

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 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
Casey Rowell, Finance Director
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Diane Grenkow, Library Director
Michael Miller - *Zoom*

Others Present

Regular Meeting

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

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Add an executive session pursuant to 1 VSA § 313 to include the Town Manager for a real estate matter.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda, as stated.

6:00 P.M. Communication from the audience –

6:01 P.M. – 6:02 P.M. Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of July 16, 2026, and the minutes of the Special Select Board Meeting of July 23, 2026

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of July 16, 2026, and the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of July 23, 2026.

6:02 P.M. – 6:12 P.M. Town Manager Report – Given by David Upson

David reported that the Town is addressing a property line issue on Lamoille Avenue. He also provided an update on the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) bank stabilization projects, noting that the pre-bid meeting was held this week with 14 contractors in attendance. Bids are due on August 17.

David stated that he met with a contractor regarding sidewalk improvements in front of the post office. The post office owner is planning to relocate the entrance to the parking lot, and the Town will work closely with the owner and contractor on the portion of the project involving the sidewalk.

David reported that work continues on the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) improvements. Approximately half of the existing attic insulation has been removed from the Public Safety Building and will be

replaced with new cellulose insulation once the removal is complete. While the attic is accessible, a plumber is installing new heat pumps and air conditioning equipment. As part of the same grant, the Memorial Building's light fixtures are also being upgraded to LED lighting. He noted that all MERP-funded work must be completed before the grant closes at the end of the year.

David reported that the new trailhead near the Depot and the associated rail restoration project have been completed. Picnic tables and trash receptacles have been put out at the trailhead, and he encouraged residents to check it out. He also noted that a pre-construction meeting has been held for the East Hardwick trailhead, with construction expected to begin soon.

David reported that he attended a kickoff meeting with Aldrich + Elliott and Quantified Ventures, who will be partnering with the State to conduct an assessment of the Town's wastewater collection system as part of the development of a wastewater asset management plan.

He shared that the USDA disaster funding has been announced, with \$15 million available for DR-4720 (2023) and \$8 million for DR-4810 (2024). The Town plans to apply for "stacking" funds for the wastewater treatment plant project. He expects to bring the grant proposal to the Select Board for review at its next meeting. While the program is competitive and open statewide, Ludlow, Johnson, and Hardwick will receive priority consideration. Ceilidh asked about the application timeline, and David said he was uncertain, as the application period had just opened. He will be working with the State FEMA consultants to prepare the application.

David also reported on a property located on Glenside Avenue near the site of a historic landslide. After concerns arose that the house appeared to be shifting, the State Geologist was contacted. Based on the evaluation, the home has been condemned and will likely be eligible for a future buyout through Vermont Emergency Management when funding becomes available.

Shari asked whether the picnic table at the new trailhead was accessible for individuals with disabilities. David replied that it is currently located along the edge of the pad but can be relocated if necessary. She also asked whether the State would be providing a map for the case in the trailhead kiosk and about the other LVRT wayfinding signage that has not yet arrived. David confirmed that brochure boxes would be added to the pause place and the largely completed Depot Trail Head. He noted that Bill Gray from the State has been coordinating with the Town throughout the project and that Jackie Cassino is also aware of the updates, so the maps and signage are expected to be addressed.

David ended with an update on the retaining wall and pedestrian bridge projects. For the wall repair, three concrete pours have been completed, with two remaining, and backfilling is expected to begin next week. The pedestrian bridge is scheduled to arrive in Hardwick during the week of August 16 and is expected to be set later that week. Although the projects are approximately one week behind schedule, he reported that both the retaining wall and pedestrian bridge projects are going well overall.

6:11 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Hardwick Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that the crew has been busy with ditching and drainage improvements throughout town. The crew upgraded a culvert on Mackville Road and installed a catch basin near Atkins Lane. Ditching work was completed

on Carey Road, Marsh Road, Richardson Road, Ward Hill Road, and Mountain View Road. On Marsh Road, an undersized culvert was replaced with a larger one in an effort to reduce the likelihood of future washouts.

Tom also reported that a new sewer service was installed on Edgewood Street. Hauling of winter sand from the gravel pit has been completed, and the material is now stockpiled at the Highway Garage. The Town's new Ford F-600 was delivered to Maine for installation of the truck body.

He noted that they have been addressing a few minor truck breakdowns but that operations have continued without significant interruption. Gravel crushing at the Town pit is expected to be completed tomorrow, leaving the pit well stocked with materials.

Tom said the Highway Department will be working with Hardwick Electric Department next week with brush cutting near power lines in various locations throughout town. The following week, crews plan to haul gravel and replace an undersized culvert on Bridgman Hill Road.

Shari expressed concern about weeds overtaking the additional parking area behind the Town House. David explained that the vegetation is Japanese knotweed, an invasive species that cannot simply be removed and disposed of elsewhere. He noted that it could likely be cut back in place, but disposal is restricted because of its invasive nature.

Shari also asked about repainting the crosswalks after the construction projects are complete. Tom responded that the Highway Department has plans to complete that work this fall.

Larry joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

6:17 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item #1 — Diane Grenkow, Library Director, to give a quarterly update from the Jeudevine Memorial Library

Library Director Diane Grenkow provided the Board with a quarterly update on activities at the Jeudevine Memorial Library. Year over year, circulation and patrons have more than doubled. Highlights included strategic planning efforts and community surveys, successful programming and community partnerships, increased public engagement and library usage, fundraising activities, building operations updates, and an overview of library finances and community outreach initiatives. She reviewed the structure of the Friends of the Jeudevine and their role in helping the library. The Board also received a summary of survey feedback from Town staff and the Select Board regarding the library's role in the community. The detailed report is included in the meeting attachments.

Finance Director Casey Rowell noted that the library received approximately \$6,500 in general public support during FY26. Although those donations were not included in the revenue budget, they were instrumental in offsetting higher-than-anticipated electricity costs. She added that the community's financial support reflects the value residents place on the library and its services.

6:23 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Item #2 — Select Board to consider appointing James McGowan as a Hardwick Police Officer - *Action needed*

Chief Henry mentioned Officer McGowan at the last meeting. This is the formal appointment.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to appoint James McGowan as a Hardwick Police Officer.

6:24 P.M. – 6:26 P.M. Item #3— Select Board to review quotes for a new police cruiser and select a vendor to purchase from - *Action needed*

Police Chief Mike Henry wasn't at the meeting. David and Casey felt that the Chief should weigh in on the decision since he was concerned about the two cars not being the same. One is an admin car and the other is similar to the 2020 model we have, which is a hybrid. The Board decided we should table this until the next meeting when Mike can participate in the discussion.

6:26 P.M. – 6:27 P.M. Item #4 — Select Board to considering approving a banner application for the annual AWARE craft fair - *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to approve the banner application for the AWARE craft fair.

6:27 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Item #5 — Select Board to consider appointing Rachel Kane to the Buffalo Mountain Forest Steering Committee - *Action needed*

Rachel Kane had previously expressed interest in serving on the Buffalo Mountain Forest Steering Committee but was not appointed at the Board's June 4, 2026, meeting due to a lack of available vacancies at that time. Although she was not appointed at that time, Rachel has continued to attend committee meetings. Following the resignation of a couple of people, there are currently two vacancies on the committee. The Board also discussed the importance of recruiting an additional volunteer to fill the remaining vacancy.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted by majority to appoint Rachel Kane to the Buffalo Mountain Forest Steering Committee. Ceilidh abstained.

During discussion after the motion was initially made, Tim questioned whether they should delay Rachel's appointment until a second candidate could be found so that both vacancies could be filled at the same time. He noted that appointing Rachel now would result in the committee having an even number of members, whereas an odd number is generally preferable for voting purposes. The Board still decided to move forward with approving the motion.

Select Board Reports:

Shari reported that the Hardwick Downtown Partnership is working with Civic Standard to plan a community event for the weekend of October 10. The event is expected to feature a variety of musical performances, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new pedestrian bridge, and activities at both the Town House and throughout the downtown area.

Ceilidh reported that she recently met with the Caspian Dam Task Force, which was established by the Greensboro Select Board to explore long-term options for maintaining the dam. She also has an upcoming meeting scheduled with the Greensboro Select Board Chair. Ceilidh said she wanted to keep the Board informed

of those discussions and will provide updates as additional information becomes available.

New Business:

Finance Director, Casey Rowell, said that she has started to work on the FY27 water and sewer rates and would like to have a Select Board representative attend the preparation meetings prior to presenting them to the whole Select Board. Derek volunteered to assist. She will send out a Doodle poll for availability for meeting dates between August 18 and 31.

Shari asked about having a facilitator for the Select Board retreat that is scheduled for September 25. David and Ceilidh are going to work on the agenda and will brainstorm ideas about a facilitator.

Old Business:

Larry said he is still working with Town staff on a public engagement policy. He plans to bring it to the Board in the next couple of months.

Shari asked about the Springfest budget line and if that would support hiring a coordinator. David said the Springfest meetings should stay alive. Shari wants to ensure that the process for next year's event is started early and thinks that hiring a dedicated coordinator is the best approach.

Casey mentioned that the Board still needs to review and make changes to the Town's Economic Development Loan Policy. Shari said that the Hardwick Downtown Partnership will have that on their next agenda for discussion as they wanted to weigh in on the policy.

Shari brought up the Economic Development Coordinator position and wanted to know where things were with hiring someone. David has two draft job descriptions for this that he will be presenting soon. Shari said that there are multiple grant opportunities coming up and it is important to get the position filled. Ceilidh said with budget season coming up soon, it will be good timing to look at how we want to approach that position.

6:43 P.M. *Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the Select Board voted to enter an executive session pursuant to 1 VSA § 313, to include the Town Manager, for a real estate matter.*

6:52 P.M. *Exited Executive session. No action taken.*

6:52 P.M. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Finance Director

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