

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

Select Board

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

Others Present

Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Michael Henry, Police Chief
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk
Steve Jenne
Orise Ainsworth

Others Present

Regular Meeting

6:11 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair called the meeting to order.

6:11 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda - *none*

6:12 P.M. – 6:13 P.M. Communication from the audience – There was a question about whether we can provide handouts and discuss the bond at the Town meeting because it is on a ballot. Orise clarified that we could discuss the bond at Town meeting because it is a “money matter.” It is candidates on ballots that we are not allowed to discuss at the business portion of the meeting.

6:13 P.M. – 6:14 P.M. Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of February 16, 2023

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of February 16, 2023, as written.

6:14 P.M. – 6:16 P.M Road Foreman Report

There was no Road Foreman report this evening. Clearly, they have been busy clearing roads. Danny asked that people not shovel their driveway snow onto the sidewalk after it was just plowed by the Town.

6:16 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike reported that they have been receiving complaints about snowmobiles speeding on the Rail Trail. Officers have been out on speed patrol and really have not had any speeders. They are finding 95% of the riders are completely legal. Mike wanted to remind everyone that the Rail Trail is closed *for snowmobiles* from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Danny commented that if a person is standing on the Rail Trail and a snowmobile goes by them at 25 or 35 mph (posted speed limits), it is normal that it would feel much faster than they are going.

Mike shared that recently they have received a large amount of expungement requests. [“Expungement” is the process by which a record of criminal conviction is destroyed or sealed from state or federal record. An expungement order directs the court to treat the criminal conviction as if it had never occurred, essentially removing it from a defendant’s criminal record as well as, ideally, the public record.] They have received 64

cases in just the last 2 weeks. This creates a lot of administrative work and can be very time consuming as they may have to redact information from case files.

Mike wanted to give a shout out to Officer Paul Barnard who has been very helpful to the department. He was hired last April. He is tech savvy and has taken on a lot of their IT and computer work. He is doing a great job and is an asset to the department.

Danny commented that he is impressed to see all the patrolling in the Town. He regularly sees the officers out and about.

6:23 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider appointing Geoff Fehrs to the Hardwick Conservation Commission

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted by majority to appoint Geoff Fehrs to the Hardwick Conservation Commission. Ceilidh abstained.

6:24 P.M. – 6:27 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to consider approval of several liquor and tobacco licenses

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the following liquor and tobacco licenses:

First Class license for:

American Legion Post #7

Second Class Licenses for:

Global Montello Group, Corp d/b/a Jiffy Mart #457

Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC

GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli

Third Class Licenses for:

American Legion Post #7

Outside Consumption Permit for:

American Legion Post #7

Tobacco License:

Global Montello Group, Corp d/b/a Jiffy Mart #457

Tops Market, LLC

DG Retail, LLC d/b/a Dollar General

Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC

GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli

Tobacco Substitute Endorsement:

Global Montello Group, Corp d/b/a Jiffy Mart #457

Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC

GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli

6:27 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to complete annual Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to certify the Annual certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards.

6:28 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to consider approving a banner application for Aware banner to be hung on Wolcott Street September 20, 2023, through October 7, 2023

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway -Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the banner application for AWARE.

6:29 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to certify the Agency of Transportation annual mileage certificate

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the Agency of Transportation annual mileage certificate.

6:30 P.M. – 6:36 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to discuss working together with Hardwick Electric Department (HED) to implement EV charging stations in/near downtown

Eric asked to have this discussion. He has a friend on the Stowe Electric Board, and he spoke with them about how Stowe does their chargers. Eric would like to see us discuss this at the upcoming joint meeting with HED Commissioners. Eric discussed the logistics. There would be no private developer. HED would put it in a designated spot of Town property in cooperation with the Town. Eric just wanted to bring this to the forefront and doesn't expect it to be figured out this evening.

Select Board Reports: Shari shared that the Town House will open very soon. The first event is a George Woodard film showing for “*The Farm Boy*,” which was filmed mostly in Waterbury, VT. It is scheduled for March 31 at 6:30.

Ceilidh shared that the Equity Committee had an “equity listening” session at Front Seat Coffee. The next one is at Buffalo Mountain Market on March 19. This event provides a chance for people to share stories and what is working and not working in Town.

Elizabeth shared that in 1863 the Town voted to tax at 25% of the grand list. This is compared to about 1.4% now...an interesting history fact that she wanted to share.

Eric said that the Yellow Barn is proceeding. They have a draft contract with Wright & Morrissey, which is being reviewed by legal counsel. There are a lot of moving parts, but they do expect to be able to break ground in the spring.

New Business: Ceilidh suggested that based on feedback we received in the Public Hearing, that we display information about the reappraisal at Town meeting. Danny mentioned that with the housing crisis, there seems to be several small privately-owned single-family houses that are in disrepair in the Town. He would like to see them repaired.

Steve commented that he liked Ceilidh's idea of displaying info at Town meeting. He also asked about ARPA funds for internet. NEK Broadband recently requested that their ARPA funds be disbursed recently. They had

identified specific areas of Hardwick to start their building including West Hill and Pumpkin Lane. The complete build out was expected to take around 3 years to complete.

Old Business: SE Group will have a display at the Town meeting about the two different park concepts for the Daniels Building side of the pedestrian bridge. We encourage people will stop in the lobby to comment the boards or go online to give feedback.

6:50 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