

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023  
MEMORIAL BUILDING  
20 CHURCH ST. 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager  
Alberta Miller, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer - *Zoom*  
Bridget Hoppe  
Zachary Hoppe

**Others Present**

**Regular Meeting**

**6:00 P.M.** – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

**6:01 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – Remove Item #2 and shift the others up in order accordingly.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted unanimously to accept the agenda as amended.*

**6:01 P.M.** – Communication from the audience – *none*

**6:01 P.M.** – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of May 18, 2023

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of May 18, 2023, as written.*

**6:02 P.M. – 6:14 P.M.** Town Manager Report- Given by David Upson Jr.

David updated the group on several items including the crosswalks near the library, beautification efforts around the Town House and Depot for the LVRT, the sludge cleanout at the Wastewater Plant, and a new parking area on Creamery Rd. David also shared that the new market tax credit closing for the Yellow Barn project closed successfully today. See attachments for the detailed report.

David also provided an update for the bridge and park projects. The bridge has \$883,512 available between grants and the Town’s fund balance commitment of \$100,000. We have spent \$26,209 of Town money. With the cost estimate from SE Group, we are about \$250,000 short of funding. David noted that SE Group built a good size contingency into the project and the estimate was a while ago when materials were at an all-time high, so we may not be as short as it appears. We continue to look for funding sources to close the estimated gap. At this point, it looks like we will be able to put it out to bid in late summer and construction can start Spring 2024.

The park project design and engineering has been funded by the VOREC grant. We have spent \$33,000 of the \$50,000 available from that grant. We will need additional funds for environmental work and the actual construction.

**6:14 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.** Road Foreman Report – Given by Casey Rowell

The new excavator arrived last week. The crew worked on beautifying the area near the Depot and Town House along the LVRT, as well as the parking area that David mentioned in his report. They have started painting sidewalks and are continuing to haul winter sand.

Tom attended a training for the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) program and learned about some new tools that will streamline the process of updating road segments in the State's reporting system. The MRGP is connected to the Grant-in-Aid program we participate in annually that gives us funds to update road segments that are not in compliance with the program. See attachments for detailed report.

**6:15 P.M. – 6:16 P.M.** Item #1 Select Board to consider approving a tobacco license renewal – *Action needed*

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the tobacco license renewal for Dragon's Nest Gift Shop.*

**6:16 P.M. – 6:25 P.M.** Item #2 Select Board to consider approving a cannabis cultivation license for Roots To Vitality Cannabis, LLC – *Action needed*

The Hoppe's were present to introduce themselves and let the Board know about their operation. They currently do some hemp growing and plan to expand into cannabis.

*Upon motion by Elizabeth Dow, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the cannabis cultivation license for Roots to Vitality Cannabis, LLC.*

It should be noted that their town zoning permit is subject to the appropriate power from Hardwick Electric before outdoor growing can commence.

**6:25 P.M. – 6:27 P.M.** Item #3 Select Board to consider approving a water and sewer connection application for property located at 95 Putnam Avenue – *Action needed*

*Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the water and sewer connection applications for property located at 95 Putnam Avenue.*

**6:27 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.** Item #4 Select Board to review the FY24 Water & Sewer Expense budgets and consider approving – *Action needed*

The Business Manager presented the proposed expense budgets for the water and sewer funds for fiscal year 2024 [July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024] See attachments for the complete details. There were two options presented for a capital plan for the sewer fund, one which just adds funds to the current allocations (1) and the other shifts money from categories that are being updated in the current project into sludge disposal for the future (2).

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Elizabeth Dow, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the water and sewer budgets as proposed, with Option 2 for the sewer capital plan.*

**Select Board Reports:**

Elizabeth reported that the Historical Society is officially open for the season. There was discussion about the parking area and space that was worked on in that area. It looks great.

Shari reported that NEKarts is about \$61,000 short on their campaign for the egress and accessibility improvements to the Town House. They are still accepting donations and hope to be able to close the gap with a VCDP Accessibility Modification grant. She also mentioned that the Chamber Players are coming next month.

Ceilidh shared that the Equity Committee is partnering with the Hardwick Health Center on a “Listen & Share” series about the challenges of health care in our community. The event is being held on Sunday, June 4 at the Hardwick Health Center from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Shari reminded everyone to look at the park design and information that is posted in the display case on Main Street near the Clip Joint. The park concepts are on display until Monday, June 5.

You can email feedback to: [hardwickdowntownpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:hardwickdowntownpartnership@gmail.com) or stop in at the Memorial Building to write a note and drop it in the big box placed inside the lower-level entrance.

**New Business:** *none*

**Old Business:** *none*

**6:50 P.M.** Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

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