

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 7:00 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  
Kristina Michelson  
Charles Volk

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,  
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier  
Dan Hale, David Hale, Eileen Boland,  
Ruth Larson, Mary Ann Clausen,  
Bert Smith, Kathryn Smith,  
Bert Bellavance, Lori Ferland,  
Karen Shaw, Dennis Chase,  
Bob Mayhew, Susan Hirshmugl,  
Gary Bellavance, Jeff Fournier,  
John DeGoosh, Jim Lovinsky,  
Mary Ellen Lovinsky

7:01 P.M. Meeting called to order.

7:01 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2004 regular Select Board meeting.

Charles Volk seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Communications From Audience: None

Manager's Report

Teen Center Discussion

Susan Hirschmugl, Eileen Boland and Mary Ann Clausen from Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, were present to discuss the progress of the teen center and ask the Board for guidance in how to proceed in order to continue to offer a teen center in Hardwick. In order to continue the teen center will need to locate another location and find a group to provide general oversight and act as their fiscal agent. There are three different options for who would provide oversight and act as fiscal agent: the Town of Hardwick, Northeast Kingdom Youth Services and the teen center acting as a stand alone organization. Eileen Boland and Susan Hirschmugl handed out a model of a teen center in Williamstown, which is run by the Town. Mary Ann Clausen spoke about the Northeast Kingdom Youth Services and what it can do to support the teen center. Todd Deuso suggested that one or more board members sit in on the teen center meetings to bring back a recommendation to the full board. The Board asked questions regarding who oversees the teen center, the goals of the teen center and the potential cost to the town. Patricia Coultas volunteered to act as the liaison to the Board. The Board asked Dan to write a letter to the editor asking for involvement from the Hardwick community to sit on the teen center advisory board or volunteer at the teen center. Jeff Fournier

spoke up to tell the Board about the summer activities planned by the Reach project. They are focusing on enrichment and recreation. Susan read a letter from a local youth who supports the teen center.

Todd took a break from the Manager's report to offer the people in the room a chance for Communication from the Audience again. Gary Bellavance, John DeGoosh, Dan Hale, David Hale, Lori Ferland and Bert Smith spoke about their concerns regarding the settlement with Officer Barretto-Neto. They spoke about the poor morale in Hardwick, the decision of whether to settle or go to court, the money spent, the perception of guilt by settling, Greg Rambo, the definition of discrimination, the trust in the current administration, why there wasn't a formal rebuttal to all the charges and the policies in place to prevent this problem in the future. Todd spoke and acknowledged the trust and credibility issues. He told the people in the room that the Town refused to accept a confidential settlement. He has spoken with the Town's legal counsel and was advised that the town did not discriminate and that no action should be taken against Chief Dziobek or Town Manager Hill. Todd said that he felt that the Board acted in the best interest of the Town. The Board addressed the equipment allegations, by stating that Barretto-Neto had to provide additional information if he wanted a form fitting bullet proof vest. Other vests were available to him immediately. M. Tod spoke up to say he would believe a man who has lived in Hardwick all of his life over a man who was in Hardwick for less then 2 weeks. Todd spoke about a conversation he had with Ross Connolly who feels the Town Manager and Chief of Police should both leave. The people in the room stated that they want to see a statement by the town attorney or the Select Board giving all the facts. Bert Smith stated that there was nothing wrong in settling and "let the healing begin." Dennis Chase spoke up to say that it should be mandatory that all police officers where vests on every shift.

### Snow Removal Policy

Dan told the Board that at the last Board meeting, Bert Smith wanted to talk about private people/contractors plowing snow across Town roads. He wanted the practice stopped because it damages his property. Dan researched the State Statutes. There is a statute that make it illegal for anyone except a municipality to plow snow across or onto a Town road. (23 V.S.A. section 1126a). Dan suggested that the Board amend the town's Snow Removal Policy and include a statement prohibiting such actions without permission form the Town Manager's office. In the Fall we could write a letter to the Editor informing people about this change. Dan's office would also mail a copy of our removal policy to local plowers emphasizing the change. The penalty for plowing across the town roads would be a police issued ticket for \$50.00.

8:23 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the Snow Removal Policy as amended.

Patricia seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

### Community Justice Update

Dan advised the Board that Carol Maloney did not meet with him that day, but he invited the Board to attend a community wide forum at the Memorial Building on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### West Church Street

Dan said that as part of the preliminary work for the rebuilding project of West Church Street, Hartigan came and had a camera check the sewer line. Based on those pictures, it appears that we do not have to replace the sewer main, which simplifies the project.

### Request for School Zone

Dan and Bert Smith met to look into creating a safer access for pedestrians walking to the high school. They both agreed to wait until the new entrance for the school was complete, before meeting with Chief Dziobek to get his input.

### Hardwick Electric Department Bond

Dan presented the Board with a resolution for a refinancing bond for the Hardwick Electric Department. This resolution needs to be authorized in order to continue the bond process started earlier this year.

8:25 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the resolution for a refinancing bond for the Hardwick Electric Department.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board he had one new liquor license up for approval.

8:29 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a second class liquor license for Buffalo Mountain Coop.

Patricia seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan updated the Select Board on the second landslide on Glenside, which happened that week. This landslide was smaller than the previous one. The State met with the Holmes family. They are trying to come up with a plan to remove some of the new material the Holmes put on their back lawn last year. The State will dig test bores, deforest the bank and try to come up with some solution to this problem.

Dan said that Verizon has requested a license to place an underground conduit

for the corner of Kellogg and Summer Street

8:31 P.M. M. Tod moved to authorize a license to place underground conduit for Verizon for the corner of Kellogg and Summer Street.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan handed the Board the police report for the month of March and the town road report for the month of April. Dan told the Board that he had met with Eric Werner from the HED and that Eric said to expect a 6.37% rate increase in our utility rates because of the increasing costs of purchased power.

Dan advised the Board about a town road in Greensboro Bend (TH 15), which has served as a driveway for Yvan and Denise Picard. This road continues on to land owned by Jack Silver. Jack is looking into obtaining a right of way over some rail road tracks to gain access to his land, but if he is unsuccessful then there may be an issue as he would need to travel on the town road very near the Picard's home.

Dan told the Board about a number of things that were starting. The Public Works Department had reserved a street sweeper for next week, had begun summer ditching projects and had started their summer hour schedule. The Police Department had received night vision goggles and training on how to use them from the Department of the Army. Chief Dziobek had written a Homeland Security Grant request for \$125,000, which has made it through the first round. Dan advised the Board that we would be working on updating our non discrimination policy at the next meeting. Dan had been contacted by Swenson Granite and the trail lease is still in the hands of their attorneys.

Old Business: The Board commented on the Central Vermont Solid Waste District Fast Trash site. The Town continues to look for a permanent site.

New Business: None

Select Board Reports: None

8:45 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager, Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst., Mary Ellen Lovinsky and Jim Lovinsky.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

9:17 P.M. Open Session - No action taken.

9:18 P.M. Patricia moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel contracts.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

9:57 P.M. Open Session

9:57 P.M. Todd moved to appoint M. Tod to the union negotiation committee.

Patricia seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

9:58 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu