

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, January 22, 2004 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
Sherry Lussier

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,
Roger LeCours, Alberta Miller
Steve Wallach

6:02 P.M. Meeting called to order.

6:03 P.M. Sherry Lussier moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2004 regular Select Board meeting.

M. Tod Delaricheliere seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:04 P.M. Patricia Coultas arrived

Communications From Audience: None

Manager's Report

Adoption of Warning for Town Meeting

The Board was handed the proposed Warning for Town Meeting. Dan reviewed the changes from last year, including the Australian Ballot vote for the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer positions, the appropriation changes and the town budget figure.

6:06 P.M. M. Tod moved to adopt the Warning as presented.

The Board discussed the warning.

Sherry seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Walden Policing

Dan told the Board that the Town of Walden has asked that the Hardwick/Greensboro police force continue with our patrol arrangement for another year. They would like us to continue with 10 hours per month at a price of \$300.00 per month. Dan said that he and Jim have discussed this issue and don't think this is a productive approach for Hardwick. With that few hours, we are not providing any real service other than visibility. The police force would like to have a relationship with Walden but at a level that makes sense both in hours served and revenue to Hardwick.

Dan asked the Board what they thought of the idea of having one or two members of our Select Board host a very informal discussion of regional policing with the chairs of the surrounding towns. It would be a chance to have an open discussion of the wants and needs of these other towns (if they have any) and how we might jointly approach a regional police force some time in the future. The Board discussed the cost of regional policing and discussed the possibility of an intermunicipal agreement. The Board was interested in pursuing the idea of regional police coverage and asked Todd Deuso and M. Tod Delaricheliere to attend the discussion and report back to the full board. The Board told Dan not to renew with Walden at this point, but certainly invite them to the regional policing discussion.

Certificate of Highway Miles

Dan told the Board that each year, the Town has to sign off on the amount of miles of road in Hardwick. Dan advised the Board that they had received this year's certificate in their packets with two changes shown. These changes deal with the new road in the industrial park and the road to the treatment plant. Both roads have been wrong for the last couple of years and we are trying again to get it corrected.

6:26 P.M. M. Tod moved to accept the certificate of highway miles.

Sherry seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Purchase of a Control Panel for Sewer Plant

Dan said that the next improvement for the sewer plant, as part of the 20 year review, is to replace the control panel in the office. This panel handles most of the electrical functions in the plant and the lift stations. Through our engineer, we have gotten two quotes for a replacement. U.S. Filter's price is \$32,000.00 and Pump Systems Inc. price is \$26,873.00. Dan recommends awarding the purchase to Pump Systems Inc. The money for this is already budgeted thru the sewer department capital fund as part of the 20 review. If the Town makes this purchase, there is a 3 month lead time for delivery so installation will probably be sometime this summer.

6:28 P.M. Sherry moved to award the purchase to Pump System, Inc. in the amount of \$26,873.00.

M. Tod Seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Temporary Trash Depot

Dan told the Board that because of all the delays and false starts for Central VT Solid Waste to provide a depot in Hardwick, we are working on a temporary solution.

NVDA has agreed to let them have a “fast trash” depot in the industrial park. CVSWD will use a section of the park to receive both household trash and recycling. At the end of each working day, they will remove whatever they have collected. CVSWD wants to use this site only into this summer and then move to a permanent location that they have not found yet. The process of going thru zoning to get a permit to do this will be the first step. The Board discussed and asked Dan to move forward with the “fast trash” depot.

Hardwick Woodbury Railroad Trail Update

Dan told the Board that we are getting closer to having a year round recreational trail using the Swenson Granite rail bed between Hardwick and Woodbury. It was decided that we need to have two committees to oversee this trail. One would be for Hardwick and one for Woodbury. This is to make insurance issues clearer and to make it easier to go after grants in the future. These two committees would, in fact, work as one committee with the same rules and regulations and decisions would be made jointly.

It has been tentatively decided to have each committee consist of 5 members. In Hardwick, the group is going to be Charlie Volk for the Town, Dan Courchaine for VAST, either Dan Hale or David Hale for ATVs, Lucien Avery for non motorized and Peggy Bowen as a member at large. Peggy seems a logical choice even though she is a resident of East Calais. She wants to work toward connecting other trails to this one on the Hardwick end and she brings a great deal of knowledge to the table. The group is going to meet again later this month and begin putting together operational rules and regulations and also an organizational structure.

Bike Path Grant

Dan told the Board that Hardwick received the grant funding to build phase one of the new biking/hiking trail from the swinging bridge to below the Cottage Street bridge. Dan’s office will begin getting the agreements signed and the final plans drawn up in the near future.

Auditors’ Management Letter

Dan reviewed the auditors’ management letter recently sent to the Town from our auditors Sullivan, Powers. He told the Board that this is the cleanest one we have received since he has been here. Dan said that going forward, our challenge is going to be satisfying the requirements of GASB 34. One of those requirements is to have Hardwick Electric Department on the same year end cycle as the Town of Hardwick. Due to public service regulations, this may not be possible. Dan told the Board that Eric Werner will be coming to the February 5th Select Board meeting to discuss this issue further. The Board discussed GASB 34.

Police Activity Report

Dan told the Board that they had received the activity report for the police department for December in their board packets.

Public Hearing for Community Development Grant Application

Dan advised the Board that because of a publication problem in scheduling a Public Hearing for the grant application for the food shelf, we have had to schedule the Hearing for 5:00 PM on Tuesday January 27th. 3 volunteers from the Board are needed to attend what should be a very brief meeting to take any testimony. Sherry, Patti and M. Tod agreed to attend.

Dan handed the Board a letter from NVDA concerning wind towers. Dan told the Board that he and the listers are scheduled to meet with three out of the four reappraisal candidates. At this time it appears that the cost will be approximately \$140,000.

Dan told the Board that Alberta is working on a retirement party for Gerald Hall. He described her efforts to this point.

Dan and the Board discussed the February meeting schedule and agreed, for now, to keep the February 5th and 19th as the meeting dates.

Dan reminded the Board that his review will need to be completed in the next month.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Select Board Reports: M. Tod said that the refurbished meeting table looked great and thanked Steve Hill for his efforts. Sherry told the Board that NEKARTS recently received another grant to help finance the handicapped accessible bathrooms. She also told the Board that there is a photo display opening this weekend at the Town Hall and that the movie this weekend is *Grand Prix*. Sherry told the Board that Gyla Dziobek has been voted the Vermont social worker of the year.

Dan advised the Board that his office has received the results of the VLCT/VOSHA walk through. There were not major issues and he is working on the few items that need attention.

6:52 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:00 P.M. Open Session - No action taken

7:01 P.M. Sherry moved to adjourn.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu