

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, August 21, 2025
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3rd FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

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

Others Present

David Upson Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Sarah Braese - HED
Tracy Martin, Comm. Dev. Coordinator (*CDC*)

Others Present

Sally Anstey
Maya McCoy
Brent McCoy
Bruce Larrow

Regular Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Eric stated that the Select Board needs to add an executive session pursuant to 1 VSA 313 to discuss a legal matter and to include the Town Manager.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the adjusted agenda as stated.

6:00 P.M. Communication from the audience – None

6:01 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of August 7, 2025, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of August 11, 2025

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2025, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of August 11, 2025.

6:02 P.M. – 6:14 P.M. Hardwick Town Manager's Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

David reported that the Town has responded to the State of Vermont's sanitary survey for Hideaway Acres. David is collaborating with staff to work on concerns and to make improvements. The improvements include testing and gathering data more frequently and fixing the roof. Fixing the roof will call for a building permit which will be created soon.

David mentioned that there's been ongoing FEMA discussions on the Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Lift Stations, and the Fire Station.

There was a pre-construction meeting for the final Environmental Watershed Protection (EWP) 2023 project, which is the River House project in East Hardwick. The project will be starting next week. Furthermore, the

design work for the 2024 EWP projects will begin next week as well.

David has been in communication with VTRANS on grant in-aid work on Tucker Brook Road and Bridgman Hill Road.

There's been engineering work for the four bridges, including Bridge 31. There will be structural design, bid processing, and then potential public engagement to determine the best approach to move forward.

Mumley Engineering has been working on Hardwick Farms Road and plans to complete work in 2026.

David mentioned that there's been an increase in health officer complaints, which he's been following up on.

The tax bills have gone out and this week both the Town Clerk's office and Town Manager's office have been assisting residents as there have been a lot of questions.

David has been continuing to work with SE Group and CCS on the Pedestrian Bridge. The timeline is unrealistic and needs to be pushed out. The Town needs to talk to funders to adequately move forward. One of the concerns that the contractor has is the timeline to work in the river, so a request to the State will be needed.

Lastly, the Town needs to schedule a joint meeting with HED either on September 23rd or 25th. The Select Board agreed that 5:30 P.M. will work best for them and will communicate with the Commissioners on which date works best.

6:14 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that it's been too dry to grade, but they have also run out of chloride. They have graded Montgomery Road, Hardwick Farms, and some of Bridgman Hill Road.

They've been working on grant in-aid work on Wapanaki Road and Tucker Brook Road which should be completed next week. After the grant work is completed, they will move to hazard mitigation work on Tucker Brook. Next year, the grant in aid work will be on Bridgman Hill Road.

The week of September 8th, they will be crushing.

They will continue to install meter pits and will be working on the reservoir issues.

6:19 P.M. – 6:19 P.M. Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

David mentioned that the Hardwick Police Department is currently involved in two serious investigations. In one case, they are assisting the Vermont State Police, and a recent arrest has been made. Today, their efforts have been focused on the second case.

The department is trying to sell the 2019 Ford Fusion. If interested, please call the Town Manager's office: 802-472-6120.

6:20 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Report – Given by Sarah Braese

Sarah reported that there's been steady progress being made with the DCU's and the initial training on the new system will be next week.

Field data collection is about 80% complete. The new database is proving to be valuable.

Efforts are being made to prepare the team for upcoming larger projects, and work is continuing to define roles and responsibilities as part of a broader process improvement effort. Efforts include holding more frequent staff meetings.

An Architecture & Engineering (A&E) study is ongoing in coordination with FEMA. A meeting is scheduled for next week to identify key components and begin developing options and construction cost estimates for the Wolcott Hydro Plant.

Lastly, the staff continues to work through an audit.

David asked about the field collection as there have been concerns reported to the Hardwick Police Department. Sarah mentioned that the team will notify HED on what roads they plan to visit that particular day, so if anyone has questions, they can contact the office. Furthermore, the field collection staff will have a Hardwick Electric decal on the side of the vehicle and will be wearing a Hardwick Electric hat.

David also asked if the Wolcott Hydro Plant will generate the same capacity or will it increase. Sarah stated that they are looking at a replacement situation and the chances of being more efficient will be higher.

6:24 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Item #1 – Select Board to consider reappointing Lucy Zendzian to the Hardwick Conservation Commission for 3-yr remaining on a 4-yr term, expiring 6/30/2028. – *Action Needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to appoint Lucy Zendzian to the Hardwick Conservation Commission for 3-years remaining on a 4-year term, expiring 6/30/2028.

6:25 P.M. – 6:34 P.M. Item #2 – Select Board to consider two grant proposals for the CBDG-DR grant for the Downtown Hardwick Flood Mitigation Scoping Study and for the Confluence Floodplain Restoration Project and sign the resolutions- *Action needed*

Tracy stated that in previous Select Board meetings they have discussed the two different grants, but they now need the actual resolution to be signed and approved. This process is also compressed because of the grant application timeline.

Danny left at 6:28

Tracy mentioned that one grant is for the scoping study of the Lamoille River which will look at the riverbanks and identify different options to stabilize and mitigate the future for the downtown. The other grant is flood

plain restoration which is looking at the Cooper Brook area and identifying how to create more capacity. This will benefit the Wolcott Street and Granite Street area.

There will need to be a public hearing on September 18th at 5:30 P.M.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the two grant applications, and to sign the resolutions.

6:34 P.M. – 6:50 P.M. Item #3 – Select Board to discuss next step for the Hardwick Essential Services Development Project with possible action of design development proposal from Vermont Integrated Architecture – *Possible Action needed*

David provided an update on the ongoing Highway and Fire Station capital project on Creamery Road. Currently, the project has \$136,500 in capital funding allocated, leaving an estimated shortfall of approximately \$105,000 to initiate the next phase. Funding support from FEMA, from the Fire Station, is expected to help close this gap. However, David noted that the Hardwick Rescue Squad (HRS) has not committed to their plans moving forward. If they wish to collaborate, then their contribution may help even more, but that remains uncertain.

It was clarified that while the town budgets for capital projects, ongoing maintenance for town buildings falls under a separate budget line.

In terms of facility planning, the proposed site is expected to accommodate all three departments—Highway, Fire, and Rescue. Tom commented that during daytime hours, fire department staffing is often limited, and highway personnel typically respond to calls, making the shared use of space logical and efficient. However, he also noted that while there is room for sand storage, there will not be extra space for stockpiling all necessary materials. Inventory rotation and maintaining open access to the gravel pit will be required for material management.

Tim inquired about the future of the old fire station, to which David responded that it is being considered for flood restoration purposes and additional capacity.

The total estimated cost of the Creamery Road project is \$14.9 million, and Eric explained that the project's momentum is critical, as the intent is to present a finalized plan at Town Meeting. Public outreach efforts will be necessary in advance to build community support and prepare for a potential bond vote. Delays could result in significant consequences, including increased costs and the possibility of waiting an additional year or holding a special town meeting. Eric also stressed the importance of public engagement, noting that community members may have valuable input or alternative ideas to consider. A final decision on the project is anticipated in late September or early October to move forward to the next phase.

6:50 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item #4 – Select Board to adopt resolution to throw up the section of road located at 283 South Main Street and to set a Public Hearing date

Eric read the official resolution outlining the details of the discontinuation. See attachments.

A public hearing has been scheduled for October 16 to address the proposed discontinuation of a road segment located at 283 North Main Street.

A point of clarification was raised by Tracy, who inquired whether the location in question was on South or North Main Street. Eric confirmed that the segment pertains specifically to North Main Street.

Shari expressed concern regarding the timing of the hearing, particularly how the public meeting and site visit would be coordinated. In response, it was suggested that the hearing logistics could be structured to include a 15-minute site visit followed by a 15-minute public meeting, or that both portions could be held on-site if more convenient.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to adopt the resolution to throw up the section of road located at 283 North Main Street and agreed to have the public hearing on October 16 at 5:30 P.M.

6:54 P.M. – 7:02 P.M. Item #5 – Select Board to discuss the Town House egress project and to consider using \$22,000 of Town capital funds to help complete the project- *Action needed*

Shari clarified that the agenda item in question pertains specifically to the egress and accessibility project for the Town House. David provided an overview of the project's current status and financial outlook. While initial funding was in place, a number of unexpected costs have emerged, including the need to address a water line, an extended roof, changes in building materials, and an overall increase in structural costs due to a previous fire at the site. Eric inquired about the remaining available funds, and David reported that \$2,000 remains.

The building, which is town-owned, is regularly used for public events, and this project aims to ensure full accessibility, including improved access to the balcony area. The proposed upgrades address long-standing concerns regarding ADA compliance and safety.

Shari noted that NEKArts has already raised approximately \$230,000, with \$178,000 allocated specifically to construction. Eric asked whether this additional funding would allow the project to be completed in full. Shari responded that she was not entirely sure but believed the project was getting close to being fully funded.

Both Ceilidh Galloway Kane and Tim Ricciardello voiced their support for the project and stated their desire to see the next Town Meeting held in the Town House, emphasizing its importance as a community gathering space.

Brent McCoy spoke in favor of the project, noting that he recently sold his house in Greensboro and that the Town House is a cultural treasure, valuable for both artists and family-oriented events. Sally Anstey expressed her enthusiasm to see David perform again, to which Shari responded that the next "performance" would be the Town Meeting.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve using \$22,000 of Town capital funds to help complete the current project at the Town House. The motion passed with Shari abstaining from the vote.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business:

- Ceilidh stated that in the past the Select Board would like to explore ways to make it where more residents can attend Town Meeting. She would like to start discussing this in future meetings.

Old Business: None

7:04 P.M. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313 for a loan contract discussion to include the Town Manager and Business Manager.

7:20 P.M. Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to exit Executive Session. No action taken.

7:20 P.M. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313 for a personnel matter to include the Town Manager.

7:28 P.M. Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to exit Executive Session. No action taken.

7:28 P.M. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313 for a legal matter to include the Town Manager.

7:33 P.M. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, the Select Board voted to exit Executive Session. No action taken.

7: 33 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