

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, May 20, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:
Todd Deuso
Charles Volk
Patricia Coultas
Kristina Michelson

Others Present:
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu,
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier
John DeGoosh, Gary Bellavance
Karen Shaw, William Pickens,
Nicole & Doug desGroseilliers

7:02 P.M. Meeting called to order.

7:02 P.M. Patricia Coultas moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2004 regular Select Board meeting.

Kristina Michelson seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Communications From Audience: William Pickens and Doug and Nicole desGroseilliers were present to ask the board to allow them to remove one tree and limb another tree on Bridgman Hill in order to install power to their property. They proposed attaching an electric line to pole number 54 and running this line diagonally over the road to their property. In order to do this they will need to trim branches and remove a tree in the Town's right of way. The Board looked over the plans with Doug, Nicole and Bill Pickens from the Hardwick Electric Department. The Board discussed the plans and asked questions about which trees needed to be cut. They also discussed alternatives.

7:15 P.M. Patti moved to allow the trimming and removal of trees by pole 54 on Bridgman Hill to allow an electrical wire to be installed.

Charles Volk seconded
Motion passed unanimously

John DeGoosh spoke to the Board about Tony Barretto-Neto. He wanted clarification on the bullet proof vest issue. He understood that the reason Tony was not issued a bullet proof vest was because the Town did not have his specific size, but he also understood that there were vests available in the police department. Dan and the Board confirmed that both of those statements were true. Karen Shaw asked the Board who performed the background check on Barretto-Neto? She told the Board that a simple computer search would have revealed a lot of information about Barretto-Neto's background. Dan answered that a back ground check was performed in-house. Todd Deuso answered that Tony's sexual orientation would not have influenced the decision to hire him. Dan said that there will be a new background check procedure coming before the Board soon. It isn't quite ready yet.

Manager's Report

Award of Annual Paving Bid

Dan presented the Board with the results of our paving bid requests. This year, he explained, the town will pave a section of Hideaway Acres, Depot St. Sumner St. and a portion of Holton Hill. Because petroleum prices are high and we have such a small amount of paving, the bids were higher this year than in past years. The bids were as follows: Bigelow Paving - \$65.00 per ton, Pike Industries - \$75.00 per ton, Gorman Brothers - \$73.42 per ton. Dan estimates the total cost of the project to be \$20,000.

7:25 P.M. Patti moved to award the paving bid to Bigelow Paving for \$65.00 per ton.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Work Session on Policies

Dan reminded the Board that they had received, in their Board packets, copies of the latest drafts of policies addressing nondiscrimination and equal employment. Dan said that he has tried to keep them as concise as possible while addressing all of the appropriate laws. At some point, the Attorney General's office is going to review whatever the town produces to ensure it meets with their approval but we need to update and improve them before they do a review. Kristina mentioned that she had already made a few changes. She said that she wanted to get more information from Vermont Legal Aid, but had not had a chance to do so yet. Kristina recommended the Board adopt the policies and then modify them once we have more information.

7:28 P.M. Kristina moved to adopt the non-discrimination policy and amend the equal opportunity section of the Town's personnel policy as presented.

Patricia seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Mileage Reimbursement Change

Dan told the Board that we currently reimburse our employees at the rate of \$0.34 per mile for use of their personal vehicle. The federal rate is \$0.37. With the continuing increases in gas prices, Dan proposed that we increase our reimbursement to \$0.355 as of July 1st. This would make just about the same as the local schools and would assist our employees as well.

7:31 P.M. Todd moved to increase the town's mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.37 effective July 1, 2004.

Patricia seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Fireworks Update

Lynda told the Board that we have raised \$1,690 so far in firework donations, bringing our total money for the May 29th display up to \$4,990. John DeGoosh handed Lynda \$10 to make the display an even \$5,000.

Delinquent Tax Update

Dan told the Board that \$203,500.00 in property taxes went delinquent this year. This is substantially higher than recent years where the number ranged from \$160,000.00 to \$180,000.00. His office will begin chasing this money by the end of the month. The balance as of May 20th was \$191,000. If the cash flow becomes tight, we may have to obtain a line of credit.

Police Report

Dan told the Board that they had received the police report for April in their Board packets. Todd announced that he and/or Tod Delaricheliere would be meeting with the surrounding town's Select Boards to gauge interest in regional policing. After Todd and Tod speak with the various boards, they will then invite anyone who is interested to meet in Hardwick, some time in July.

Glenside Landslide Update

Dan told the Board that within the last week, the State has started taking action on the Glenside situation. They brought in a survey team and now have points plotted to show any future movement. They have also brought in people and have cut a number of trees off the steep slope. Dan's office will keep you posted as they progress. Gary Bellavance spoke up to say that he doesn't feel it is right that State taxes are paying for a private land owner problem.

Spring Work Update

Dan told the Board that street sweeping is done in both Hardwick and East Hardwick. Along with road and ditch work, our main focus for the next couple of weeks will be painting cross walks and parking spaces along with sprucing up the downtown for the spring festival.

Reparative Justice Update

Dan said there was a public forum to discuss the future of reparative justice in the

Hardwick area on May 11th. It was well attended and very positive. Next steps are to create an advisory committee that will pursue additional funding so we can have a part-time paid coordinator and begin building a more formal structure and ensure sustainability.

Pickup Bid Results

Dan presented the Board with the one bid we received for the sale of our old 1989 pickup truck. Jamie Dailey bid \$50.50.

7:45 P.M. Todd moved to allow the town to sell the 1989 truck to Jamie Dailey for \$50.50.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Request from the Hardwick Area Community Coalition

Dan said that the Hardwick Area Community Coalition is in the process of writing a grant to hire a part-time coordinator and to become more active. They have asked the Town to be their fiscal agent and to allow them to use a desk in the police department on a part-time basis. Because the Town has supported this group and it is so closely tied to the police department, Dan said he would recommend allowing both of their requests. The Town could then charge \$1,500.00 for an administration fee for the fiscal year and room in the police department would be an "in kind" contribution to the grant by the Town. Patti asked Dan who would be responsible for the liability insurance. She asked to see a copy of the grant application. Dan answered that he would ask Chief Dziobek. Patti was specifically interested in making sure that if any type of counseling was being offered, that the H.A.C.C. have professional liability insurance.

7:48 P.M. Patti moved to approve the request of space and have the Town act as fiscal agent pending satisfactory answers to the liability insurance issue.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that Rural Water would be assisting us in completing a hydrant flushing schedule in July, after school is out for the year.

Dan advised the Board that Jamie Dailey had given his two weeks notice and had accepted a position with Hardwick Electric Dept.

Dan showed the Board a postcard his office had received from Close Up thanking the

Board for allowing them to fund raise through a town approved coin drop.

Dan told the Board that the Town's GASB 34 deadline is rapidly approaching. His office is ready; however, our auditors telephoned this week to advise Dan that few towns are complying. At this point there is no penalty for non-compliance. Lynda estimates that the extra cost of complying to be approximately \$2,000 a year. Dan told the Board that he recommends not complying until it is necessary to do so. His office will continue accounting for our assets, so when it is time, we will be ready. The Board discussed and agreed with Dan.

Dan advised the Board that our police department would be working with Hazen Union on project graduation this year.

Dan explained that Vermont Quality Dairy was asking for a waste water permit. The Town needs to allocate an amount of flow for their waste products, specifically BOD. Dan said that our sewer system can only stand so much BOD on any given day. Dan recommended that we charge Vt Quality Dairy for the amount of sewer they actually use, instead of the capacity reserved for them. Once more business moves in to the park and if this new industry also needs a certain allocation of our sewer system resources, we can revisit their contract. The Board agreed with Dan, but as soon as we approach capacity, Dan and the Board need to revisit this issue.

The Board and Dan decided that if a Board meeting is needed, they will meet at 7:00 P.M. on June 3rd, 6:00 P.M. on June 17th and 6:00 P.M. on both July 8th and July 22nd.

Old Business: Todd asked Dan how reappraisal was going. Dan said that the Town attorney, Bill Davies, has suggested one last change to our contract, but that Dan fully expects that reappraisal will start in the fall.

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: Patti reported that the teen center would be holding a meeting next week and that any interested Select Board were invited. Dan told the Board that he had met that day with a Central Vermont Solid Waste Management representative to look at potential permanent fast trash sites.

8:15 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss union contracts to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst.

Patti seconded

8:37 P.M. Open Session - No action taken.

Motion passed unanimously

8:38 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:45 P.M. Open Session - No action

8:46 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu