

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:
Charles Volk
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Patricia Coultas
Kristina Michelson

Others Present:
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier
Addy Smith, Noah Hahn,
Joe Wood

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

Communications From Audience:

Noah Hahn was present to ask the Board to approve a catering license for four events which will take place at the Town House. The dates are as follows: April 17, 2004, May 7, 2004, June 4, 2004 and June 25, 2004. Langdon Street Pub Co. d.b.a. McGillicuddy's Irish Pub will be catering liquor for these events.

6:04 P.M. Kristina Michelson moved to approve the catering license for Langdon Street Pub Co., d.b.a. McGillicuddy's Irish Pub for the dates of April 17, May 7, June 4 and June 25, 2004.

Charles Volk seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Manager's Report

Adoption of HIPAA Policies

Dan told the Board that Joyce Chase has been working on a new policy dealing with employee privacy in health issues. She has attended a number of seminars and is now the town's "privacy official." Dan brought copies of the new required Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act policy for the Board members who care to review it. The Board discussed the new HIPAA regulations.

6:07 P.M. Kristina moved to adopt the new HIPAA policy.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Bidding on Various Materials

Dan told the Board that within the next couple of months, the town normally goes out to bid for heating and diesel fuel. With the price of petroleum products rising "through the roof" does the board want to go to bid or wait? Dan spoke with two dealers and both recommended that the town bid for a "cost plus" price with a cap. The Board

agreed. Dan told them that he would also be looking into a prebuy price for salt.

6:10 P.M. Patricia Coultas arrived.

Dan went on to say that the paving budget can be flexible this summer depending on the price for material.

Hardwick Electric Update

Dan reminded the Board that they had received the latest monthly report in their board packets. He also told the board that HED is facing a steep increase in the cost of purchased power. Dan and Eric Werner met last week and Eric advised Dan that HED is being forced to look at another rate increase in order to handle the costs of buying power. Joe Wood briefly discussed the reasons for the rate increases.

Discussion of 10 Year Plan

Dan told the board that in their packets they had received a copy of the proposed 10 year plan that his office had drawn up, based on the known needs of the town today. This plan will probably look different in three months depending on what issues come up. Dan told the Board of issues which may affect this plan in the coming year: a new fire vehicle, potential roof over our sand pile, Wolcott street fix, storm drains, Sanville lot, Memorial Building repairs, Library and Ultramar property which may become a parking lot. The Board questioned Dan on center road, bike paths and grader.

Delinquent Tax Update

Dan updated that Board on the amount of delinquent taxes we have outstanding, approximately \$4,500.00. The town taxes are due May 10th.

Current Budget Challenges

Dan stated that as he had previously stated, at the end of our financial year, June 30th, we will have a deficit. He said that the town purposely built in a \$11,000.00 deficit to keep property taxes down and we are finally spending \$12,000.00 of COPS officer money that had been set aside previously. The remaining deficit expected is the \$28,000.00 the town spent on the river this winter. Dan warned the Board that we are going to seriously overspend in the police department this year because of us sending a total of five people to the police academy this fiscal year. Dan told the Board that there was a department head meeting last week and all departments are on a spending freeze. The Board and Dan discussed the ice jam and the police department. Chief Dziobek spoke with Mike's Gulf, who we have our police gasoline bid with. Because our bid is cost plus, Mike Brochu is willing to amend our current contract to switch to regular gasoline instead of high test. This should save the town money.

6:45 P.M. Patti moved to approve the amendment to this year's gasoline bid.

Charles seconded

The Board discussed the consequences of using regular gasoline in the police cruisers and discussed the cost plus bid.

Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that he has found an old transmission for \$7,000 for the Fiat loader that is currently broken. At the last Select Board meeting it was discussed that the road crew needed another loader. With no warranty Dan asked the Board whether they felt this was money well spent to get the Fiat loader up and running again, keeping in mind that a new transmission would cost \$12,000.00. The Board discussed snow removal and selling the Fiat as parts or after purchasing the used transmission. The Board decided that the old transmission would not be money well spend and agreed not to purchase it.

Dan advised the Board that Joe Mangan, a special officer, had resigned. Dan handed the Board the month of March road crew report. M. Tod requested to see a seasonal plan. Dan said he would bring the road crew's plan to the next meeting, but that the Board needs to recognize that depending on the weather this plan will change.

Dan told the Board that he had recently received a flag which was flown over the Capital in honor of Gerald Hall's retirement. The Board asked Dan to find a pole and have it placed in the Memorial Building. Dan showed the Board a letter which would be going out to businesses in Hardwick requesting fireworks donations. Dan advised the Board that the drug coalition would be conducting an educational seminar dealing with alcohol issues directed towards local vendors. Dan gave the Board the zoning administrators report.

Dan also advised the Board that he just heard that morning from Central Vermont Solid Waste that the fast trash recycling/rubbish center will be opening April 21st. They will be open on Wednesdays from 8:00 A.M. to noon and on Saturdays from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Old Business: Charles asked Dan about the Hardwick/Woodbury recreation path. Dan said that Swenson Granite has sent the lease to their attorneys. Charles asked Dan to ask the road crew to provide more dirt by the Cottage Street bridge for the bike park. The Board discussed the local group who is trying to organize a new restaurant for Hardwick.

7:02 P.M. Kristina moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2004 regular Select Board meeting.

Patricia seconded

Charles - Abstained
Patricia - Yes
M. Tod - Yes
Kristina - Yes

New Business: None

Select Board Reports: Kristina reported that she had attended a NEKARTS meeting and told the Board there will be a fund raiser auction on April 30 at 7 P.M.

7:06 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Open Session 7:21 P.M. No action taken.

7:21 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Open Session 7:36 P.M. No action taken.

7:36 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu