establishment and operation of cannabis retailers within the Town of Hardwick, subject to regulation by the Vermont Cannabis Control Board and the Town of Hardwick Select Board, acting as the local cannabis control commission?”

“Shall the voters approve the establishment and operation of integrated licensees within the Town of Hardwick, subject to regulation by the Vermont Cannabis Control Board and the Town of Hardwick Select Board, acting as the local cannabis control commission?”

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the language as presented for articles on the Town meeting warning.

Casey Rowell, Business Manager, left the meeting to go down to the Town Clerk’s office to have the three articles added to the warning and will bring back up for signatures in a short while.

10:04 A.M. – 10:10 A.M. Item #2 Select to discuss proposed language for the “right to know” item being proposed on the warning

After discussion, the Board produced this language to be added as an article to the Town meeting warning.

“Shall the Town require its government to provide notice on its website to its residents when the Town receives notice that sources of radiation generated by cell towers/transmitters, Wi-Fi tower transmitters, and 5G antennas are being proposed for licensing and installation within the Town limits?”

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the proposed language for the warning item.

10:27 A.M. – 10:35 A.M. Item #3 Select Board to review and consider approving the 2022 Town meeting warning

Casey Rowell, Business Manager, returned with the proposed warning copies for everyone to review.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2022 Town meeting warning. See attachments for the final document.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the 2022 Town meeting warning, as written.

Since Town meeting will be conducted via Australian ballot, a public informational hearing will be held in February to talk about the budget and any other warning items that people want to discuss.

Select Board Reports: Shari reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Planning and Community Development Consultant for the Municipal Planning Grant has been posted. She encouraged everyone to spread the word and share the opportunity.

Old Business: Elizabeth asked where things were at with engineering for the area around the Highway garage. The Town had talked about having someone come and do an assessment of the area for a potential new Town garage in the future. At this point, no work on this has been done. The Town had talked about looking into this so that if funds became available, we would be ready to move. David commented that it would be helpful to have more projects “shovel ready.” For this project, we need to have a needs analysis and determine what we need for the entire space. We would also consult with Hardwick Rescue since their building is right there too. It will be important for us to have conceptual plans ready in cases like this if grants or other funding opportunities come up.

New Business: David shared that the final ARPA rules came out and one key factor is that public input for spending of the funds is required. Eric talked about the increased flexibility with the revenue loss category for spending. Ceilidh suggested that we put this on a future agenda and look at having a public hearing.

The group discussed how the wastewater plant upgrade could take all the ARPA money and that would still not be enough to fund the whole project and they would have to cut back some of the improvements. The Board does recognize that not everyone may think that this is how the money should be spent, which is why they will seek input from the public.

Eric and Shari both brought up that it would be great if we could figure out a way to make the hybrid Select Board meetings go smoother than they have been.

Eric recapped the items just discussed as a to do list:

1. Get started on the planning process for the Town garage area
2. Public outreach on ARPA is needed
3. Explore ways to make the hybrid/in-person meetings go smoothly for Select Board meetings

10:48 A.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair