

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 4, 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
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Mike Henry, Police Chief

Others Present

Regular Meeting

6:01 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:02 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – *none*

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

6:02 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of April 13, 2023, the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of April 20, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of May 2, 2023

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of April 13, 2023, the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of April 20, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of May 2, 2023, as written.

There was no Town Manager report this evening.

6:03 P.M. – 6:06 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that due to the rain, there are a lot of potholes on the back roads. They have been continuing grader work this week, which included Mackville, Hardwick Farms, Dutton Rd. Nichols, and Mountain View Rd. They also hauled some gravel.

On Tuesday, they worked at the sewer plant all day helping with the hydraulic curtain and aeration systems as part of the upgrade process. They have also been doing truck maintenance.

Shari asked about switching the banners out. Tom indicated that they could do this. He reported that they put out the trash cans, benches, and cleaned the peace park as part of spring clean-up.

6:06 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report - Given by Police Chief Mike Henry

Mike shared that they had a cruiser that was having an issue with the hatch opening while going down the road. However, it has been fixed and is back in service.

Shari asked about needle disposal for Green Up Day. Mike said they are hoping to have a Sharps container from the Dept of Health. They want to get one for the public to be placed near the prescription disposal. As of now, people should use caution and protective gear. The Green Up Day posters say to contact the PD to dispose of needles. They may not be able to have Officers all around Town picking up needles due to staffing levels. Use gloves, be cautious and you can always mark where the needle is to have it retrieved later.

6:10 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to review and discuss possible changes/additions to the Town's Traffic Ordinance

A copy of the proposed document Speed Limit Ordinance was presented (see attachments). This is a separate document and not a change to the traffic ordinance. It is a speed limit ordinance. Mike explained that most of the changes were in reorganization and formatting.

There was discussion about the changes and how we would have to post the changes and have a hearing, etc. There are still some additional changes regarding parking that he wants to make. The Board does not think it makes sense to have multiple rounds of changes. We should wait and do it all at once.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the draft to be coordinated into the new draft when complete.

They proposed having a hearing on June 1 at 5:30 P.M., before the regular Select Board meeting.

Danny made a new motion, seconded by Shari Cornish, to approve the draft ordinance as revised. All voted yea.

*Post meeting, we will need to incorporate these speed changes into the existing traffic ordinance. This draft shows a separate document called speed limit ordinance. This will need to be addressed at the next meeting. *

6:30 P.M. – 6:33 P.M. Item #2 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 presented samples of borrowing the full \$500,000 approved by voters or using \$100,000 of Town fund balance to reduce the amount to \$400,000. With the \$400,000, there are interest savings of about \$40,000. We are currently earning 2.75% on that money, which equates to \$72,000 in earnings over 20 years. However, we should not expect to earn that percentage for the whole 20 years. Using a 1.5% average yield the interest earned would be about \$35,000.

The Town will proceed with the amount of \$500,000 that the voters approved.

6:33 P.M. – 6:39 P.M. Item #3 Select Board to consider appointing one of multiple candidates to the Planning Commission – *Action Needed*

There are only 6 weeks left to the term. It's a 3-year term expiring 6/30/23. Ceilidh would like to see us wait until around June 30, so three seats can be selected all at once. There are 2 seats expiring on 6/30/23 as well.

Shari encourages the candidates to attend a meeting. They are the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are also seats available on the DRB. The Board would like the Town Manager to contact the candidates to let them

know we are going to wait until July to make an appointment, rather than appointing now when there are only 6 weeks left to the term.

6:39 P.M. – 6:40 P.M. Item #4 Select Board to authorize the application for a Municipal Services Program Grant of \$5,000 from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District and authorize Town Manager to execute any necessary documents – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted unanimously to authorize the application for a Municipal Services Program Grant of \$5,000 from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District and authorize the Town Manager to execute any necessary documents.

Select Board Reports: Ceilidh reminded everyone that Green Up Day is this Saturday, May 6. The dumpster to bring what you collect is at the Highway Garage on Creamery Rd.

Shari shared that there is going to be an event at the Town House this Friday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. The event was put together by Monica Morrissey “Messages from Heaven” a psychic medium. Tickets are \$35 at the door. For more information, you can visit the Town House website: www.hardwicktownhouse.org

Shari reported that she, Tracy, and Elizabeth are going to be attending a Historic Preservation Retreat focusing on outdoor recreation projects. She also mentioned that she and Tracy will be attending the Downtown meet up in Barre.

Elizabeth reported that on May 15 at the Town House, the Hardwick Historical Society (HHS) will have their annual meeting, which includes a free presentation of the history of bicycling in VT from 1880-1920. There will be a reception at the Depot after, sponsored by HHS.

Ceilidh reminded us that on Wednesday, May 17, the Hardwick Conservation Commission will have a kickoff for the Natural Resource Inventory here at the Memorial building at 6:30 p.m.

New Business: Property taxes are due on May 10. The Town Clerk’s office will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on May 10 to accept payments.

Old Business: Eric asked about the park design and where that is at. He asked if conserving parking has been considered as part of the plan. Shari said there is going to be a public presentation soon. SE Group is getting us a cost estimate on the actual project. The VOREC grant is what is paying for the design/engineering and marketing of the park. It does not cover any of the construction costs for the park.

There was a discussion about the bridge timeline and if it will be able to happen this year. It is going to take 6 months to build. Given the boring and environmental work that is still needed, it is not likely that the bridge will be installed this year.

6:53 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