

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 16, 2022
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson, Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tom Fadden – Road Foreman
Nat Smith, HED

Others Present

Regular Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda

Add Item #3 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and sign a new contract with New England Municipal Consultants (Assessors).

Add Item #4 Select Board to discuss process and timeline for annual Town Manager performance review and contract renewal.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the additions to the agenda, as stated.

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 June 02, 2022

Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of June 02, 2022, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:07 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David updated everyone on what he has been working on which included applying for a PACIF grant, “Meet the new Town Manager” Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings, and meeting with Gary Nolan in regard to Ken Davis’ gravel pit. See attachments for full report.

He also had two public service announcements:

- There is a third public meeting to be held for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M., virtual or in person, at the Swanton Village Complex located at 120 1st Street Swanton, VT.
- The annual Children’s parade in East Hardwick will be held on Saturday, June 18 at 11:00 A.M. The parade starts at the Hardwick Chiropractic building and ends near the United Church.

6:07 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that they worked on a culvert on Brown Farm Road. They graded Mackville Rd., Houston Hill Rd., Hopkins Hill Rd., Scott Rd., Dutton Rd., Stratton Road, and Carey Road. They replaced a culvert on Kate Brook Road, and Brown Farm Road. The sidewalk project on Church Street is underway, and they have also replaced airlines at the Sewer plant.

Elizabeth thanked Tom and the crew for helping the Historical Society move five heavy items for a short period of time.

David and Tom mentioned that they have come to an agreement with the Town of Woodbury. Hardwick plows the West Woodbury Road, which is off Kate Brook Road. In exchange, Woodbury will come to Hardwick and use the cutting head on their loader to trim up some areas within town.

6:15 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by David Upson

David reported that the Police Department has deferred five cases to the Restorative Justice program, and two cases to the youth jobs program. Mike and David are working on getting the Restorative Justice program back into Hardwick.

Danny asked about the unmarked cruisers. David stated that two of the cruisers were getting lettered soon.

David also mentioned that Hardwick Police assisted the Vermont State Police with a situation on Scott Road this week.

6:17 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Hardwick Electric Report- Given by Nat Smith

Nat reported that on May 23, there was a ribbon cutting for the H11 solar project.

He also reported that the Wolcott Hydro has generated 1.16 million kWh so far this year; which is 36% over budget. The H11 project also has generated 593,000 kWh so far this year, which is 8% under budget.

Purchase power costs are 30% over budget. HED hopes to recover some of those costs during the summer months. Revenues are 4% over budget, and expenses are 6.4% over budget.

There hasn't been a rate increase since 2009. Currently the basic monthly residential energy service bills are 42.2% lower than Green Mountain Power, and 44% lower than Washington Electric Cooperative. HED and the Public Commissioners are looking further into this.

See attachment for further details.

6:24 P.M. Item # 1 Select Board to authorize the increase of borrowing capacity for the WWTF upgrade project by \$900,000 (rounded up) which represents the forgivable portion of the loan. (Because this will be forgiven, it does not need voter approval, but is needed to show our total capacity)

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to authorize the increase of borrowing capacity for the WWTF upgrade by \$900,000 (rounded up) which represents the forgivable portion of the loan.

6:24 P.M. – 6:26 P.M. Item # 2 Select Board to select FY23 fuel vendor for propane, diesel, and heating oil.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve Irving for propane, diesel, and heating oil for FY23.

6:27 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Item # 3 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and sign a new contract with New England Municipal Consultants (Assessors).

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and sign a new contract with the New England Municipal Consultants.

6:28 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item # 4 Select Board to discuss process and timeline for annual Town Manager performance review and contract renewal.

Danny stated that the Select Board is in the process of working on a performance review and renewing a new contract with the Town Manager. Their hope is to have everything completed by July 31.

Select Board Reports:

- Shari reported that she and about seven other residents from Hardwick attended the Downtown Conference in St. Johnsbury on Friday, June 10. See attachment for further details.

New Business- None

Old Business:

- Ceilidh asked when they will start discussing the new water rates. David mentioned it won't be until late summer/early fall.
- Ceilidh asked about the timeline for the ARPA applications. The Board discussed that they would like to hold a special meeting in the middle of July to go over the applications. Reminder that applications are due to the Town Manager's office no later than June 30.

6:34 P.M. *Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, pursuant to 1 VSA § 313 the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session to discuss a loan contract.*

7:00 P.M. Exited Executive Session. No action taken.

7:01 P.M. *Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, pursuant to 1 VSA § 313 the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.*

7:32 P.M. Exited Executive Session. No action taken.

7:32 P.M. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Fecteau, Payroll & Benefits Administrator

Minutes approved by:

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice-Chair