

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3rd FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM**

Select Board

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Chair
Shari Cornish, Vice Chair
Tim Ricciardello
Larry Fliegelman
Derek Richardson

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Mike Henry, Police Chief
Kristen Leahy, Zoning/Floodplain Admin.

Others Present

Amy Rosenthal
Renaud Demers, HED
Jan Mueller
Michael Miller- *Zoom*
David O'Brien

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – None

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

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of August 6, 2026

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of August 6, 2026.

6:00 P.M. – 6:04 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by David Upson

David reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for rebuilding or relocating the Wastewater Treatment Facility was issued today and will remain open for the next month. Approximately \$8.4 million has been obligated for the project. FEMA will ultimately obligate funding based on the actual project costs.

A heat pump has been installed in the attic of the Public Safety Building through the MERP grant. The project is expected to be completed by October.

The Town House fuel tank is currently out of compliance with new regulations. We are working with our plumber to install a second pipe and adjust the legs to 14 inches or less to bring it into compliance.

A small committee started working on the new water and sewer rates. The first meeting happened today, and they will meet next week as well. The rates will be presented to the Select Board soon.

David thanked Perley Allen for going to the library for one hour today to read to the kids. David is scheduled to read to the kids about water treatment and scuba diving at the end of September.

The Pedestrian Bridge will be set in place at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow, August 21, 2026. Residents are encouraged to come watch the installation but should remain outside the construction zone for safety.

6:04 P.M. – 6:06 P.M. Hardwick Police Department Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported that staffing is finally full and running very well.

In the past six months, Mike has been working on updating all of the policies. This work is almost complete, and once finished, the Hardwick Police will be fully compliant.

The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization purchased its own radar sign. The Police Department will assist with installation. There will now be two designated radar signs in East Hardwick. Next fall, two additional signs will be installed throughout the town using grant funding.

Lastly, Mike wanted to give a public service announcement that school starts next week. The Police will provide morning and afternoon school patrols, but please be cautious around the school.

6:06 P.M. – 6:08 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Report – Given by Renaud Demers

Renaud reported that the \$9.2 million 2026 budget was accepted and passed. Next, a purchase and sales agreement has been entered into for Hardwick Electric to purchase property in East Hardwick.

There is still an open seat on the commissioner board.

A full financial report will be presented at the Select Board meeting on September 17.

Ceilidh asked how soon HED will move into the new building. Renaud stated that it would be a while.

Shari wanted to mention that HED has now signed up for Text MyGov for announcements, and she suggested marketing it, so everyone is aware.

6:08 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Hardwick Zoning Office Report – Given by Kristen Leahy

Kristen reported that the Jackson Dam survey remains open through August 28. There have been 79 responses to date.

There will be a Strategic Wood Addition presentation with Jud Kratzer on August 26 at the Jeudevine Memorial Library. This is part of an ongoing effort to take technical watershed topics and make them more accessible and understandable to the community.

A three-part Ripple Effect series will also be held at the Jeudevine Memorial Library on September 9, 16, and 23. Topics will include landslides, wetlands, and sediments.

The Atkins Neighborhood Conversations have concluded for this year, with plans to resume the conversations next summer.

Work also continues on the Stream Wise Property Assessments, which focus on stream health, buffers, erosion, runoff, and practical ways property owners can improve the resilience of their properties.

The two properties on East Church Street in East Hardwick will soon be moving into the abatement and demolition process.

The Hardwick Planning Commission continues to work on the Municipal Plan.

See the full report for additional details.

6:15 P.M. – 6:28 P.M. Item #1 – Select Board to hear from the Equity Committee on their Equity project

Amy Rosenthal reported that the Hardwick Equity Committee was formed following the death of George Floyd. The committee's goal is to build capacity within the community, strengthen connections, and help ensure that everyone feels welcome, valued, and included in Hardwick.

The Town received a \$10,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to support this initiative. The Equity Committee partnered with eight organizations within the Town of Hardwick, helping them evaluate their policies and practices through an equity lens. The organizations used the Appreciative Inquiry model, a four-phase process—Discover, Dream, Design, and Destiny—to identify strengths, develop new ideas and programs, and explore opportunities to better serve the community and strengthen Hardwick.

The project was completed in February, and the Equity Committee has since prepared a final summary report. See the attached report for additional information.

The Equity Committee has created T-shirts featuring a design created by Ceilidh. The shirts will be available for purchase, although the committee has not yet decided how the proceeds will be used.

Amy also explained that some of the members of the Equity Committee are participating on the Town Meeting Task Force, which is working to make Town Meeting more accessible and inclusive for everyone in the community. Ceilidh asked whether the Town Meeting Task Force had reviewed the specific framework outlined in the Equity Committee's summary report. Amy stated that they had not yet reviewed the framework but noted that the work of the task force is going very well. She plans to bring the framework to a future meeting for discussion.

David thanked the Vermont Community Foundation for its support of the project.

The Hardwick Equity Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center, with a Zoom option available. The committee will not meet on Labor Day.

6:28 P.M. – 6:31 P.M. Item #2 – Select Board to review quotes for a new police cruiser and select a vendor to purchase from - *Action needed*

The Hardwick Police Department received three quotes for a new 2026 Police Interceptor:

- Lamoille Valley Ford: 2026 Police Interceptor Hybrid — \$45,526

- Lamoille Valley Ford: 2026 Police Interceptor with 10-speed automatic transmission — \$45,526
- McGovern Municipal HQ, Inc.: 2026 Police Interceptor with automatic transmission — \$45,787.70

Mike explained the differences between the hybrid and standard transmission options. He noted that there can sometimes be a slight delay with automatic transmission vehicles when making a quick turn or acceleration. Lamoille Valley Ford indicated that the hybrid model would not have this delay and may provide better performance.

Mike noted that because this vehicle will be used as the Chief's vehicle, quick acceleration and shifting should not be needed frequently. However, he stated that he would like to try the hybrid model.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to approve the purchase of the 2026 Police Interceptor hybrid for the amount of \$45,526.

6:31 P.M. – 6:35 P.M. Item #3 – Select Board to consider approving a grant proposal to apply for a FY2027 Municipal Planning Grant that will assess Housing Opportunity and Capacity Assessment in Hardwick - *Action needed*

Kristen explained that Hardwick has been assigned future housing targets through the regional planning process. These targets include significant housing requirements, and the FY27 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) would allow the Town to hire a consultant to conduct an assessment and determine how and where the additional housing could realistically be developed.

There is currently one open Municipal Planning Grant, which is expected to be completed well before January 1, 2027. Therefore, the two MPG projects will not overlap.

The anticipated total project cost is \$35,000, based on preliminary estimates. The consultant will work under the direction of the Zoning Office.

See attached document for full details.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to adopt the resolution form to pursue the FY27 Municipal Planning Grant to complete a Housing Opportunity and Capacity Assessment.

6:35 P.M. – 6:39 P.M. Item #4 – Select Board to review proposals received for a Construction Manager/Owner's Representative for the CRDMF Utility Elevation Project, select a contractor, and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract - *Action needed*

The Town of Hardwick issued an RFP in July seeking a construction manager for the Utility Elevation Assistance Program. This is funded through the State of Vermont Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Funds and will assist approximately eleven residential properties relocating utilities about the base flood elevation. The Town received four bids ranging from \$40,000 to \$280,000. Kristen narrowed it down to Coe & Coe and PCI and would suggest awarding this contract to Coe & Coe as they provide the strongest overall fit for this assignment.

See full report for further information.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Coe & Coe Architecture for Owner's Representative/Construction Management services for the Utility Elevation Assistance Program, subject to final contract terms.

6:39 P.M. – 6:44 P.M. Item #5 – Select Board to review bids for the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) slope stabilization projects, select a contractor, and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract - *Action needed*

Kristen explained that the funds are being provided through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to stabilize three banks at three different sites. The Town received six bids for the project ranging from \$182,047.08 to \$228,590.00. All the bids have been reviewed by Verdantas (the engineering firm). This fund is a 75/25 match meaning that the NRCS will cover 75% and the homeowner will cover the 25%.

See attached report for further details.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with K. Bellavance Landworks & Hauling for construction of the three slope stabilization projects funded through the NRCS EWP Program.

6:44 P.M. – 6:50 P.M. Item #6 – Select Board to consider approving a grant proposal to apply for the USDA disaster relief funds for the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) - *Action needed*

This funding opportunity would allow the Town to stack funds to support the WWTF project. The funds are available through the USDA, with funding specifically set aside for Vermont. The program is intended to support three wastewater treatment facilities, although applications remain open to communities throughout the state.

The application process has not yet been fully developed; however, USDA is accepting applications through the program. The Town is looking to apply early and be proactive in securing funding.

The funding would support additional treatment processes, including sludge management and alternative forms of wastewater treatment.

The current required match is 25%. However, the USDA has not yet determined whether match waivers will be available. The USDA will also work with the State Recovery Office and the State Revolving Loan Fund to explore options for meeting the required match, including potential matching funds or a forgivable loan.

Ceilidh asked about the timeline to complete the WWTF and David mentioned 2030 at the earliest.

Ceilidh asked if there's time to determine where the match is coming from, and David stated that there's possibilities, but yes there's time to determine the match.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted 4-0 to approve the grant proposal to apply for the USDA Disaster Assistance Funds for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Ceilidh abstained.

Select Board Reports:

- Shari mentioned that tonight was the last night for the Craftsbury Chamber Players performances at the Town House until next year.
- Shari mentioned there is a wedding that will occur at the Town House next weekend.
- Larry mentioned that the Town Meeting Committee is meeting weekly.
- Ceilidh mentioned that she has been working with Will Marlier on the Caspian Beach Clean Water Project. Will presented to the Select Board a couple of months ago and received their approval to apply for a grant to get the project to 30%. The grant was received pending an organization taking responsibility to get it to final design. Will has been in communication with the Caspian Beach Committee, and they denied the offer to take ownership of the project. Will and Ceilidh have been trying to collaborate with the Conservation Commissions to see if they would like to take on this project. Ceilidh asked if this discussion could be on the next Select Board agenda.

New Business:

- Shari reported that the Hardwick Downtown Partnership has posted a job description to hire a contractor for Springfest. Please visit the Town website for more information. The deadline is September 30.

Old Business:

- David reported that there has been a rough agenda created for the September 25 Select Board retreat. This will be held at the Community Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Derek mentioned that there will be a Jackson Dam Steering Committee meeting on September 10 at 2 p.m.

7:01 P.M. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: _____
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair