

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, March 17, 2022
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair - *Absent*
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane -*Absent*
Elizabeth Dow
Shari Cornish
Danny Hale

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Casey Rowell, Business Manager- *Zoom*
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk
Michael Henry, Interim Police Chief

Others Present

Adam Gann
Michael Ambrosino-HED
Jodi Lew-Smith

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Elizabeth Dow, Select Board member, called the meeting to order.

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

6:01 P.M. – **Communication from the audience** - none

6:01 P.M. Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of March 3, 2022

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 3, 2022, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:20 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David reported on the following items: (See full report for further details)

- David is meeting with the USDA on March 18, 2022 to discuss the Jeudevine Library and the Pedestrian Bridge.
- The Town advertised to fill the Community Development Coordinator position. Interviews will start next week. The Select Board discussed and agreed that this employee should work at least 50% of their time in Town. This time includes office time, evening meetings, and being active in Town.
- VT Huts Association is requesting a Letter of Support from the Town for their application requesting Congressional Directed Spending. Danny mentioned that the huts can sleep up to 18 people, they would have water and sewer, and would be along the rail trail. He mentioned that the concept is great, but the information didn’t mention Hardwick specifically. The Select Board generally agreed not to move forward with the Letter of Support due to the lack of information.
- There was a water leak at the Hardwick Gazette building. The landowner hasn’t reached out yet, but the bill is significant. The Select Board agreed to have the Town Manager communicate with the landowner; however, they also agreed to charge for only the water.
- Lastly, David reported that Northern Counties Health Care (NCHC) is requesting help from the community to take a health survey. A link to this survey is on the Town’s website. The deadline is March 20. This is a quick, confidential survey.
- Shari asked if the Town had an update about the electricity on the light poles on Main Street. David reported that they’re getting a quote from Selectric.

6:20 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by David Upson

David reported that the highway crew has been filling in potholes on Wolcott St. with cold patch. Danny asked about

paving Wolcott St. and David mentioned it's not scheduled until this Fall. David also reported that one truck is getting transmission work done to it.

6:22 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry and David Upson

Mike was at an incident, so David reported on the Police Department

David reported that Officer Force will start the Academy on Monday, March 21, 2022. David also reported that he and Mike are in the early stages of starting a mentoring program. David reported that there were two untimely deaths today, which we had other agencies cover. Danny asked about the cost, and David reported that the Town has memorandum of understandings with different agencies that outline the cost.

6:43 P.M. – 6:46 P.M Mike reported that the Police Department had ordered a Dodge Charger, which has a clearance of 4.5 inches from the ground. That amount is less than the current police cruisers, and will make it difficult to respond to calls. The Police Department needs a vehicle that has good ground clearance. There is a signed agreement that Aaron signed off on that Mike and Casey (Business Manager) are going to work through. Currently, Mike is looking into getting a Ford Explorer, but the Town might have to take delivery of the Charger and turn around and sell it. The Select Board asked about the cost difference and whether we had it in the budget. Casey, at the time of this discussion, was not part of the meeting. Casey and Mike will continue to work on this and report back to the Select Board next meeting.

6:24 P.M. – 6:27 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department Report - Given by Michael Ambrosino

Michael reported that in the next bill cycle there will be a pamphlet included in the bills that explains a program that HED, VESPA, and Efficiency Vermont developed. This program has money available to customers for energy efficiency.

He also reported that January was a high demand month and HED went over budget. However, they are hoping that the H11 will generate more kilowatts to help get that money back.

There is a meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5 p.m. to discuss a microgrid in Craftsbury. This is an online meeting.

The new website will be live on April 15, and there will also be a phone app available for customers to download.

They are starting to improve the electric grid system and connecting substations and backing up power lines. This will hopefully help with down times. They are also doing more work at the hydro plant.

6:28 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider appointing Adam Gann to the OSUESD Board (1-yr remaining on a 3-yr term)

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to appoint Adam Gann to the OSUESD Board.

6:29 P.M. – 6:32 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to consider appointing Kole to the Hardwick Development Review Board (1-yr or 3-yr term)

David mentioned that Kole recently moved to Town, and would like to be involved. The Select Board would like to meet Kole. She was unable to attend this evening but did submit a letter of interest.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted 2-1 to appoint Kole to a 1-year term on the Hardwick Development Review Board.

Yes-Shari

Yes-Elizabeth

No- Danny

6:32 P.M. – 6:36 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider appointing Andrea Brightenbach, Kathleen Sampson, & Brendan Buckley to the Jeudevine Library Trustee Board (all 3-yr terms)

Jodi Lew-Smith represented all three members. Jodi explained that all members have previously served, and thought their names would be on the ballot. However, paperwork wasn't turned in and their names didn't make it on the ballot.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to re-appoint Andrea Brightenbach, Kathleen Sampson, & Brendan Buckley to the Jeudevine Library Trustee Board; all 3-year terms.

6:36 P.M. – 6:40 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to consider appointing Emily Varvir & Sara Behrsing to the Hardwick Recreation Committee

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to appoint Emily Varvir & Sara Behrsing to the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

Jodi Lew-Smith gave a quick update on the Library Expansion. She stated that the Federal Budget passed, and the earmark that was given will fill the gap. They are going out to bid soon. There will be a flexible start date, and the company will have a specific timeline for a completion. However, Jodi would like to break ground in 2022.

6:40 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to consider approval of various liquor licenses

Tonia confirmed that there haven't been any issues with the following businesses.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the following liquor licenses:

First Class license for:

Hardwick House of Pizza, Inc.

Second Class Licenses for:

Walgreens Eastern Co Inc. d/b/a Walgreens #17185

DG Retail, LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store #14093

Buffalo Mountain Co-op

Mike joined the meeting and elaborated further on the Police Department Report

6:47 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to certify the Annual Financial Plan for VT AOT for Highway State Aid

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve Annual Financial Plan for VT AOT for Highway State Aid.

6:51 P.M. – 6:52 P.M. Item #7 Select Board to consider accepting a 3-year proposal from Sullivan Powers & Co. for audit services.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve a 3-year proposal from Sullivan Powers & Co. for audit services.

6:52 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item #8 Select Board to consider a banner application from AWARE for placement on Wolcott Street from 9/15/2022 - 10/2/2022

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve a banner application from AWARE placement on Wolcott Street from 9/15/2022 to 10/02/2022.

