

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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

Others Present

David Upson Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Mike Henry, Police Chief
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Sarah Braese, HED

Others Present

Bruce Larrow
Matt Krajieski, Assessor

**On Friday, October 17, the Town Manager's Office was notified by the local cable station (HCTV) that a technical issue had occurred, and the meeting was not successfully recorded."*

Regular Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Add Item #3 Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a Small Systems Capacity and Resiliency Program Tier 2 grant through the Vermont Bond Bank in order to replace the tank at the Hideaway Acres reservoir - *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted unanimously to adjust the agenda as stated.

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 October 2, 2025

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of October 2, 2025, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:07 P.M. Town Manager's Report – Given by David Upson

David extended thanks to the staff for their hard work during the annual Town Audit.

The recent sanitary survey flagged the wooden roof at the Hideaway Reservoir as an issue. As a short-term fix, a plastic geomembrane will be used as a temporary barrier. A longer-term solution is already in the works—grant funding tied to item #3 will cover permanent repairs, and Aldrich & Elliot (A&E) will provide the Town the help needed in this project. The roof will sit slightly above grade level. No changes are planned for the booster station.

David had two public announcements:

1. The Mill Street study presentation is scheduled for November 5, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. on the 3rd floor of the Memorial Building. There is also a hybrid option available. VHB Consultants will be presenting three sets of concepts to improve our issues in the Mill Street/Main Street corridors. Please see the attached flyer.
2. Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor will be meeting on November 5, 2025, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Jeudevine Memorial Library, Parker Ladd Community Room, to review and celebrate the efforts, brainstorm the next best steps, and share volunteer opportunities. Please see the attached flyer.

Progress is being made on the Fire Station project with FEMA. A specific dollar amount has been assigned to the project, and things are moving forward. However, there is still no update on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project.

David reported that the slope stabilization report has been received. He needs time to review the report but would like to have it as an agenda item for the next meeting to decide what the next steps will be.

Lastly, David met with SLR regarding flood modeling and how floods impact the Lamoille River, from Hardwick to the Greensboro town line. A preview of the report shows the potential effects on riverbanks and surrounding areas within the next 5, 10, and 15-year flood events. The report, which includes predicted changes to local topography, will be released to the public soon.

6:07 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that grading has been completed on Porter Brook Road, Montgomery Road, Cobb Road, Ward Road, and Hardwick Farms Road.

He also mentioned that he has been finishing up ditch work on Marsh Road. Additional work has been done on Bunker Hill Road, and West Hill Road. The hazard mitigation work has been completed on Tucker Brook Road.

The highway crew assisted with demolition work on Sawmill Lane.

The crusher has arrived at the gravel pit and will continue producing gravel as long as weather conditions allow. It will also be used to make mud season stone. Tom mentioned he would like to keep the gravel pit driveway plowed and accessible throughout the winter to make it easier to access materials as needed.

Lastly, Tom reported that he has looked into the cost of using Brine. Four yards for salt cost about \$500. For the same four yards Tom can produce about 3,500 gallons of brine, which would cost roughly \$568. For 3,500 gallons of brine, Tom can apply the brine about 7 times throughout the village. With a 50-gallon tank, this would result in 10 fill-ups. Tom stated that it would be about a 30% savings, but Eric stated that it's not really saving that much for the inconveniences of filling up that many times.

Tim asked how much the equipment would be. Tom stated that it would cost about \$34,000 for equipment that fits his truck, and the Toolcat. It would cost an additional \$19,000 to purchase equipment for Mike's truck. Tom requested that the equipment for Mike's truck could be delayed until next year.

David mentioned the benefit of reducing salt tracked indoors, improving quality of life and reducing building maintenance.

Tom mentioned that Johnson and Hyde Park both are using brine, and he would like to get more information from them such as how much Hyde Park would sell brine to other Towns for in order to try it out; however, this raised concerns considering it would involve significant travel time.

Ceilidh raised concerns about the timing since it's already October. Tom stated that there is a two-week delivery period.

Shari asked if brine was hard on stuff like salt was, and Tom clarified that its just salt water.

Bruce Larrow asked if the Town would use it as pretreatment and then put salt down. Tom said no, the goal is to use the brine before the snow falls in order to reduce the amount of salt used on the roads.

Eric asked for this to be placed on the next agenda as an agenda item for more discussion. David will talk to Greensboro in the meantime to see if they would like to use brine as well.

6:29 P.M. – 6:36 P.M. Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported data incidents for the past three years:

	2025	2024	2023
Incidents	2573	2065	1945
Arrests	149	192	222
Criminally Charged	313	292	348

Mike reported that he has mixed messages as far as motor vehicle complaints. Some people feel they are patrolling too much, and some feel they don't patrol enough. Some would like the radar signs, and some would not. He's trying to balance it all.

Mike reported that he's been working with Casey to purchase new equipment such as shields and new handguns. The shield is through a grant and will have a 50/50 match. This is light weight shield but doesn't have a window. The handguns that they have now are 12-13 years old.

Mike also reported that the Children's Advocacy Center in St. Johnsbury is looking for a new director.

Shari asked for an update regarding the contract to get new hires to commit to working for the Town. It's been reviewed by legal counsel and Mike is just finalizing everything.

Mike and David are still working on the radio system. The repeater now has fiber, but it needs a service from the repeater to Hardwick Police Department. NEK Broadband continues to help with this project

6:36 P.M. – 6:39 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Report – Given by Sarah Braese

Sarah reported that she is currently working on the 2026 budget, capital planning, and long-term capital

financing. She noted that she will be bringing information to the board on these topics soon. Financing for the bucket truck is being planned for the end of the year. The staff will review the 2024 audit and will respond as necessary. Engineering and hydro studies are still in progress.

Eric asked for an update on the ongoing rate increase. Sarah stated that it's still on going. The final answer is expected by February of next year, which is close to a year from the original start of the rate increase.

6:39 P.M. – 6:39 P.M. Item #1 – Select Board to review and approve liquor and tobacco licenses for M&M Beverage- *Action needed*

Tonia reported that this is an annual renewal and there's been no issues.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve second class liquor license, a tobacco license and a tobacco substitute endorsement all for NU Beverage, LLC d/b/a M&M Beverage.

6:39 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Item #2 – Assessor Matt Krajeski to present an Error & Omissions request- *Action Needed*

Matt reported that this is a utility account. The final grand list was filed on June 25 and the revision to this account happened on June 26. The value of the property is \$220,000.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the errors and omissions.

6:41 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Item #3 – Select Board to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a Small Systems Capacity and Resiliency Program Tier 2 grant through the Vermont Bond Bank in order to replace the tank at the Hideaway Acres reservoir- *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager apply for a Small Systems Capacity and Resiliency Program Tier 2 grant through the Vermont Bond Bank in order to replace the tank at the Hideaway Acres reservoir.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business:

Shari reported that the Hardwick Downtown Partnership has hired Heidi Krantz as their new director.

Eric stated that there is a FEMA buyout on October 22 at 3 P.M. He is the conveyor of Real Estate for the Town and is unable to go to that meeting. Ceilidh stated that she can be available.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve Ceilidh Galloway- Kane to be the Town's alternative for Conveyor of Real Estate for the Town of Hardwick.

Old Business:

Danny asked about moving the shed that is currently blocking the snowmobile trail along the

Hardwick/Woodbury Rail Trail near Carey Road. The trail had been previously rerouted due to a change in ownership, but it should now be restored to its original path, as outlined in the agreed right of way. David stated that he spoke with Willie, showed him the signed agreement, and informed him that the shed needs to be moved. Currently, the trail is closed due to the obstruction. Eric plans to visit the site before the next meeting to assess the situation, and David stated that he will also follow up with Willie to discuss a specific date for the shed to be moved.

Danny expressed concerns about the trash ordinance. He has noticed abandoned cars in the right of way, and David stated that he has received two complaints this week regarding trash. Danny stated that the Town can't enforce the ordinance, and it shouldn't be the Town Manager's responsibility to handle these complaints or tell what's trash vs treasure. Ceilidh suggested that since the Town has the money for the Public Works Director position, and we haven't hired anyone yet, that the Town should use some of that money to place dumpsters once a month to help eliminate the trash problem. Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District came to a Select Board meeting on September 18, and the Town discussed this ongoing issue, but didn't move forward with revising the ordinance. Danny volunteered to revise the ordinance and bring a draft to the next meeting for discussion.

The Select Board decided not to hold the executive session.

7:09 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