

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

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

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

**Others Present**

Eric Kawka  
Dean Mercier  
Kelly Mercier

**Regular Meeting**

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

**6:00 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – Add Item 3 to have the Select Board review and consider approval of a Manufacturers Tier 3 license for Tilla Processing LLC, add Item 4 to have the Select Board discuss and consider approval of purchasing an F550 from Lamoille Valley Ford at approximately \$125,000, and to remove the Town attorney from the executive session.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the adjustments as stated.*

**6:03 P.M.** – Communication from the audience – *none*

**6:03 P.M.** – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of October 20, 2022

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of October 20, 2022.*

**6:04 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.** Town Manager’s Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

David reported that a draft of the VOREC grant was sent back to the Forest Parks & Recreation with changes as requested.

The north abutment of the Pedestrian Bridge was measured and it’s 3’9” with no footing, which means both abutments will need to be replaced. In addition to the abutments, there is a new design survey that the Town is asking the public to fill out. Please visit [hardwickvt.gov](http://hardwickvt.gov) for more information.

David, Tracy Martin, and Dave Gross met with Local motion to discuss signage and roadway painting scenarios for bikers exiting the Rail Trail to travel downtown. Local Motion provided the Town with a report that included segments and recommendations.

Black Dirt Farm is looking for more involvement with the compost pod project. They are at approximately 35% of their design capacity and are looking for additional participation at all their pod locations. Contact Black Dirt Farm or the Town Manager's office for more information, or if you would like to sign up to use the pods visit: <https://www.blackdirtfarm.com/compost-pods> .

Lastly, David stated that he would like to move forward with a Municipal Planning Grant to have a feasibility/scoping study done for the relocation and construction of a new Town Garage on the Carey Road property. The Select Board would like to compare the property on Carey Road vs. the property on Creamery Road. Overall, the Select Board all informally agreed to move forward and allow the Community Development Coordinator to prepare and start the process.

See attachments for full report.

**6:15 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden**

Tom stated that they have been putting gravel down on numerous roads, and that Friday, November 4 should be the last day. The paving on Montgomery Rd. is completed. They plan to haul next week, and work on ditching on Bunker Hill.

This week there was a sewer issue and water issue on Hideaway.

They have put the plow frames on and are working to get more storage for salt.

Tom presented estimates for the grader, loader, and excavator from the John Deere dealership, and the Cat dealership. Tom is looking to get a package deal. Machines from both dealerships have the same controls and functions. Option A from the John Deere dealership would cost \$597,400. Option A from the Cat dealership would cost \$577,900. Going with Cat dealership would be \$19,500 cheaper. Option B which includes a six-wheel AWD grader from both dealerships would cost the Town \$636,600 from John Deere and \$613,900 from the Cat dealership. There's a \$22,700 difference. Shari asked what was in the budget, and Tom stated \$125,000 for the excavator. The Select Board asked Tom which dealership he would prefer, and Tom stated that service wise they are about the same. Tom did mention that the quotes that were given are good for the next 30 days, starting from today, and that it takes anywhere from six months to a year for the equipment to arrive. He was told that at the beginning of next year, the prices will increase by at least \$10,000. There wasn't a decision made as Tom wants the Board to think about options, and to include the Business Manager in the discussion.

**6:28 P.M. – 6:32 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Interim Police Chief Mike Henry**

Mike reported that things are going well. Orleans Sheriff Department donated five radios, so they are in the process of getting those set up. The Police Department is going to do away with cell phones and purchase iPad for the officers to have in the cruisers. They will be able to answer calls and be able to function better on iPad.

Mike also reported that the sedan car has been taken to be stripped and will be for sale soon. The Town is waiting for parts for the new cruiser, but that should be on the road soon as well.

Shari asked about the Drug take back day and Mike stated that they received a good amount; however, the box is always located in the entry way of the Police Department.

Mike reported that the Trunk or Treat, Trick or Treat, and cabbage night all went well, no issues.

**6:32 P.M. – 6:38 P.M.** Item #1 Select Board to review and consider approval of a cultivator’s license for Timothy Fuller

Timothy Fuller owns Naked Hemp, and the license has been approved by the State and by the Development Review Board.

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the cultivator’s license for Naked Hemp.*

**6:38 P.M. – 6:46 P.M.** Item #2 Select Board to authorize Town Manager to proceed with using All Metals Recycling to clean up the property we acquired via tax collector’s deed on Caspian Avenue, estimated to cost \$14,000

There was a property on Caspian Avenue that went up for tax sale in October 2021. Unfortunately, there wasn’t any bidders on said property; therefore, the Town was defaulted, by policy, to purchase the property. After the tax sale, there’s a redemption period of one year and one day for the property owner to redeem the property. As of October 7, 2022, there was not a redemption made, therefore the Town officially owns the property. There’s a lot of trash on this property, and the Town is looking to clean it up before winter. The Town Manager received a bid of not to exceed \$14,000. After cleaning up the property, the Town plans to sell this property for what was put into the property; cleanup and back taxes that the Town paid.

Dean and Kelley Mercier, which are neighbors of this property, stated they would like to assume responsibility and if they own the property, they would be willing to clean it up. Kelley contacted the Town attorney recently and realized that the property is up for sale again. However, the Town Manager explained that the property went to the lawyer’s office for the tax year 2021-2022 before the redemption period from the previous year was over. The Town has since paid the 21-22 taxes, and everything is current. The Town Manager also explained that not all properties sent to the Town attorney’s office will end up going to the sale due to property owners paying prior to the sale date.

The Select Board would like the Town Manager to continue to work with Dean and Kelley Mercier to figure out what the next steps will be for this property. They did not make a motion to move forward with the clean-up.

**6:46 P.M. – 6:51 P.M.** Item #3 Select Board to review and consider approval of a Manufacturers Tier 3 license for Tilia Processing LLC

This license has been approved by the State; however, due to where it is located, it doesn’t need to go through the Development Review Board or Zoning.

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the Manufacturers Tier 3 license for Tilia Processing LLC.*

**6:51 P.M. – 6:56 P.M.** Item #4 Select Board to discuss and consider approval of the F550 not to exceed \$125,000 from Lamoille Valley Ford.

Tom explained that the new chassis is about \$70,000 and the body is about \$60,000. The chassis was supposed to be ordered last March, but Ford shut down the production line for these. He also stated that municipalities do not get discounts anymore. The truck will arrive at some point next year, and that will determine the trade of the current chassis, which will reduce the estimate of \$130,000 mentioned above.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the F550 from Lamoille Valley Ford.*

**Select Board Reports:**

- Shari reported that the fire escapes at the Town House were taken down, the exterior of the Town House was repaired, and the doors and windows will be replaced in the Spring.
- Voting is next Tuesday, November 8 at the Town House
- There was a public meeting about the Pedestrian Bridge this week where about 75 people attended. There will be a survey available at the voting poll on Tuesday. Voting is available until November 11.
- Elizabeth Dow reported that the Depot is installing a new sprinkler system that the Hardwick Historical Society is paying for.

**No New Business**

**Old Business:**

- Shari asked to go back to Item 2 and asked if there was any way to make sure the property will be cleaned up. Danny mentioned that the Town Manager needed to work with Dean, Kelley, and the Town's attorney.

**7:02 P.M** *Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation matter to include the Town Manager.*

**7:50 PM.** Exited Executive Session. No action taken.

**7:50 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