

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M. Thursday, August 18, 2022**  
**MEMORIAL BUILDING**  
**20 CHURCH ST. 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

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

**Others Present**

Margaret de Rivera  
Nancy Kellogg

**Regular Meeting**

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

**6:00 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – Item 5 needs to be removed and put on the September 1 agenda. There also needs to be an item added; to have the Select Board authorize the Town Manager to sign a Letter of Support for the Capital Investment grant that the CAE is writing for the Yellow Barn project.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board approved the adjusted 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 August 4, 2022, and the Special Select Board meeting of August 9, 2022

There was a spelling error under the Select Board Reports on the August 4 meeting minutes. Amanda will adjust.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes for the Regular Select Board meeting as edited.*

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes for the Special Select Board meeting as written.*

**6:04 P.M. – 6:11 P.M.** Town Manager’s Report– Given by David Upson

David reported that the Town will be applying for a By-Law Modernization grant in the amount of \$25,000 to potentially add a Neighborhood Development Area. This could help create solutions to the current housing problems.

Starting August 26, the State of Vermont of Liquor and Lottery will be forwarding applications for Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute Endorsement licenses to local governing bodies for approval. David asked if the Board should transfer alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis license approvals to our newly formed cannabis commission? Elizabeth asked how the commission is constituted, and David said it will be appointed through the Select Board.

The SE Group will be coming to Town for a site visit the first week in September for the Pedestrian Bridge. They will

have a stakeholder meeting at the end of September, and there will be a public meeting in October to unveil two bridge designs.

The Hardwick Planning Commission had their first public hearing on proposed by-law changes. They are requesting that the Select Board schedule a public hearing for September 15. The Board agreed to have it on September 15 at 5:30 P.M.

See report for further details.

**6:11 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Road Foreman Report– Given by Tom Fadden**

Tom reported that they worked on Bridgman Hill Rd., Kate Brook Rd., and Bayley Hazen Rd. Tom would like to thank Larry Hamel for all the help that he provided the Town. The Select Board asked about legally throwing up the right of way on Bayley Hazen Road, and David said that he would look into this.

There was a water leak on South Main Street, and a Sewer issue on Hideaway Street.

Tom also reported that the Excavator, Loader, and Grader will need to be replaced soon. Eric asked what was in the budget, and Tom believes there's \$125,000 for a new Excavator, and the Town does a lease to buy for the Grader and Loader. He stated that there would need to be further discussion during budget season to see how much the Town can afford in FY24. Tom stated that the Excavator won't last another year, and that currently there's a six-month wait on receiving equipment.

**6:17 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry**

Mike reported that there's been a staff shortage for the past few weeks due to various reason, but things will be back to normal soon.

The department ordered body cameras back in June that they still have not received due to issues with the sale representative. He hopes to receive them soon.

Mike stated that all of the policies are uploaded on a thumb drive and on Police One.

The Police Department worked with the Highway Department to hang a solar speed sign near the new Buffalo Coop. They will also be putting the other speed signs in various locations. Ceilidh asked if the signs could transfer data, and the answer is yes. David stated that the plan is to purchase one or two more solar signs in the future. Margaret de Rivera asked about the batteries in the signs and suggested the Town purchase another set of batteries.

Margaret also asked about a noise ordinance due to loud trucks constantly going by her place. David mentioned the Town does have a 10 P.M. curfew for noise, but that doesn't include those travelling on busy highways. The loud trucks that she is referring to have aftermarket parts on them, and the Police Department can't really control those specific exhausts that people put in. Eric suggested that she visit the Town Managers office for further details.

Hardwick Electric Report- Given by Lynne Gedanken- There was no Hardwick Electric Report tonight.

**6:30 P.M. – 6:46 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to discuss and approve bids for Brush Clearing of Town Highway roadsides.**

David stated that the Town received two bids. One would cut by hand with chainsaws, but the Town would have to provide flaggers. If the Town went with this option, they would have money for eight days. The other option is to bring in machines, and the town would have money for about five days. After much discussion, and wanting to research alternatives, the Select Board decided to table this until the next Select Board meeting.

**6:47 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to approve Balsam Ridge Road as a new addition to the roads.**

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted to approve Balsam Ridge Road as a new addition to the roads.*

**6:47 P.M. – 6:54 P.M.** Item #3 Select Board to discuss forming a committee for Water & Sewer Rates for FY23

Ceilidh and Eric both stated that they would serve on this committee. The Town Manager, Business Manager, Town Clerk, and Sewer Operator will also be on the committee. David stated that he was contacted by a member of the public who might be interested to be on the committee and asked the Board if it was okay to reach back out. The Board said yes.

Nancy Kellogg talked about the drought and wondered how the water was metered. She also stated that Vermont has the lowest water bill in the country. Eric replied that the water is billed quarterly, however, David said that the Town will start reading meters monthly to hopefully identify potential water leaks quicker.

**6:54 P.M. – 6:58 P.M.** Item #4 Item Select Board to make formal resolution for forming Cannabis Control Commission

David mentioned that this formal resolution is for the State level. After approving this, the next step is to appoint members, and if the Town wanted another resolution for the Town level, they could approve that as well. David will continue to work with the State to get guidance on the next steps.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the formal resolution for forming Cannabis Control Commission.*

Item Select Board to discuss and sign the Town Manager's contract- This item has been tabled for the September 1, 2022.

**6:59 P.M. – 7:02 P.M.** Item #5 Select Board authorize the Town Manager to sign a Letter of Support for the Capital Investment grant that the CAE is writing for the Yellow Barn project.

The grant available is through the State and is for the amount of \$500,000. This will be used towards the new Accelerator building.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, three out of the four members voted to approve the formal resolution for forming Cannabis Control Commission.*

*Shari- Yes*

*Eric- Yes*

*Elizabeth- Yes*

*Ceilidh was not available to vote.*

### **Select Board Reports:**

- Shari reported that repairs to the commercial spaces within the Bemis Block is ongoing and she has heard from the Galaxy Bookstore, that they hope to be reopening in mid-November. She hasn't heard about the Scale House, but has had many inquiries.
- Shari reported that the Town House has its final Craftsbury Chamber performance tonight. She also stated that HCTV is doing a screening on September 28. There will also be a Black Fly Story Hour presented in September and October. Look for posters and information coming out soon. Lastly, NEKarts has a request from a couple to have their wedding at the Town House on the first weekend of November. This will need to be discussed next meeting, as the lease will need to be amended for this year.
- Shari also stated that the Capital Campaign project is still looking good. Tom was able to meet with the architect and engineer on Wednesday to help with their information for the engineering requirements. The removal of the old Fire Escape and repair/restoration to the exterior clapboard will be this Fall. It should

be on track for posting for bids early in 2023.

- Elizabeth reported that the Hardwick Historical Society will be hosting a gentleman from Maine, on the second Monday of September, to talk about tombstones.
- Ceilidh mentioned that she, Danny, David, and Kristen met about the Carey Rd. and the next step is to get a survey of this property.
- Ceilidh also mentioned that the Equity Committee is doing a retreat this Saturday, August 20.
- Eric mentioned that the Yellow Barn did a redesign to meet with budget standards. The next step is to wait for approval from all of the funders. The plan is to still break ground in 2022.

**New Business:**

- Shari mentioned a focus group for the LVRT trail heads in Hardwick and East Hardwick. Eric, Elizabeth, Shari, David, Tracy, and Helen Beattie will work together to plan consistent signage, appropriate parking spots and amenities. All in preparation for potential grant funding resources to apply for this Fall.
- David mentioned that there is work on Route 16 to fix a bank that is falling into the river.
- Eric asked about the bump outs along Main Street. Tom and David both mentioned that most of them will be level with the road once the road gets repaved, but this will be easier for people to use the crosswalks and to be seen.

**Old Business:**

- Ceilidh asked about the Select Board retreat in October. The Select Board is still working on details.

**7:18 P.M.** Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair