

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, December 4, 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  
Patricia Coultas  
Charles Volk  
Sherry Lussier

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,  
Roger LeCours, Alan May,  
Steve Wallach, Jim Dziobek,

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 November 20, 2003 regular Select Board meeting.

Charles Volk seconded  
Todd - Yes  
M. Tod - Yes  
Charles - Yes  
Sherry Lussier - Abstained  
Patricia Coultas - Yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGERS REPORT

Budget Discussion

Dan advised the Board that they had received copies of the latest budget for fiscal year 2005. The Board welcomed Alan May, Road Foreman, who was present to answer any questions regarding the highway budget. Dan and Alan reviewed the garage budget with the Board. Dan also reviewed the Capital improvements budget and the Equipment replacement budget. The Board asked questions regarding all three proposed budgets. The Board, Dan and Alan discussed staffing levels in the highway department. The Board thanked Alan.

Dan reviewed the proposed office budget. Patti asked whether the Town of Hardwick offers a buyout of health insurance plans, if an employee has a spouse who also has health insurance coverage? Dan answered that this had been proposed before, but currently there is no such offer. The Board asked Dan to pursue looking into this personnel policy change. Dan continued his proposed budget presentation by going over Miscellaneous, Payroll, County Taxes and Rescue Squad budgets.

Chief James Dziobek and Dan reviewed the Police Department budget. Todd asked Jim how he would feel about policing other communities in order to bring down the cost to the Hardwick tax payers? Jim agreed that he would be interested in

pursuing this idea. Todd asked Dan to place this discussion on a future agenda for a greater discussion.

Dan finished the budget discussion by reviewing the Line Items, Memorial Building and Fire Department budgets. Dan asked the Board what their feelings were on the budget and whether they would like to see any changes. The Board agreed to think about it, but overall they didn't see a lot of changes which could be made to the budget.

#### Rapid Response Plan Update

Dan told the Board that they had received an updated Rapid Response Plan. The only changes made were the names of several people who had changed, for instance we have a new chair for the Select Board and Joe Bongiovani has been replaced by Eric Werner at the Hardwick Electric Department.

7:15 P.M. M. Tod moved to accept the newly updated Rapid Response Plan.

Sherry seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Town Report Dedication

The Board discussed who they wished to dedicate the next Town Report to and what or who they wanted to see on the cover. It was decided to dedicate the Town Report to Gerald Hall and Dan O'Connor. Charles suggested the cover show the Hardwick Forestry team, as they had put a lot of work into the new trail system at Hazen. The Board agreed.

#### Hardwick Electric Report

Dan told the Board that they had received the latest copy of the Hardwick Electric Report.

Dan explained that he is working on removing the junk car from the old Kwik Stop & Deli parking lot. He also told the Board that the Woodbury trail is still moving forward slowly. Right now the "ball is in Woodbury's court." They need to address a few issues before meeting with Swenson to complete the lease of the rail beds.

Patti asked Dan about the land slide on Glenside Avenue. Dan answered that there was a meeting with state employees, engineers, residents and geologist to discuss the situation. Unfortunately, because this is happening on private property, the property owners are on their own. There will be more tests and with the cold weather, hopefully no further land movement. Next spring could be a different story. The residents were also advised not to add any more material to their lawns.

Dan went over a list of items that he and his staff have been working on. He handed the Board a copy of the latest ten year plan and asked them to review it.

Select Board Reports: Sherry stated that the latest movie, *Sea Biscuit*, was a huge success at the Town House.

Old Business: Dan told the Board that the recycling center is still plodding forward. The Route 14 location might work temporarily.

7:40 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal.

Sherry seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:02 P.M. Open Session - no action taken

8:02 P.M. Sherry moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:08 P.M. Open Session - no action taken

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

Sherry seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu