

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, July 15, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Charles Volk  
M. Tod Delaricheliere  
Todd Deuso  
Kristina Michelsen

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu  
Roger LeCours, Bert Smith  
Karen Shaw, Duane Wells  
Michael Gravel, Tom Fadden,  
Nathan Meunier, Roger Renwick,  
Roger Waible, Jim Mullholland,  
Norma Spaulding

6:04 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere called the meeting to order.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGERS REPORT

Tax Stabilization for Daniels Building

Dan told the Board that at the last Select Board meeting, they had discussed the tax stabilization agreement Duane Wells originally had for the Daniels building and what the Town could offer, given the changes to Act 60 and our ability to only stabilize municipal taxes.

The original intent of the plan was for Duane to pay 60% of the total tax bill for seven years after he had his first tenant. Duane has agreed to pay the full school portion of the taxes for the 6 years if the Town doesn't charge the municipal portion for that time. Currently, that would mean he would pay 61% of the total bill. This percentage will vary each year depending on the relationship between school and municipal tax increases/decreases. Duane would pay the full tax rate on the land, but only the school taxes on his building. Dan recommend that the Board adopt this agreement.

6:07 Kristina moved to approve the tax stabilization agreement for Duane Wells for a period of seven years.

Charles Volk seconded

Todd Deuso arrived

The Board discussed the tax stabilization agreement.

Motion passed unanimously

6:09 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2004 regular Select

Board meeting.

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

#### Wolcott Street Issues

Dan told the Board that we have an ongoing problem on Wolcott Street with a crushed sewer line and a nonexistent storm drain system. Dufresne-Henry looked at this situation with Dan and Ken LaCasse and have prepared plans to fix the problem. Dan has been waiting to find out the projected costs of repair before he schedules the work as his office will have to find the money to do this job. This is not a planned upgrade to our systems. While not exactly an emergency situation, Dan told the Board that this project takes precedence over other planned road and sewer upgrades.

Dan explained that he estimates the cost of the above upgrade and repairs to be \$100,000, which should be charged 67% to the sewer department and 33% to the general fund. Dan also told the Board that he is trying to find grant money to take the burden off of the sewer and water funds. Dan described that he would shift priorities or future funding of projects to pay for this work. The Board discussed the road and the time frame for this project. The Board agreed to move forward with the funding as proposed by Dan in the event he finds no grant sources.

#### Truck Body Bid Award

Dan told the Board that his office had a bid opening for the truck body and plow frame for our new dump truck last Wednesday. The results were as follows:  
Tenco New England - \$46,959.00 and Howard Fairfield - \$52,290.00. Dan recommend awarding the bid to Tenco.

6:15 P.M. M. Tod moved to award the truck body and plow frame bid to Tenco for the bid price of \$46,959.00.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Hardwick Electric Report

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their Select Board packets were the latest monthly report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners.

#### Zoning Report/Informational

He also advised them that they had received the latest report from Nancy Kish as to zoning activity in their packets

#### Letter from St. Johnsbury Town Manager/Informational

Also enclosed in their packets was a letter from Mike Welch, the Town Manager in St. Johnsbury. Mike is advising Select Boards in the area of how the methadone clinic is going to work in the northeast kingdom. Mike also gave us other information about heroin and addiction statistics.

#### Planning Grant Application

Dan said that thru NVDA, the Town of Hardwick is applying for a planning grant to do a feasibility study for creating a soy processing plant in Hardwick. This is the next step in our ongoing discussions with Andrew Meyer and his partner who want to build a new building in our industrial park and start a new company. If awarded, this grant will allow a study to see if it is practical to grow soy in northern Vermont, is there a market for soy products and to help design an efficient building to house a processing plant assuming the first two parts of the study are positive. In order to get this grant, the town will have to pay a small portion as a local share of the \$30,000.00 request. We will use \$1,000.00 as in kind pay for Lynda's and Dan's time spent on this project. Dan asked the Board how it feels about using \$2,000.00 of revolving loan monies as the rest of the local share. Dan also requested that one Board member attend a Public Hearing on Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> for this application. NVDA is going to lead this Hearing. Todd Deuso volunteered to attend this Hearing. Dan told the Board that they also need to pass a resolution to apply for a Vermont Community Development Planning Grant.

6:20 P.M. M. Tod moved to pass a resolution to apply for a Vermont Community Development Planning Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 for a feasibility study.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:21 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve the appropriation of \$2,000.00 from the Town of Hardwick revolving loan fund to go towards our local match.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Water Quality Brochure

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their Select Board packets were our annual brochure we produce for our water users. It is a snapshot of our system and we send it out

with out billings each July. This is a requirement of our State water permit.

#### Line of Credit Authorization

Dan presented the Board with the annual line of credit paperwork ready for their authorization. The Town always set up a \$200,000.00 line of credit with the bank in case we have a cash flow problem during the year. Because of the deficit this year and the tax bills going out a little later than usual due to all of the changes in determining a Grand List, we may actually have to use the line for a short period for the first time in my tenure.

6:23 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve signing the \$200,000.00 line of credit at a rate of 2.2%.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Preliminary Budget Review for FY '04

Dan said that enclosed in the Select Board packets were the preliminary summaries of revenue and expenses for FY '04. At this point it appears we are going to have a substantial deficit as Dan has been warning. Dan reviewed the revenues and expenses. While revenues are up substantially, so are police department expenses (due to five members of the police department attending the police academy). The other items that contributed to the deficit were the ice jam and a planned deficit for the COPS officer and the \$11,000 built in the budget to keep taxes down.

#### Setting of the Tax Rate

Alberta Miller, the Town Clerk, was present with the calculations to set a tax rate for the current fiscal year. Alberta spoke about the tax rate and how the State of Vermont determines the formula for school funding. The Board discussed the past tax rate versus the new one, Act 68 and our Grand List.

7:45 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a General Tax Rate of .7268.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:46 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a Highway Tax Rate of .5036

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:47 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a Local Agreement Tax Rate of .0009.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that he had received an offer to purchase the backhoe attachment from the Fiat for \$650.00. He asked the Board to approve his selling this excess piece of equipment, which Hardwick no longer needs as we no longer run the Fiat.

7:48 P.M. Charles moved to accept the offer of \$650 for the Fiat backhoe.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan handed the Board a letter from the Department of Education concerning childhood obesity. Dan advised the Board that the Old Inn Restaurant had closed. The Town has handled a couple of inquiries, but at this point Robin is current on her Town loan and we have no role to play at this point. The Board discussed the Centennial Building. Dan told the Board he would like to place the winter sand purchase this year out to bid. The Board agreed. Dan said that two new trees have been planted on Wolcott Street and the brush has been cleared. He also told the Board that Daniels Road was improved this week by brush clearing and widening of the road. Dan told the Board that the dump truck recently had it's rear end replaced. The tax bills will be mailed out within the next couple of weeks. Dan reminded the Board about the directional flushing to clear the water lines, which will be taking place the week of July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Select Board Reports: Kristina advised the Board that the Town House was sponsoring movies at Caspian Beach for the month of August - every Wednesday.

Select Board meeting recessed

7:00 P.M. Public Hearing for Changes to Traffic Ordinance

This Public Hearing is to take testimony on two proposed changes to the Town of Hardwick traffic ordinance.

The Town is proposing that the entrance from Brush St. into the municipal parking lot and Daniels Road be one way only and no one can enter Brush St. from Daniels Road or the parking lot.

The Town is also proposing that the 5 municipal parking spaces directly in front of the Daniels building be designated as 2 hour parking and the remaining municipal spaces in that lot be 12 hour parking. These would be approximately 12-14 spaces.

Dan said that at the end of the hearing, if there are no additional changes to be made,

the Board needs to return to our normal meeting and vote to adopt the changes to the ordinance. These changes will then go into effect in 60 days if there is no challenge from the public (which must be received within 30 days of adoption).

Bert Smith advocated strong enforcement of all ordinances. He had no negative comments about the proposed changes. Bert wants even handed, vigorous enforcement of the current ordinances.

7:08 P.M. Public hearing closed

7:08 P.M. M. Tod moved to adopt the changes as proposed.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

A group of people then showed up to discuss the proposed changes. The discussed the speed limits, sidewalks and the parking lot.

7:25 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel to include Dan Hill, Town Manager, Tom Fadden and Michael Gravel.

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:30 P.M. Out of Executive Session - no action taken

8:31 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations to include Dan Hill, Town Manager.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:42 P.M. Out of Executive Session

8:42 P.M. Kristina moved to ratify a new three year contract with the Public Works Department.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:43 P.M. Kristina moved to ratify, in principal, a one year contract with the Police Department pending the printing of the contract.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:43 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation to include Dan Hill, Town Manager.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:55 P.M. Out of Executive Session - No action taken.

8:55 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair  
Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu