

**MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
PRE-TOWN MEETING INFORMATIONAL MEETING
5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026
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- *Absent*

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk
Mike Henry, Police Chief

Others Present

Larry Fliegelman
Andrew Gilbert
Bruce Larrow
Izaak Whitehouse

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

5:31 P.M. Item #1 Select Board to summarize the FY27 Town Budget and highlight any significant events and projects happening in Hardwick

Eric summarized the FY27 budget, which totals \$4,741,600, a 7.33% increase, as shown on page 11 of the Town Report. The primary driver of the increase is FEMA bridge projects estimated at \$350,000–\$375,000, funded 90% by FEMA, 5% by the State, and 5% by the Town. Approximately \$100,000 has been reserved in the Bridges Capital line. The budget also includes \$150,000 (interest only for the first year) for the anticipated bond payment on the new Hardwick Essential Services building, shown on page 17.

An additional \$50,000 in projected revenue from the local option tax is included on page 11. The Town added \$12,000 to support Springfest to reduce fundraising demands while continuing to support the event. On page 13, the Public Works Director position was removed from Administration & Office expenses. Although applications were received and interviews conducted, the Town chose a different approach and instead allocated funds for consultants under Professional Services.

Andrew Gilbert asked whether a bond obligation template could be added to the Town Report.

Ceilidh asked what happens to the budget if the bond vote does not pass. Eric explained that if the bond does not pass, the overall budget would remain unchanged because voters approve the total amount to be raised. Any unused bond funds would revert to the Fund Balance at year end. The bond vote is anticipated in May.

Shari confirmed the local option tax will be voted from the floor to allow resident questions.

Larry asked whether matching funds for the Buffalo Mountain purchase were included in the budget; they were not. Ceilidh noted that a commitment from the Town is currently needed, with funding to be added to a future budget once grants move forward. David confirmed that if funds are needed this year, they would come from the Fund Balance.

Izaak shared interest in pursuing a skate park and was advised to bring the idea to CAE.

Tonia indicated she needs additional election volunteers and counters, who must be registered Hardwick voters; Ceilidh and Larry offered to assist.

5:55 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: _____
The Select Board Chair