

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING  
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025  
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING  
20 CHURCH ST. 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

Eric Remick, Chair  
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane  
Shari Cornish - *absent*  
Tim Ricciardello  
Danny Hale

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator  
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Diane Grenkow, Library Director  
Mike Henry, Police Chief

**Others Present**

Lynne Gedanken (HED)

**Regular Meeting**

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

**6:00 P.M.** – Set/Adjust Agenda – None

**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 January 2, 2025

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of January 2, 2025, as written. Danny abstained.*

**6:01 P.M. – 6:16 P.M.** Town Manager Report – Given by David Upson

David reported that the Zoning office and the Community Development Coordinator office have both upgraded their websites with the help of our website coordinator.

The Town will soon have a texting program! It's called Text My Gov. David and Amanda are currently going through training, and the next step will be using our email emergency notification list and sending out a notice. Within the notice, it will state that if you do not want to be a part of the texting program, to please reach out to the Town Manager's office. We will soon release a press release with more information on how to use it. You can always opt out of the program.

David sent out a request for proposal for the bridge on Main Street going towards Greensboro Bend. The due date will be next month, and it will determine if the Town can actually fix this bridge.

Kiwanis is launching their humanitarian award campaign. If the Select Board has anyone that they would like to nominate please contact Sherry Lussier.

Town meeting is in March, and the Town has always scheduled a public hearing 10 days before Town meeting; an informative meeting to answers any questions about the budget. The Select Board agreed to have this information meeting on February 20 at 5:30 P.M.

David is requesting a special joint meeting between HED and the Select Board for updates. Within this meeting, David would also like to have a few items for the Hardwick Select Board to discuss. The Select Board discussed January 27, 28, or the 29. He will ask HED's availability.

East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) is requesting the Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to sign a letter of commitment for their grant. This was previously discussed at the January 6, 2025, meeting and authorized David to sign the letter.

The Town is working with the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) on the motel property and the Brush Street property for bank stabilization. The Town has already bought the motel property, but the Brush Street property has not been bought out yet. The Town will need to have a specific plan on the funds for the stabilization when the time comes.

Eric asked if the Town has lists of flood projects, and David mentioned that the Flood Administrator has numerous lists, and lists are also available on the Town's website.

Ceilidh asked if the Town has ideas on how to spend the \$75,000 that the Town received. David mentioned that the Highway Department needs a trailer to haul the excavator.

- The Select Board did the Hardwick Police Report first and then did the Road Foreman Report

**6:17 P.M. – 6:17 P.M.** Road Foreman Report – Given by David Upson

David reported that the Highway Department has been busy plowing, sanding, and salting, and all their equipment is currently running.

**6:16 P.M. – 6:17 P.M.** Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported that the Hardwick Police Department has moved a speed sign on the Rail Trail. Mike has grant funding to purchase another sign.

Mike is dealing with current staff changes as one employee is out on short-term medical leave.

Hardwick Police Department has openings. If interested, please contact Mike.

**6:18 P.M. – 6:22 P.M.** Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Report – Given by Lynne Gedanken

Lynne reported that HED has hired a new General Manager. Sarah started January 6 and continues to meet with staff and stakeholders.

The renovation at the main office is progressing. This will make it more accessible and a better use of space.

Lynne reported on the Wolcott Hydro and stated that to move forward with renovations, they need approval from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Lynne also discussed that they are talking about a potential rate increase for 2025. They need to develop their budget and see 2024-year end reports before deciding.

David asked Lynne about the availability to meet with the Select Board either January 27, 28, or the 29. Lynne asked for an email from David about what the meeting would be about. Lynne will ask the commissioners about their availability.

**6:22 P.M. – 6:25 P.M.** Item #1 – Select Board to consider approving the 2025 Town meeting warning - *Action needed*

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the 2025 Town meeting warning as presented.*

**6:25 P.M. – 6:31 P.M.** Item #2 – Select Board to consider approving of an engineer for the School Street slope stabilization project - *Action needed*

The Town received three proposals and each of them were different not only in price, but the scope of work. Half of the project is mitigation and drainage from the corn field across Route 16. To drain this, they will need to place the drainage under Route 16.

Mumley Engineering's cost was \$52,500.

New England Consulting Engineers' cost was \$11, 800.

VHB's cost was \$ 99,940.

The Town has money already obligated, which is over \$100,000.

*Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to execute a contract with Mumley Engineering for \$52,500 for the School Street slope stabilization engineering project and authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract.*

**6:31 P.M. – 6:36 P.M.** Item #3 -- Diane Grenkow, Jeudevine Library Director, to give a report on happenings at the library

Diane stated that her goal is to do a Library report every quarter. She asked if the board would appreciate a written report, and they said yes.

Diane reported that they finally broke through the wall, which means that the old building and the new building are now conjoined.

The completion date is still scheduled for March 2025.

Ceilidh asked if they repurposed any of the stone, and Diane said no.

**6:36 P.M. –7:39 P.M.** Item #4 – Select Board to consider approving the 2025 Mileage Certificate for Highway State Aid- *Action needed*

The Select Board asked where the reclassification occurred. David reported that Bayley Hazen Road, TH-14, was realigned, Elm Street extension, TH-367, was not up to standard, and Town Farm Road, TH-64 was also not up to standard.

*Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the 2025 Mileage Certificate for Highway State Aid, as presented.*

**6:39 P.M. –6:56 P.M.** Item #5 – Select Board to discuss Wastewater and Water application fees

David reported that currently the Town charges \$1,500 for new Wastewater and Water applications. There's interest for infill development. He wants to work with homeowners to achieve success.

Danny mentioned that his concern is that this is only affecting the water users, and not the whole Town. The Select Board talked about waiving the fee, making the rate less than \$1,500 so that it's not as intense, making a tier program. A tier program would include a single dwelling would charge the entire fee, and two and above dwellings connecting to the same system would get a discount. They also talked about a ramped-up schedule, which would mean giving the homeowner a break the first year and then charging them after that.

**Select Board Reports:**

- Ceilidh reported on the Hardwick Equity project. This will bring together organizations that receive appropriations and the committees that received ARPA funds and assess how the Town can improve equity within the Town and its committees and staff. This project will be in February.
- Eric reported that skiing on the Rail Trail is great.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:**

- Danny asked about the Municipal Complex that the Town is proposing on Creamery Road. David mentioned that there's a Plan A, and Plan B that they are working on this project. There are concerns and further questions and David doesn't know if the Town can fit the Highway Garage, Rescue building, and the Fire Station all on the same plot. Eric asked David to send the plans to the entire board. Ceilidh asked about the space between the Town House and the Depot and Eric reported that the space is scheduled to be a Trailhead. VTrans has some rights on the property which affect the amount of space that is available. There's currently no plan to look at another piece of real estate.
- Mike Henry reported that Jim Dziobek passed away on December 13, 2024. He was a former Police Chief. The Town of Hardwick sends his family our condolences.

**7:05 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