

**MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING  
PRE-TOWN MEETING INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
MEMORIAL BUILDING  
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

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

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator  
Kristen Leahy, Floodplain Administrator  
Perley Allen, Fire Chief  
Mike Henry, Police Chief

**Others Present**

Orise Ainsworth

**Special Meeting**

**5:30 P.M.** Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the Informational Meeting to order.

**5:31 P.M.** Set/adjust agenda - none

**5:32 P.M. Item #1** Select Board to summarize the FY26 Town Budget and highlight any significant events and projects happening in Hardwick

Eric summarized the FY26 budget. The total budget being presented to voters for consideration is \$4,417,752.00 for an increase of 9.95%, shown on page 11 of the Town report.

Orise stated that she has noticed that there are properties that have been removed from the grand list due to flooding. She's asking the Select Board to crunch the value of the impacted properties and explain how that will affect the grand list value. Orise stated that she has heard that two properties will be bought out by Fish and Game. David confirmed this, and also confirmed that Fish and Game will have restrictions on what they will be able to do with those properties.

Ceilidh pointed out that on page nine the \$331,000,000 is an estimated grand list amount before taking away those property that have been bought.

Eric explained that on page nine of the Town report, the Town has estimated a larger Grand List due to the Town wide reappraisal. Also, on page nine it showed there being a decrease in the property tax rate. Please note that the value will go up, but that tax rate will go down; therefore, if taxes increase, it shouldn't be a significant increase.

Eric went over some of the areas that have significant increases, including health increases and salaries. The Town is also proposing two new positions- a new Police Officer position, and a new Director of Public Works position. Mike Henry explained that this position is not an addition. This position was taken away from the department, and Mike is trying to get it back to fill all of the shifts appropriately. Orise commended the Police Department and stated they are top notch.

Eric explained more about the Director of Public Works position. This position will be overseeing the many projects that the Town has and will collaborate with current staff to not only get the funding lined up for the project, but to make sure that the projects are completed correctly.

*\*Shari Cornish joined the meeting\**

Ceilidh noted that the Select Board worked hard on the capital equipment purchase schedule. Eric stated that the Select Board is trying to put Hardwick in a good financial position going forward. When it was mentioned about keeping equipment, Perley stated that good equipment will help keep employees. The Select Board appreciates hearing from Perley, but the board is trying to figure out the best way to be efficient. David mentioned that the Director of Public Works will work on capital planning for equipment and buildings on top of working on projects.

**6:04 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