

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, November 20, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Todd Deuso
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Patricia Coultas
Charles Volk

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,
Roger LeCours, Bill Kennedy,
Steve Wallach, Dennis Pudvah,
David Hale, Dan Hale,
Dan Courchaine, Rita Pitkin,
Don Ferland, Don Welch,
Jennifer Vaughn

6:01 P.M. Todd Deuso called the meeting to order.

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

Charles Volk seconded
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGERS REPORT

Presentation of County Budget

Dan introduced Bill Kennedy, a Caledonia County Side Judge, who was present to discuss the proposed county budget for next year. This budget includes the cost of the Caledonia County sheriff's department and the court system. Bill handed the Board the proposed budget for the court and the sheriff's department. He reviewed the line items with the Board. Bill explained that because of an increase in revenue, the town may not see any increase in our cost this upcoming budget. Todd told Bill that he doesn't feel it is right that the Town of Hardwick subsidizes the Caledonia County Sheriff's department (except to the extent of running the court house) when Hardwick sees virtually no benefit. Bill answered that the sheriff's department transports prisoners and that they still have responsibilities in the county. Todd explained that when Hardwick was down officers, we were given very little help. The Board thanked Bill Kennedy.

Snow machine-ATV Discussion

Dan Hale and David Hale were present as representatives from VASA, the local ATV club, to ask for ATV access to the Wright Farm Road during the winter months. Dan Courchaine and Dennis Pudvah were present as representatives from VAST, the local Snow machine club. Todd asked both groups if they had any new information to share with the Board. Dan Hale asked the Board to clarify the town policy regarding

snowmobiles. He asked if all roads, except for a few specific roads, are open to snowmobiles? Dan Hill answered yes, with the understanding that the snowmobiles use the roads to find the shortest route to a VAST trail. The Board briefly discussed the existing Class Four Road and Trail Policy. Todd stated that he supports ATV use from April to December, but feels snowmobiles should have the roads and trails in the winter months. The Board agreed to follow the current policy and possibly revisit it at a later date.

6:30 P.M. M. Tod moved to recess the Select Board meeting of November 20, 2003 in order to go into a public hearing for Lamoille Housing.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Public Hearing for Lamoille Housing

Rita Pitkin was present from Lamoille Housing Partnership. She handed the Board a project summary of the Evergreen Manor Mobile Home Park. She went over the project summary. The grant money was for the purchase and rehabilitation of Evergreen Manor trailer park. No other testimony was heard.

6:37 P.M. Public Hearing closed

6:38 P.M. Todd reopened the Select Board meeting.

Logging of Buffalo Mountain Land

Dan talked with Marc Luneau of Hazen about the possibility of Hazen students doing the logging project on our land on Buffalo. Marc would like very much to do the job but would not be able to fully complete the work for up to 3 years. The estimated total income for the lot is \$5,000-\$6,000 per the county forester. The Town would collect this money over the three year period. Dan recommend that we award the work to Hazen. It would be a real life experience for the students and a nice connection between Town and school. The money is not large enough to make a huge difference when it comes in and the end result will be a much improved wood lot for the future. The Board agreed that it was a great idea to have the Hazen students log the town land.

6:42 P.M. M. Tod moved to award the selective cutting of the town wood lot on Buffalo Mountain to Hazen Union high school.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Predisaster Planning

Dan met with Barb Farr, who is a consultant working with NVDA. Federal

Emergency Management has come out with a new requirement that every town that may want to access FEMA funds in the future must have a pre disaster plan in place to be eligible for their money when a real disaster strikes. There may also be some funds available to work on predisaster projects. Dan will be working with Barb to prepare this plan. When it is complete, it will be brought before the Board for approval. Dan told the Board that he had attended a meeting Wednesday night and that it looks like Hardwick is in great shape.

Sanville Lot Update

The purchase of the Sanville lot on Mill Street has been completed. Dan recommends using the lot for snow storage this winter and deciding in the spring what the Town would like to do with this lot. The Board agreed.

Deli Lama Sale

Dan told the Board that Robin LeBlanc has now formally purchased the assets of the Deli Lama. She is already at work cleaning the restaurant and ordering equipment in anticipation of an opening soon. Dan told the Board that the owners still need to complete repairs to the building.

New Employee

Dan told the Board that the Town has hired Jamie Dailey as the newest member of our road crew. He is replacing Jeff Coates who injured his arm and has been out of work on workers' compensation. We are now up to staff except for Louis Gates, who is still out on Workers' Comp.

Bunker Hill Update

Dan said that he is still working with USDA to get the gabion baskets repaired on Bunker Hill. It now appears that we will have to wait until spring to get the work done. We are going to do a locally led project which means that we will take responsibility for the bidding and contract oversight and inspection of the work. By doing it this way, we can, hopefully, use local contractors for the work and we will get financial credit for the administrative work we do which will reduce our share of the costs. The estimated cost at this point is \$40,000.00.

Dan explained that the estimate for the box culvert on Smith Farm road came through in the amount of \$118,000. Ninety percent of this cost will be picked up by the State of Vermont bridge and culvert program.

Dan told the Board that he had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting this past week. Dan walked the group through the downtown designation process. Dan said there seemed to be many people interested in pursuing this designation.

Dan handed the Board a letter of commendation which he had given to the road crew for their efforts last Friday, during the wind/snow storm.

Dan explained that Robin LeBlanc had a first class liquor license request for her new restaurant Old Inn restaurant.

6:48 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a first class liquor license for the Old Inn Restaurant.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Old Business: Charles asked Dan to find out who owned the old car parked in the Kwik Stop parking lot. Patty wanted to know about the Glenside land slide. Dan told the Board that there was going to be a public meeting at the Village Motel tomorrow (Friday) at 10:00 am. This meeting was initiated by the State of Vermont and would include experts and land owners.

6:53 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan fund to include Town Manager Dan Hill, Administrative Asst. Lynda Brochu, Don Welch and Don Ferland.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:19 P.M. Open Session - no action taken

7:21 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan fund to include Town Manager Dan Hill, Administrative Asst. Lynda Brochu and Jennifer Vaughn.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:07 P.M. Open Session - no action taken

8:08 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu