

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, May 19, 2022
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Mike Henry, Interim Police Chief
Roger Prevot, HED

Others Present

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

Set/Adjust Agenda – We need to add an Item #5 to have the Select Board consider appointing George Sheldrick as a Hardwick Police Officer.

Communication from the audience – none

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of May 5, 2022, and the minutes of the ARPA Public Hearing of May 5, 2022

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of May 5, 2022, and the minutes of the ARPA Public Hearing of May 5, 2022, both as written.

6:01 P.M. – 6:07 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David talked about the Community Development Coordinator position, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, FY23 paving projects, Ken Davis’ Gravel Pit in Greensboro, and Neighbor-to-Neighbor gatherings. See attached report for full details.

The Select Board would like to talk in further detail about the gravel pit at a future Select Board meeting.

6:07 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden

The Highway crew did ditch work on Smith Rd., Morin Lane, Houston Hill Rd., and Brown Farm Rd. They worked on the crosswalks, repaired a water leak on West Church Street, and placed speed bumps on West Church Street.

Tom also reported that the crews for the paving project will begin rehabilitating water drainage structures and adjusting the heights of sewer manholes along VT 14 and VT 15 throughout the project area. In addition, crews will be working on berm removal and ditching.

Ceilidh asked about the crosswalks in East Hardwick, and Tom stated that they will begin work next week.

Ceilidh also asked about replacing the “Children at Play” sign on Mackville, and David stated that the Town would replace that specific sign.

6:18 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike reported that the flag pole has been put up, which is located next to the bench in memory of Lisa Fecteau.

He also reported that there’s been personnel changes that have occurred in the past week.

Lastly, the Police Department is working on an FBI audit, which occurs every three years.

6:20 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report- Given by Roger Prevot

Roger reported on the following items:

- Now that the H11 project is complete, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday May 23, 2022 at 11am, onsite.
- Year to date, the revenue is below budget by 2%, and the expenses is over budget by 9%. This is due to the cold weather in January and February and the global market increase for natural gas.
- The Wolcott hydro is delivering 163% of the budget. In perspective, this is about 10% of Hardwick Electric’s annual energy needs.
- The solar project on Center Road is now online and should deliver significant power to Hardwick Electric.
- Hardwick Electric nominated Buffalo Mountain Co-Op for an Efficiency Vermont grant, and they were presented with \$25,000 to upgrade their coolers, and equipment.
- HED is working through VESPA to get financial assistance from the State on Automated Metering Infrastructure project. This would allow a system to allow real-time metering, instead of HED reading meters once a month.
- There’s a State program, called VERAP, that helps residents that experienced hardships during covid pay some of their bills. If you would like more information, please visit: <https://erap.vsha.org/>

6:31 P.M. – 6:44 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to develop a plan on how to prioritize ARPA funds

The Town received \$855,000 from ARPA to spend on town projects. When the Select Board held two public hearings, there were more projects presented to us, than money available. Elizabeth Dow, with help from other Select Board members, drafted an application that organizations have to fill out. After some discussion, the Select Board has set a deadline for these applications to be turned in. After this, the Select Board will go through, prioritize, and decide how to distribute the money.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the application and to have the deadline by June 30, 2022.

6:45 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to discuss future details on the Community Development Coordinator position.

David mentioned that there have been three applicants, who are highly skilled, apply for this position. However, currently, the Town only has \$22,000 in the budget. David feels that with these applicants, and the numerous projects and the increase in grant writing, the Town needs to offer more.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve in supporting the Town Manager on what he offers with a cap at \$30,000.

6:54 P.M. – 6:56 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to review and execute contract for FY23 dispatch services with Lamoille County Sheriff's Department

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the FY23 dispatch services with Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.

6:56 P.M. – 7:07 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to discuss WWTF upgrade bids and options moving forward

Danny asked what the add-ons were. David explained that it was the grit removal, the hydraulic curtain on lagoon two, and the transfer piping upgrades. These are not necessary right now, but will be in the future. David also mentioned that he has a meeting next Tuesday with the State and Aldrich & Elliot.

This will use \$500,000 of the ARPA funds. There will be \$355,000 for other projects.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the bid with Neagley & Chase including the add-ons for an amount of \$2,857,394.81, and to include David to sign all necessary documentation.

6:56 P.M. – 7:07 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to consider appointing George Sheldrick as a Hardwick Police Officer

George is a Level II part time officer.

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve the appointment of George Sheldrick as a part-time Hardwick police officer.

Select Board Reports:

- Elizabeth reported that on Monday May 23, 2022 Howard Kaufman will be at the Town House talking about the summer of 1816.
- Shari reported that the new banners will be here next week.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

7:09 P.M. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by:

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice- Chair