

**MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2023  
AMERICAN LEGION POST #7  
51 NORTH MAIN ST. AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

David Upson Jr., Town Manager  
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator  
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk  
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman  
Kristen Leahy, Zoning Administrator  
Tracy Martin, Community Development Coordinator  
Diane Grenkow- Library Director  
Bill Chidsey- Energy Coordinator

**Others Present**

Please see attached list!!

**Regular Meeting**

**6:05 P.M.** – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**6:06 P.M.** – On July 10, 2023, there was a rain event that came through Vermont, and drastically tore through the Hardwick Community, along with other Vermont Communities. David Upson reported that it was very important that the Hardwick community meet to talk about the flooding and what could be done to help the residents out with clean up and restoration.

David reported that early Monday morning, July 10, the Town opened an Emergency Shelter. As the day and night progressed on, the Town assisted in water rescues, and provided support where help was needed. There were 17 river crossings (bridges, roads, culverts) that were damaged or destroyed. The Town crew has done a significant job managing those roads and have all but 3 of them fixed. The three that have not been fixed yet are Fisher's Folly bridge, Hardwick Farms Road, and Carey Road. A cost estimate to fix the fourteen roads in about four to five days is around \$91,500 not including any of the crew's time or Town equipment. Please note that FEMA should reimburse us.

During the flood, the Town itself received significant damage to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fire Station, and received damage to two lift stations, the Memorial Building, a Police Cruiser, and the truck that belonged at the Wastewater Treatment facility. The damage that has been assessed so far is estimating that the Fire Station will cost \$85,000 or more to fix, the Memorial Building could cost as low as \$7,500, and the Police Cruiser will cost close to \$11,000. The Town will have a better idea of cost once invoices come in. After a week, the lift stations were able to be worked on, and are back up and running. Please be mindful what you are flushing down the toilet as our Wastewater Treatment Plant still isn't running properly, and it will take time. There was a permit from the state to discharge wastewater; however, the Town is trying to prevent that, and trying to maintain the flow properly. In addition, David reported that the Portersville Generating Station was also destroyed. This provided 15-17% of power to Hardwick. Hardwick Electric is working on this project.

Throughout the last week, David, Eric, and other staff members have met with the Army Corp. of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Governor Scott, FEMA, and the Small Business Loan group (SBA). Currently there is discussion whether the Wastewater Treatment Plant can be fixed and what the future may look like for that. To fix it, it would be close to a million dollars; including the repair of the truck. This will take some time, but again, the Town won't know the overall cost until there's a decision made and until invoices start coming to the Business Manager.

David thanked the Road Crew, Police Department, the Fire Department, The Civic Standard, and the Neighbor to Neighbor group for helping assist the Town with rescues, getting supplies out to residents, staffing and organizing the meal effort at the Emergency shelter, staffing the Senior Citizen building, and helping with taking in and organizing donations needed for residents. If you need any fans, dehumidifiers, cleaning supplies, household items, or other items please visit the Senior Citizen building. They are open from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. If you have used a bigger item such as fans, dehumidifier, or a shop vacuum and are finished, the Town would like to ask that you either bring it back the Senior Citizen Building or pass it to another neighbor. We need to be able to help each other out! Thank you!

David also wanted to give a special thanks to Senator Kesha Ram for spear heading outside collections and transporting items to Hardwick. There was a significant donation made to Hardwick that came from a hardware store from Jericho.

There were five staff members, and one volunteer who did 50 damage assessments throughout Town. If you have received any damage to your property, land or house, and did not talk to anyone from the Town, please let the Town know, but also call 211. As of July 15, 2023, only 6 residents out of Caledonia County had reported damage, and this was why Caledonia County was not declared as a county that received major damage. FEMA is especially looking for residents that had damage to their first floor, but collecting all the data and what residents will need help.

Currently, David is in conversation with the State on what financial assistance residents can get. Please look for more information as it comes available on the Town's website: [www.hardwickvt.gov](http://www.hardwickvt.gov).

Lastly, David reported that there are dumpsters at the KC Hall, and on Atkins Field for the public to use. Please do not fill over the top of the dumpster as it's hard for the company to pick up and transport.

At this point, the Select Board opened the floor to questions and concerns from the public.

Bill Chidsey reported that if anyone needs assistance or has questions about new heating assistance to please contact the Energy Committee at [energy.coordinator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:energy.coordinator@hardwickvt.gov). This committee can do a lot to help.

Freda Hollyer and Sharon Fradette asked about 211. Residents are encouraged to report any damage, and the Town can help with this. Sharon stated that 211 is hard to get through to, but there is also an online application.

Nancy Nottermann reported that she has been in contact with the SSA Farm Service Agency. Any farmer that has had washouts, or property damage please contact them, and they'll work with you. David reported that the Town gave the Laggis Farm permission to build a bridge on Hardwick Farms Road (on the Center Road Side of Hardwick Farms Road) in order to access their property and crop. Even though it's safe, the Town is encouraging others not to use this bridge.

Paul Fixx, David Gross, Bill Chidsey, and Meredith Holch talked about the river channels and the brooks leading into the Lamoille River. Paul, and Sharon Fradette both asked where to get assistance if there was land that was lost or damaged. David Upson mentioned that there is a GEO survey of the Lamoille River happening. Bill Chidsey has contact for further assistance. Dave Gross mentioned that there will be updated maps in the future to include the brooks. VSECU is giving out loans for up to \$3,000 0% interest. Please check this information out on the Town's website.

A resident asked about the storage units, and what they should do. David said photo document everything that was damaged.

Annie Houston from OSSU stated that there are also grants to help residents with damages. If you did not provide your name to Annie at the meeting, please contact her at [anniehouston@ossu.org](mailto:anniehouston@ossu.org) and she will provide more information about these programs. Not one business, or resident should feel overwhelmed by paperwork, so please reach out.

Andrea Phelps asked about assistance if the house and property sustained more than \$40,000 in damage. The Town is looking into programs for significant amounts like this.

Keira Gann stated that electric bills and water bills will be impacted by this as well, and asked if there was going to be any assistance with the bills. The Town can't speak on Hardwick Electric's behalf but encouraged homeowners to contact the Hardwick Electric Commissioners. As far as water bills are concerned, the Town will go through the bills and assess if the water meter reading was significantly impacted and will work with residents. Keira also mentioned that residents might not be able to get estimates on the damages until later. David mentioned that it's still worth letting the Town know so they can record the information.

Mike Demers asked if the Town would provide support to help fix a road off Mackville Road. David said yes that the Town would meet with him and help.

Bill Chidsey asked about where items can be picked up if found along the river banks. The Town staff will work on this.

Bob Edebohls, who owns the Jeudevine Falls on Craftsbury Road, said that his house and property sustained a significant amount of damage, and he doesn't know if there will be any way to continue to live there. He asked about taxes and how this may affect future taxes. David mentioned that Town is required to do a grand list assessment and the changes will be taken into consideration.

Ellora Stone said that in East Hardwick, Barton, and Glover, they are really suffering and there's not a lot of help. She requested that if there are supplies that can be donated to those areas, please help neighboring residents out.

Rose Friedmann spoke on The Civic Standard and mentioned that they are in the old Gazette building and have taken in donations and will help financially as much as possible with residents so they can continue to move forward. If there's anyone willing to volunteer or contractors willing to look at houses, please contact the Neighbor-to-Neighbor group. You can call 802-472-5948.

Lastly, there will be a Farmer's Market on Friday July 21, 2023, at Hazen Union Drive, and there will be a tent with information about the flood.

Eric thanked the Town Manager, and all the staff for all of the efforts that have been made since this rain event. Thank you also to the residents. Without everyone, Hardwick wouldn't be as strong as it is.

**6:51 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

**Other Present:**

- Karen & Steve Collier
- Denis Chase
- Andrea Phelps
- Nichole Clark
- Lisa Maskell
- Rene Fradette and Sharon Fradette
- Gail & David O'Brien
- Tim Ricciardello
- Bob Edebohls
- James & Donna Casavant
- Shawn Ainsworth
- Ann Gilcris
- Helen Neveu
- Diane Demers
- Kim Hartling-Welles
- Patti, Ken & Chris Williams
- Linda Bellavance
- Jennifer Bellavance
- Helen Willey
- Emily Willems
- Ross Connelly
- David Gross
- Chip Troiano
- Michael Demers
- Rylan Sirianni
- Clarence Tanager
- Jennifer & Larry Fliegelman
- Katrina Razonale
- Sarah Remick
- Karen Klotz
- Sally Anstey
- Rob Alcusky
- Kole & Amanda
- Amanda & Randy Welch
- Rachel Kane
- Keira & Adam Gann
- Nancy & Helm Nottermann
- Brenda Beaupre
- Ericka Sisk
- Cody Sisk
- Kathleen Hemmens

**Other Present:**

Ellora Stone  
Todd, Lisa & Mark Manchester  
Charlie Chand  
Nancy Kellogg  
Emily Hershberger  
Mallory Greaves  
Adam Beckley  
Kim Beckley  
Eloise Girard  
Jolene Shepard  
Dolida Kennison  
Annie Houston  
Norma Spaulding  
Milo & Katie Tandy  
William Douglas  
Steve & Jennifer Deyo  
Carlotta Hayes  
Katherine & Chris Ingram  
Percy Hollyer  
Sarah Morgan  
Lauren Honican  
Myles Kamisher-Koch  
Nancy Shepard  
Reg Phelps  
Amelia Blume  
Christine Gifford  
Hillary Seel  
Kristen Fountain  
Lynne Gedanken  
Samantha Devenger  
Tom Lowenthal  
William Bird  
Leslie Michaud  
Lynette Fountain  
Rose Friedman  
Justin Lander  
Tara Reese  
Paul Fixx  
Andrea Brightenback  
Harold McCoy