

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023  
MEMORIAL BUILDING  
20 CHURCH ST. 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator  
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk  
Mike Henry, Police Chief  
Vince O'Connell

**Others Present**

Bill Chidsey  
Larry Fliegelman  
Rob Lewis  
Bud Stevens  
Anne Stevens

**Regular Meeting**

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

**6:00 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – Remove Item #7- approval of the traffic ordinance.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to adjust the agenda as stated.*

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

**6:02 P.M.** – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of April 6, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of April 13, 2023

The Select Board tabled the meeting minutes of April 13, 2023, until the next Select Board meeting.

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular Select Board meeting of April 6, 2023, as written.*

**6:03 P.M. – 6:09 P.M.** Town Manager Report- Given by David Upson Jr.

David updated the group about several items including the LVRT trailheads, bridge park design, the lead and copper inventory project, hydrant flushing, and the sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. See attachments for complete report.

**6:09 P.M. – 6:10 P.M.** Road Foreman Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

David reported that all the dirt roads have been graded recently. The town owned lawns, including some of the cemeteries, have been cleaned up. They have also done street sweeping and have fixed various mud spots.

**6:10 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.** Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report - Given by Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike reported that the repeater is down again. They have been working with Burlington Communications to resolve this issue. They have borrowed another repeater and will use it for a few months to see what the

issue might be. A new repeater is \$19,000. Mike has also been working with VLCT on the traffic ordinance.

**7:08 P.M. – 7:17 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department Report - Given by Vince O’Connell**

\*This report was given after items 1-5 were completed. \*

Vince reported that Hardwick Electric Department (HED) is still working with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on the potential rate increase. A decision will be made soon. He also reported that the Wolcott Hydro is 61% over budget and producing about 13% of the energy. HED is currently 1% over in both revenue and expenses. Next, Vince reported that a charging station will be installed at the HED main office on North Main Street within the next six weeks. VEPSA is working on a proposal for advanced meter infrastructure; however, Vince stated that at this time, HED has declined to participate.

**6:15 P.M. – 6:16 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider approval of several liquor licenses.**

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the following alcohol and tobacco licenses:*

**First Class Licenses for:**

*RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie  
BPALI, LLC d/b/a/ Caja Taqueria*

**Third Class Licenses for:**

*RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie*

**Outside Consumption Permit for:**

*RBI Hardwick, LLC d/b/a Positive Pie*

**6:17 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item #2 Select Board to consider approving the Hardwick Energy Committee Policy**

Please see the attached policy for more details.

*Ceilidh Galloway-Kane made a motion to accept the Hardwick Energy Committee Policy, Elizabeth Dow seconded the motion.*

Article three, section one states that before qualifying a member, they must attend six meetings. The Select Board discussed this specific section and thought it was fair to add “or events.” The policy will be changed so individuals must attend six meetings or events before they qualify to be on the committee.

*Ceilidh Galloway-Kane amended her motion to add “or events” to the six meeting requirements. Elizabeth Dow seconded the amended motion. The Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Hardwick Energy Committee Policy.*

**6:23 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to discuss the possibility of using some of the Town’s fund balance to reduce the amount of the gravel pit bond.**

The Business Manager provided the Select Board with two scenarios with borrowing money from a Vermont Bond Bank to purchase the gravel pit. One scenario showed if the Town borrowed \$400,000 vs. if the Town

borrowed the full amount, which is \$500,000. The difference between the two scenarios is roughly \$40,000 over 20 years. The loan will not close until August. Eric asked if the interest would change, and the Town Manager stated the Business Manager would be able to answer that. Eric also asked about the purchase and sales agreement. David stated that it is in progress. The Select Board wanted to discuss this further at the next meeting.

**6:29 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to review four potential candidates for the Planning Commission and select one to appoint.**

The Select Board met three of the four candidates. Bud Stevens stated he would like to see Hardwick grow economically and help increase the housing stock. Rob Lewis stated that he would like to provide his expertise to the community as he has had previous experience with Town Government. Larry Fliegelman would like to get involved in the community and learn how the community grows and sustains its growth. The Select Board will review all four letters of interest in the executive session and will announce who will get the position at the next Select Board meeting.

**6:45 P.M. – 7:07 P.M. Item #5 Select Board to review the Planning Commission recommendations for the LVRT Loop trail.**

The Planning Commission provided recommendations to connect the LVRT connector loop and continue to work on the grant that the Town was awarded. See the attachment for more details. The Select Board asked about item one. The Town Manager stated that North Main Street is getting paved this year so there would not be lines while that is happening. Ceilidh asked about item three, and asked if a bike rack could fit on the bump out in front of the Clip Joint, and the Town Manager stated yes. The Select Board asked about clarification on item six whether there would be room. Ceilidh asked if the bike trail could extend to Hazen, and the Select Board agreed that it would be a great idea. The Town has bike racks in storage that they plan to use soon. The Select Board is moving forward with recommendations after the paving is complete.

\*The Select Board went back to the Hardwick Electric Report. \*

**7:17 P.M. – 7:19 P.M. Item #6 Select Board to consider formally approving the new cemetery policy.**

The Select Board has previously discussed the policy and approved the policy; however, did not sign the proper documentation at that time. A sexton has been hired to maintain Town owned cemeteries.

**Select Board to review and discuss the edits to the Traffic Ordinance-** This item was removed and will be moved to the next Select Board Meeting.

**7:19 P.M. – 7:20 P.M. Item #8 Select Board to consider participating in the FY24 Grant-in-Aid program (sign letter of intent)**

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve to participate in the FY24 Grant in Aid program.*

**7:20 P.M. – 7:22 P.M. Item #9 Select Board to consider approving a method of payment policy.**

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the method of payment policy.*

**7:22 P.M. – 7:24 P.M. Item #10 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to execute the EDA Grant Management Agreement for the Yellow Barn Project.**

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to execute the EDA grant management agreement pending the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) attorney's decision.*

**Select Board Reports:**

- Eric reported that the Yellow Barn is moving forward, and the NMTC closing will be May 4, 2023. Once the closing date is complete the contractors will be able to break ground.
- Ceilidh reported that the Peace and Justice center will have a panel discussion on May 16 at the Memorial Building. The topic is about Juneteenth. There will be dinner starting at 5:30 P.M., and the discussion will follow. The public is welcome to attend.
- Ceilidh reported that the Conservation Commission will be holding a kickoff meeting on May 17, 2023, at the Memorial Building and the public is welcome to come.
- Elizabeth reported that on May 15, 2023, the Hardwick Historical Society (HHS) will be holding its annual meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the Hardwick Town House. After a short business meeting, the HHS will present Of Wheelmen, The New Woman, and Good Roads bicycling in Vermont 1880-1920 considering the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail will be going past headquarters. For more information visit <https://hardwickvthistory.org/>

**New Business:** Amanda mentioned that she, David, and Shari have all attended Spring Festival meetings, and they are looking for sponsors. Shari mentioned that they are also selling Duck Tickets. For tickets you can visit the Whistle Emporium. For sponsorship paperwork, please visit either Whistle Emporium or the Town Manager's office.

**Old Business:** None

**7:29 P.M.** *Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 for an appointment of public officer to include Town Manager.*

**8:00 P.M.** Exited Executive session. No action taken.

**8:00 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