

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, October 23, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Todd Deuso  
M. Tod Delaricheliere  
Sherry Lussier  
Charles Volk

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,  
Roger LeCours, Bert Smith,  
Steve Wallach, Kathryn Smith,  
Mae Chapin, Susan Tobias  
Joe Wood, Addy Smith-Reiman

6:00 P.M. Todd Deuso called the meeting to order.

6:01 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2003 regular Select Board meeting.

Sherry Lussier seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:02 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2003 regular Select Board meeting.

Sherry seconded  
Todd - Yes  
Sherry - Yes  
Charles - Abstained  
M. Tod - Yes

6:02 P.M. Charles Volk moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2003 regular Select Board meeting.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: Joe Wood was present to speak about relocating the Hardwick Chamber Visitors Center. Todd deferred this discussion until later in the evening.

## MANAGERS REPORT

### Request for VCDP Grant Funding

Dan told the Board that he and Susan Tobias had met with a representative of the VT Community Development program to discuss the idea of using one of their grants to help with the changes to the Hardwick food shelf. This service is currently located within the St. John's Episcopal Church. The parish wants to remodel the building to increase the capacity for their church functions. The food shelf, located within this building and run by Mae Chapin, also needs major renovations for handicapped accessibility and confidentiality reasons. VCDP feels that this grant would

be fairly competitive as long as the engineer clearly defines what costs and benefits are attributable to the food shelf. No money can go toward assisting the church improvements. Dan told the Board that if applying for this grant is acceptable to the Board, we need to pass a resolution authorizing us to go forward. Susan Tobias, priest of St. John's Episcopal Church, showed floor plans to the Board of the proposed renovations.

6:13 P.M. Sherry moved to pass a resolution to go forward with a Vermont Community Development Block Grant to aid in the renovations of the food shelf.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Alcohol Policy for Town House

Addy Smith was present to talk about the Town's alcohol policy for the Town House. She handed the Board a copy of the proposed safety and security policy for the Hardwick Town House. She briefly went over the changes proposed. If approved, the Board of NEKARTS would then need to approve the policy as well. The Board asked about the insurance ramifications.

6:20 P.M. Sherry moved to adopt the proposed safety and security policy for the Hardwick Town House as presented.

Todd seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Status of the Sanville Lot

The Randy Sanville lot went up for tax sale. A gentleman from Morrisville bid on the property and won. Randy contacted Dan Hill and told Dan that because of the capital gains it did not make financial sense for Randy to sell it, so he told Dan he would like to donate the lot to the Town. Dan asked the Board how they felt about accepting the donated lot. The Town would have to pay the Morrisville gentleman back his bid amount plus the one percent interest he has earned on his bid. The cost to the Town would be approximately \$5,000 in lost tax revenue to accept this property. The lot would also have to be removed from the tax roles if we owned it.

Joe Wood spoke to the Board as a representative of the Hardwick Area Chamber of Commerce. He asked the Board that if they did purchase the lot to please consider moving the Hardwick Visitors Center to this down town location.

6:31 P.M. Sherry moved to accept the property subject to a title search.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Public Information on Revolving Loan Fund

Dan told the Board that at our last meeting, there was discussion concerning revolving loan accounts that are lagging behind in their payments. It was asked if the Town could legally make the public aware of delinquencies. Dan checked with the Town attorney and the Board could choose to make public any information that we want to concerning these accounts, as it is public money involved. If the Board decides to do something, he would suggest that he include in my manager's report any account that is over 60 days late in making payments and we could also list those accounts in the Town Report if the Board chooses. The Board discussed this issue. Dan and Lynda will come back to the Board with a proposed policy.

#### Audit Results

Dan reminded the Board that they had received a copy of the preliminary audit results for the year ended June 30, 2003. Dan gave a short summary of the results and answered the Board's questions.

#### Tax Sale Results

Dan handed the Board a paper containing the tax sale results. The town bid on six properties. The total amount of money collected at the tax sale was \$13,304.33, leaving a delinquent balance due the town of \$13,156.50.

#### Police Resignation

Dan told the Board that Stanislav Hovorikov, a part-time police officer, has resigned to take a position with the Shelburne police department.

Dan said that the Reparative Justice Board was moving right along with ten to twelve people actively involved. Dan gave Chief Dziobek credit for working hard on this project.

Dan asked the Board to approve the previously discussed town loan to Robin LeBlanc, so that when the Centennial Building is completely fixed, she can begin working immediately to get her restaurant open.

7:05 M. Tod moved to approve a revolving loan in the amount of \$17,500.00 at an interest rate of 3% and a term of ten years.

Sherry seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that the town land on Buffalo Mountain has been marked by a forester, Steve Slayton. There is not a high quality harvest. We would be thinning trees to promote the growth of balsam and spruce, which is coming up underneath. Because of this new growth Steve recommended harvesting the trees with a buncher, not a skidder, which could damage this new growth. The Board recommended contacting

Marc Luneau, from the Hazen Union logging program. If Marc is not interested in having his forestry students performing the logging, then Dan was instructed to advertize for a forester to come in with a buncher to perform the work.

Old Business: Todd asked Dan how the reappraisal process was going? Dan answered that the Lister's need to meet to work on the request for proposal. Dan has written a letter to Jean Hackett.

New Business: None

Select Board Reports: Sherry told the Board that the 9 MM showing of *Harold and Maude* was a success. She told the Board that there will be a costume ball this weekend.

Dan advised the Board that the Larry Bailey property had sold again and that had been a road block to the recycling center. Dan also told the Board that the police department is handing out free gun locks to the community.

7:10 P.M. Sherry moved to go into executive session for select board deliberations.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan and Lynda left.

7:27 P.M. Open Session

7:28 P.M. Sherry moved to appoint Patti Coultas to the Hardwick Select Board.

Todd seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

The board strongly recommended that Bill Richardson run in March.

7:29 P.M. Sherry moved to adjourn

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu