

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 2, 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

Others Present

Bob Edebohls

Regular Meeting

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

6:01 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda

Add Item #6 Select Board to consider appointing William Morley as a Hardwick Police Officer

Add Item #7 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with SE Group for the design and engineering of the Pedestrian Bridge and the Riverfront Park preliminary design totaling \$58,725 and to sign any subsequent contracts associated with the agreement

Add Item #8 Select Board to review the paving bids received for FY23 paving and select a Contractor to perform the work

Add an Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA § 313 to discuss personnel matters.

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

6:02 P.M. – Communication from the audience - none

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to approve minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting of May 19, 2022, and the Special Select Board meeting of May 26, 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 19, 2022, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of May 26, 2022, both as written. Eric abstained.

6:03 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David updated everyone on what he has been working on which included the pedestrian bridge, a marketing strategy for Hardwick and surrounding areas, an update on plans for the Gazette building, and the temporary

parking spaces situation in the downtown area. Please note that the markings are only temporary, so we will not lose all the parking spots that are currently not available. He also thanked several people and entities for their efforts in bringing back Springfest. See attachments for full report.

6:10 P.M. – 6:14 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that they graded Hardwick Farms Rd. a second time and put down chloride. They also graded Goddard Rd., Bayley Hazen Rd., Hopkins Hill area, and touched up Kate Brook Rd. They fixed a sewer problem on Elm St. The crew finished ditching Houston Hill and it is ready for gravel.

Weather permitting, they plan to start on the Church Street sidewalk project next week. Tom mentioned that this time of year is also a popular time for vacations, as they will have a few employees out over the coming weeks.

Ceilidh mentioned a wash out on Montgomery Rd. Tom will check it out.

6:14 P.M. – 6:22 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike reported that the new Explorer is in and all outfitted except the lettering, which is scheduled to be done on the 20th. They are using it now.

There were 237 incidents for May. They were mostly just miscellaneous incidents. The biggest complaints are motor vehicle complaints. Officers issued twenty-nine warnings and wrote twenty-one tickets. They are working on being more proactive. They have also seen an uptick in bike thefts, mostly in the village area. The Police Dep. has a bike currently so if you are missing a bike, contact them to identify it. They have also had several “leaving the scene of an accident” incidents but have made three arrests in those cases.

Mike also shared that there continues to be issues with the Hardwick repeater on West Hill (used for radio signals) – the problem is the link between Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department and us. This is still a work in progress.

6:22 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item #1 Bob Edebohls to discuss Jeudevine Falls property

Bob Edebohls shared a book with the Board that features his property, the Jeudevine Falls. He mentioned that NH has the Flume Gorge which draws in 160,000 tourists a year. He said that his property in comparison has more to see than that attraction.

He shared some testimonials from people who visited his property. Most of his visitors are 2+ hours away, so they patronize our Town businesses when they visit.

He shared that he is at a point in his life where he cannot continue to keep it open as it is. He is concerned about the future of the property if it gets sold. He needs help finishing the suspension bridge and a few other items so that it can then be marketed appropriately. There are three waterfalls on the property. He invited the Board for a personal tour if they would like.

He feels it is a tremendous asset for the Town and wants to see it stay. Peter Welch’s office has put in a request to make it a national park.

6:29 P.M. – 6:49 P.M. Item #2 Business Manager to present the draft FY23 Expense budgets for Water & Sewer funds

The Business Manager presented drafts budgets of the Fiscal Year 2023 Water & Sewer expenses and capital plans. Rates are set in September to meet the expense budget. Currently, we are only looking at the expense side of the budgets. See attachments.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the draft FY23 Water & Sewer budgets as presented with no changes to be the final approved versions.

6:49 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider reappointing David Gross to the Hardwick Planning Commission for a 3-year term

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to reappoint David Gross to the Hardwick Planning Commission for a 3-year term.

Shari mentioned that there is a vacant seat on the Planning Commission if anyone is interested. There is also a vacant seat on the Development Review Board.

6:51 P.M. – 6:52 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to consider participating in the SFY2023 Grant-in-Aid program \$29,000 grant with \$7,250 match (in-kind or cash) and sign Letter of Intent

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to participate in the SFY2023 Grant-in-Aid program.

6:52 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to consider increasing the Wastewater Bond capacity by \$75,000 to \$2,275,000 (can be done without going back to voters)

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to increase the Wastewater Bond capacity by \$75,000 to \$2,275,000.

6:54 P.M. – 6:55 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to review and approve the FY22 audit engagement letter with Sullivan, Powers & Co.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve the FY22 audit engagement letter with Sullivan, Powers & Co.

6:55 P.M. – 6:59 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to consider appointing William Morley as a Hardwick Police Officer

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to appoint William Morley as a Hardwick Police Officer.

Ceilidh asked for a staffing update. Mike is actively recruiting and would love to see some Level III applicants. Currently, the force has one Officer in the Academy, two part-time Level III Officers, three part-time Level II Officers, and two full-time Level II Officers. He would like to get to six full-time officers with all of them being Level III, but it is going to take time. The part-time officers are helping to fill in the gaps in the schedule.

6:59 P.M. – 7:01 P.M. Item #7 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with SE Group for the design and engineering of the Pedestrian Bridge and the Riverfront Park preliminary design totaling \$58,725 and to sign any subsequent contracts associated with the agreement (AIA agreements will be needed due to federal funds)

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with SE Group for the design and engineering of the Pedestrian Bridge and the Riverfront Park preliminary design and to sign any subsequent contracts associated with the agreement.

7:01 P.M. – 7:07 P.M. Item #8 Select Board to review the paving bids received for FY23 paving and select a Contractor to perform the work.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to have Gray's Paving do our FY23 paving.

If there are enough funds in our annual allowance, we will add Montgomery Rd. to the list of roads for this year.

Select Board Reports: Eric wanted to recognize Richard Brochu for his many years of service to the Town. He was super involved in the Town, and he will be greatly missed. Ed Keene also passed away recently and served in many capacities in Hardwick, especially in his role as water operator for the E. Hardwick water district. Losing these valued community members is a tremendous loss to the community.

Shari reported that the Town House and Depot have a new sign. The sign is up, but lighting will be coming soon. Hazen Drama Club is going to be performing Fire Bringer the Musical on Friday, June 10 & Monday, June 13 at the Town House.

Elizabeth reported that the Hardwick Historical Society will be open to the public starting Tuesday, June 7. They have spent the last two years redoing many of the exhibits and they are once again encouraging people to visit.

Danny reported that the Hardwick Woodbury Rail Trail will be receiving an upgrade in the next month or so, mainly resurfacing. He also reported that there is a collaboration between VASA, Hardwick Trails, and the Green Mountain Tech Center Forestry program to upgrade some of the Hardwick Trails.

Tom asked Danny if the VASA trail was open from Carey Rd. to the red light at the corner of Main Street and Wolcott Street. Yes, it is. They do not have signage up yet, but people can come up So. Main Street up until that intersection.

Ceilidh shared that the Equity Committee had their first training last week given by the Peace & Justice Center and it went well. There was a good turnout of community stakeholders, as well as a member of the DRB, and a Town employee.

New Business: Shari mentioned that she and several others are attending the Historic Preservation Downtown Conference in St. Johnsbury next Thursday, June 9.

Old Business: David said that he has had people reach out about the ARPA data collection form deadline. Elizabeth confirmed that the deadline to submit a request is June 30. The person who contacted David also asked if they could see the criteria that the Select Board is going to be considering. Elizabeth said yes; it can be shared. Everything needs to be transparent. People should be able to see what the Select Board is looking for.

7:17 P.M. *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, pursuant to 1 VSA § 313 the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session for personnel matters.*

7:40 P.M. Exited Executive Session. No action taken.

7:40 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