

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, March 4, 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
Kristina Michelson

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier
Claire Mayo, Dennis Chase,
Bob Mayhew, John DeGoosh,
David Hale, Karen Shaw,
Art Williams, Dan Hale

6:00 P.M. Meeting called to order.

Dan asked for nominations for Select Board Chair.

6:01 P.M. Charles Volk nominated Todd Deuso as Chairman of the Select Board.

Patricia Coultas seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:02 P.M. Charles nominated M. Tod Delaricheliere as Vice Chair of the Select Board.

Patricia seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:03 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2004 regular Select Board meeting.

Patricia seconded
Charles - Yes
Patricia - Yes
Todd - Yes
M. Tod - Yes
Kristina Michelsen - Abstained

Communications From Audience:

There was a group of people who were present to ask the Board about an article in the Hardwick Gazette concerning allegations made by former Police Chief Greg Rambo. Members of this group spoke about their concerns regarding lack of information from the Town. They wanted to know when the towns people would be receiving more information. Todd told the people in the room that the article in the newspaper was one persons opinion. Todd said that he felt the article addressed two separate issues - the Barretto-Neto issue and the state of the police department at the time Rambo was Chief. Todd explained that unfortunately the town attorney has advised everyone involved not to discuss the accusations regarding Officer Barretto-Neto. Todd did say that the police department was in disarray when Rambo came in

2002. Todd continued by stating that today the force is up to staff and will soon be fully certified. Dennis Chase stated that he feels this story is demoralizing to the Town of Hardwick. The Board and the people in the room discussed a number of things: Rambo leaving, the Hardwick Gazette, the time frame for the Barretto-Neto mediation/litigation, insurance coverage, police officers leaving after being trained and contracts to retain police officers. Dan Hale stated that he wanted the Rambo incident investigated. Todd explained that the town attorneys were aware of the newspaper article. Todd asked the people in the room to give the Select Board time to address the issues brought up at Town Meeting.

6:25 P.M. Patricia Coultas left.

The Board and the people in the room continued their discussion regarding police morale, police cruisers and the fact that there are conflicting stories. The people in the room stressed the need for the Board to get more information out to the public. A letter to the editor of the local paper was suggested as a way of keeping people accurately informed.

Manager's Report

Appointments

Dan told the Board that there were a number of appointments which needed to be made.

6:50 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint Nancy Kish to the position of Zoning Administrator.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:50 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint the Town Manager to the position of Civil Defense Director/Emergency Management Coordinator.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:51 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint Mae Chapin to the position of Town Service Officer.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:51 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint the following people to serve on Hardwick Recreation Department: Sally Anstey (Chair), Amy Mandeville, Tracey Gilblair, Ron Weisen, Diane Grenkow, Marie LaPre-Grabon.

Kristina seconded

Motion passed unanimously

6:52 P.M. Todd moved to appoint Kristina Michelsen to serve as Town Energy Coordinator.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:52 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint Kevin Rich to the positions of Dog Warden and Pound Keeper.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:53 P.M. Kristina moved to appoint Todd Deuso to the position of Representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District and M. Tod to the alternate representative position.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:53 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint Charles to serve as the Agent to convey Real Estate.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:54 P.M. Charles moved to appoint Kristina to serve as the Select Board representative to the Northeast Kingdom Arts Council.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:55 P.M. Todd moved to appoint M. Tod to serve as the Board representative to sign orders.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Annual Highway Meeting With the State of Vermont

Dan told the Board that each year the Town has to meet with a representative of VTRANS to review the Town's annual highway budget and our plan for maintaining highways. This meeting has to occur within 60 days of Town Meeting and typically takes place during regular working hours. In the past the Board has authorized the Town Manager to represent the Town at this meeting.

6:58 P.M. M. Tod moved to appoint Dan Hill, Town Manager to represent the Town at the annual highway budget meeting with the State of Vermont.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Ten Year Capital Plan/Informational

The Board tabled this issue to be brought up at a future meeting.

Liquor Licenses

Dan told the Board that he had two liquor licenses, which were up for renewal.

6:58 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a second class liquor license for D & L Beverage.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:59 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a second class liquor license for G.U. Market.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan advised the Board that he had the annual VTRANS Bridge Inspection Report. The only bridge mentioned was the one on Wolcott Street between the Hardwick House of Pizza and the Hardwick Fire Station.

7:00 P.M. M. Tod moved that the Select Board has received the annual Bridge Inspection Report and accepted it's findings.

Todd seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Select Board Reports: None

7:02 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Open Session 7:45 P.M. No action taken.

7:46 P.M. Charles moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Open Session 8:17 P.M. No action taken.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:18 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu