

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, April 7, 2022
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Michael Henry – Interim Police Chief
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Tonia Chase – Town Clerk

Others Present

Emily Varvir - *Zoom*
Mary Braun - *Zoom*
Emily Hale
Samantha Collins
Rose Friedman
Kole - DRB
Lanna Lawson

Regular Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – We need to add an Item #12 to discuss the ARPA public hearings and electing to take the standard allowance for revenue loss.

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

6:02 P.M. – Communication from the audience – Emily Varvir and Kole were appointed to the Recreation Committee and Development Review Board (DRB) respectively at the last meeting, but were unable to attend, so they came today to introduce themselves, as the Board wanted to meet them.

6:04 P.M. – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of March 17, 2022

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2022, as written. Eric and Ceilidh abstained.

6:04 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David gave an update on some of the tasks he has been working on, including the Pedestrian bridge, a second interview with a candidate for the Community Development Coordinator position, and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor planning meeting for the upcoming “Meet the New Town Manager” series in June. See attached report for details.

6:10 P.M. – 6:18 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that this week they worked on the Mackville area. They have completed work on Bunker Hill, West Hill, Marsh Rd., and Kate Brook Rd. They have been hauling material in from Danville pit.

The plan is to work on Bridgman Hill Rd. & Hardwick Farms next week. Tom shared that he had a conversation with a paving company about price fluctuations. We will be able to get a bid, but there will be language in the

contract about having to pay for any price increases if costs go up between the signing of the contract and when the work is performed. It is highly likely that we will only be able to do half of our scheduled paving and a higher price. They are going to start the Church Street sidewalk project soon. Tom also mentioned that they will be doing hydrant flushing week of April 18-22. They have been doing paving and patching as they can.

Shari asked about crosswalk painting, specifically if we were going to move forward with the terracotta red color that was discussed last year. That paint order was canceled because it was not available. Tom said they will use the leftover paint they have to paint them white. They will do what they can with the current supply, due to the Fall paving project when the road will get torn up. Ceilidh asked if there were any specific tasks that we need to complete prior to the paving and about crosswalks in East Hardwick. Tom indicated that at this point, no, and they do also plan to paint crosswalks in East Hardwick.

6:18 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry

Interim Chief Henry shared that the Police Dept. is working to support the high school with various issues, such as students not attending class and vaping in the bathroom, etc. They are trying to put together a program to keep students out of trouble. Jobs and Link programs are being explored.

They have opened the Senior Center side of the Public Safety building for various school groups. David said that not only do students need programs like the Jobs programs, but some could use mentors and they need volunteers.

6:22 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider appointing Rose Friedman to the Hazen Union School Board (1-yr remaining on a 3-yr term)

Rose was present to introduce herself and share why she wants to be a part of the School Board. She works at the school and will have a child attending their next year, so she wants to be involved.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to appoint Rose Friedman to the Hazen Union Board for a 1-yr remaining on a 3-yr term.

6:25 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to consider appointing Lanna Lawson, Emily Hale, and Samantha Collins to the Hardwick Recreation Committee

Emily Hale and Samantha Collins were present to introduce themselves. Lanna came later in the meeting.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to appoint Lanna Lawson, Emily Hale, and Samantha Collins to the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

6:28 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding with NEKArts regarding the Town House renovations

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with NEKArts regarding the Town House renovations and authorize the Town Manager to sign the document. Shari abstained.

6:30 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Item #4 Brief discussion about dog licenses and how many unlicensed dogs are in the community

The Business Manager and Town Clerk provided a memo with numbers to show how many dogs have been licensed in the past 4 years (see attachments). The number of licensed dogs has steadily been decreasing.

Tonia offered to send out reminder letters – she already has a list prepared. The discussion resulted in consensus that the Town Clerk should send out reminder letters to those that registered dogs since 2019, but have not registered dogs since. If someone does not have a dog anymore, they can let the Town Clerk's office know. There are about two hundred people who will receive letters.

6:35 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Item #5 Business Manager to provide quarterly budget update through 03-31-2022

The Business Manager gave an update through 03-31-2022 of revenue and expenses. See attachments for the reports. Things look good for revenue and expenses.

6:41 P.M. – 6:50 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to discuss Police Cruiser, Dodge Charger vs. Ford Interceptor and consider purchase of the Interceptor

See memo in attachments.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to cancel the Dodge Charger and purchase the Ford Explorer Interceptor \$34,435 plus fit up.

Lanna Lawson arrived to introduce herself and explain why she wants to be on the Recreation Committee. She was already appointed earlier in the meeting.

6:52 P.M. – 6:55 P.M. Item #7 Select Board to discuss Declaration of Inclusion and Inclusion Week

Ceilidh shared about the Declaration of Inclusion, which was a state initiative. They would like to see all towns adopt their own. The Town already adopted an Equity Resolution for All in 2020, so we do not need to approve a new declaration, but we would say that we want to participate and be on the list of towns that have a Declaration of Inclusion or similar document.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to be added to the list of Towns in the State of Vermont with a Declaration of Inclusion.

Ceilidh also mentioned that Inclusion Week is May 9. The Equity committee is going to be hiring a third party to provide a training sometime in May.

6:56 P.M. – 7:13 P.M. Item #8 Brief follow-up discussion on WWTF upgrade project going out to bid

See attachments for a summary of the project options. At the March 17 meeting, the Board voted to move forward with the entire project assuming that we would use about \$500,000 of ARPA funds, some Town capital, and have a loan amount of about \$1.9M coupled with State subsidies. However, after that meeting it

was discovered that the \$1.2M in the project for sludge removal did not include trucking and disposal costs which the Town will need to pay separately out of the Town's capital. Therefore, the numbers had to be reworked and presented this evening. It means that we would need the full \$2.2M bond that was approved. This means an annual bond payment of about \$134,000 and an increase of about \$60/quarter per user.

The group discussed that this project really needs to move forward. The best thing for us to do is to put it out to bid to see what the actual estimate comes in at because with all the rising costs, these numbers may not represent the actual cost. The plant really needs these upgrades and the work on the lagoons, so we need to take the next step of getting bids and seeing what it will truly cost.

7:13 P.M. – 7:14 P.M. Item #9 Select Board to consider approving a banner application for Circus Smirkus to be hung on Wolcott Street June 25 - July 2 and August 6 – 14

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the banner application for Circus Smirkus to be hung on Wolcott Street June 25 - July 2 and August 6 – 14.

7:14 P.M. – 7:17 P.M. Item #10 Select Board to authorize Town Manager to enter a contract with Carrington Community Development Services, LLC to be the Downtown Commission's consultant for the Municipal Planning Grant total not to exceed \$23,250

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to enter a contract with Carrington Community Development Services, LLC to be the Downtown Commission's consultant for the Municipal Planning Grant total not to exceed \$23,250.

Shari gave a brief overview of the activities of Downtown Commission since formation. Hiring this consultant is an integral part of their mission to obtain a Downtown designation.

7:17 P.M. – 7:18 P.M. Item #11 Select Board to consider appointing Andrew Force as a Hardwick Police Officer

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to appoint Andrew Force as a Hardwick Police Officer.

Interim Chief Henry said that Andrew is currently at the Police Academy.

7:18 P.M. – 7:32 P.M Item #12 Select Board to discuss the ARPA public hearings and to consider electing to take the standard allowance for revenue loss

Public hearings for ARPA are not required but are considered a best practice.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to make a one-time irrevocable decision to elect the "standard allowance" approach for our ARPA ward in the amount of \$855,227.40 to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant.

April 21 & May 5 at 5:30 P.M. are the ARPA Public Hearings.

Since the Board is considering using \$500,000 of ARPA funds for the wastewater project, there was discussion about showing residents the value of the wastewater plant to the whole town and that it is not a benefit just to the rate payers.

Ceilidh brought up that the proposal is not using all the ARPA funds for the project. She reiterated that it is important that the Board explains why it is necessary to spend a large portion of the ARPA funds on the wastewater project.

There was discussion about the format of the community forums and what we should talk about, including laying out the many projects that are currently in progress.

The Town Manager's office will start posting notices about the two community engagement sessions and the Business Manager encouraged the Board to spread the word.

Select Board Reports: Eric shared that only one bid for the Yellow Barn project came in. The bid came in way over the budget. The budget was \$10M with a \$2M contingency and the bid came in at \$19M. The planning team is working on various ideas to make it work and move forward. More funding may be needed.

Shari shared that the Winter Placemaking grant is moving forward. An electrician is coming to do walk through tomorrow and start putting the outlets on the light poles next week. Shari almost mentioned that NEKArts is working to have a new sign designed for in front of the Town House.

Casey announced that the Town website is now hardwickvt.gov. The .org will still work since it will automatically reroute for now.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

7:41 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair