

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Todd Deuso
Patricia Coultas
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Kristina Michelsen

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier,
Chief James Dziobek, Gary Lindsley,
Ken Eastman, Linda North,
Richard Sullivan,
Ann Sullivan,
Scott Johnson, Lt. George Hacking,
Mary Bissonward, Lori Cunningham,
Nancy Notterman, Barbara Cimaglio,
Tami Fleury, Cathy Murphy,
Michele Siemans, Roger LeBlanc,
Stan Parsons, Debra Hartt,
Tim Hartt

6:00 P.M. Todd Deuso called the meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of August 18, 2004.

Kristina Michelsen - seconded
Patricia Coultas - Yes
Todd - Yes
M. Tod - Yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGERS REPORT

Bid Award for Wolcott St. Project

Dan presented the Board with the three bids he received for the Wolcott Street sewer and storm drain project. The bids are as follows: Lamoille Construction - \$104,467, J. Hutchins, Inc. - \$147,976.02 and J.P. Sicard - \$142,970. The engineers, Dufresne- Henry reviewed the bids and recommended the town accept the low bid from Lamoille Construction in the amount of \$104,467. Dan also recommended that the Board accept the bid of Lamoille Construction.

6:05 P.M. M. Tod moved to award the Wolcott street sewer and storm drain project to Lamoille Construction in the amount of \$104,467.

Kristina - seconded

The Board asked Dan about the time frame for this project.

Motion passed unanimously

Request for Methadone Clinic Visits

Lt. Hacking of the VT. State Police and Barbara Cimaglio from the Vermont Department of Health came before the Board to discuss the idea of the mobile methadone clinic that is based in Barton coming to Hardwick on a daily basis to administer treatment to patients. Barbara Cimaglio gave the Board an overview of what they are planning for the Northeast Kingdom. She gave a background of heroin addiction in Vermont and its effect on communities. Lt. Hacking told the Board what Vermont is facing. He told the Board that he thinks a methadone program can help. Barbara said that there are multiple approaches towards solving this problem. The treatment area is the weakest at this point. She described how methadone blocks the heroin craving, but that a program of counseling services goes along with methadone treatment. Barbara described the addiction process and how eventually using heroin becomes an unconscious decision. Barbara explained that the statistics show that there is an increased use in the northeast kingdom, but also an increased demand for treatment. She proposes having several locations in the NEK. This will allow people, who require methadone treatment, to hold jobs, as their travel time will be lessened. Presently, in order to obtain methadone, addicts need to travel to Massachusetts. She stated that this meeting was the first step. She wanted to open a dialog with the Town and get their blessing to move forward with this mobile methadone concept. The Board, Barbara and Lt. Hacking discussed residency requirements, the number of people this mobile clinic will serve, what towns will be affected, the drug coalition and the Health Center's role. Many people spoke in favor of the mobile methadone clinic, including Chief Dziobek of the Hardwick Police Dept., Mary Bissonward, and Nancy Notterman. The people in the room and the Board asked Barbara and Lt. Hacking questions concerning the privacy issue when dispensing methadone, whether the program can grow, how long the treatments last and whether there is a criteria for methadone treatment.

6:55 P.M. M. Tod moved to support the concept of a mobile methadone clinic.

Patricia seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Water Quality Update

Dan told the Board that in their Board packets was a letter from Stephan Syz of the Agency of Natural Resources. Mr. Syz was attempting to answer some of the questions raised during his presentation at the last meeting. He is also agreeing to attend another meeting or do whatever the Board would like to reach some type of decision on the new water quality standards being proposed.

Mr. Syz also forwarded a copy of a large map to show the bodies of water they are considering for B1 status. The Board reviewed the map and decided to place this

issue back on the agenda for the end of October or first of November.
Grant Application for Memorial Building Improvements

Dan told the Board that the Governor has allocated \$450,000.00 to be used for grant monies for small community improvement projects. Dan submitted a request for \$26,000.00 to get the windows on the 3rd floor of the Memorial Building fixed. Dan said he feels we have a competitive application. The Town should hear something by the 1st of October.

Repairs to Retaining Wall

Dan said that the Town has now received the check for \$75,000.00 from the Governor's office for downtown improvements. The first item is fixing the retaining wall behind the Village Restaurant. Dan contacted several companies who work with cement to get quotes but only Carroll Concrete offered a price or expressed interest in the work. Dan said his office recommends hiring them to make the repairs for a cost of \$17,500.00. The Board discussed whether other bids should be sought. Because this is a specialized job, it was decided that no other bids were needed.

7:17 P.M. M. Tod moved to hire Carroll Concrete to repair the retaining wall behind the Village Restaurant.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan said he was also looking into prices to get the cement wall between the swinging bridge and the Village Restaurant removed and replaced with a new railing. He showed the Board a few options. The Board asked to start their next Select Board meeting by the swinging bridge. They also directed Dan to look into having the new railing being made locally if possible.

Bunker Hill Update

Dan said that Bunker Hill is now done and the road is opened.

Smith Farm Road Update

Dan told the Board that Bellavance's are beginning the work to install a new box culvert on Smith Farm Road. This project should be done by the end of the month.

Dan advised the Board that paving will be starting September 20th for the few roads we have scheduled this year.

New Hire in Public Works

Dan said that we have hired Perley Allen to replace Bernie Shatney on our Public Works crew. He started last week and is doing well.

Storm Damage Update

Dan discussed the series of summer storms that have caused problems with our roads. On the weekend of August 29th, a large part of the State suffered damage due to a heavy rainstorm. Hardwick did not totally lose any roads but did receive substantial losses in our ditches, had plugged culverts and the sides of many of our roads washed out. The Public Works crew have caught up again but it does take a toll on doing new projects and it is also very expensive for us.

During the last week, the road crew has kept a tally of the number of loads of gravel hauled and where they went and also kept track of the amount of time each piece of machinery was used and where. Dan then met with the Federal Emergency Management people (FEMA) who were touring the area. There is an outside chance an emergency declaration will happen and if it does, our documentation will allow us to get some reimbursement for our work and material. The minimum dollar amount of any storm's damage is \$1,000,000 to be eligible for emergency. We kept a tally of the number of loads of gravel hauled and where they went and also kept track of the amount of time each piece of machinery was used and where.

Ordinance Updates

Dan told the Board that the Town is in the early stages of reviewing both our water and sewer ordinances. Neither document has had a review in years and with changes in State laws and in our own systems, Dan wants to take a good look at everything. Once Dan has a better handle on what changes may need to be made, he will schedule a discussion at a meeting.

Planning Grant Update

Dan told the Board that we have received the initial review of our application for a planning grant to investigate processing soy in our industrial park. They have rated our project as strong and it looks good for funding at this point.

Generator Update

Dan is working with Lamberton Electric to design and cost out generators for both the Memorial Building and the main pump houses for our water system. It appears we will have enough Homeland Security grant money to cover the purchase and installation in two units. Lamberton estimates the top end cost to be \$60,000, but we

are working with them to get that number lower. The State of Vermont has been asking Hardwick to install a fence around our main water reservoir. We received one quote from VT Recreational Fencing for \$5,920.00.

7:26 P.M. M. Tod moved to purchase a fence for \$5,920.00 to protect our main water reservoir from VT Recreational Fencing.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan advised the Board that the monthly testing of Mackville's water came back positive for ecoli. The Board asked Dan, when posting future health warnings to sign them as the Health Officer.

Dan explained to the Board that the road crew now pays 10% of their health and dental insurance premiums. Because the this is done pretax, it is considered a benefit and the town needs to pass a resolution offering a flexible benefits program.

7:29 P.M. M. Tod moved to adopt a resolution offering a flex benefits program to Town of Hardwick employees.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:29 P.M. M. Tod authorized the Town Manager to sign the resolution on behalf of the Town.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Old Business: None

New Business: Todd Deuso addressed the Board about his concerns with the proposed cell tower on Bridgman Hill. He said that he feels it would be beneficial to the town to hire a cell tower consultant to perform a study on various sites in Hardwick, so that the town can be sure the tower is located on the best site possible. The Board discussed and decided to place this issue on their September 23rd Board agenda.

7:46 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager, Debra Hartt and Tim Hartt.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:04 P.M. Out of Executive Session

8:04 P.M. M. Tod moved to continue with a second position on the Hartt's mortgage.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:06 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund to include Stan Parson and Dan Hill.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:30 P.M. Open Session - No action taken

8:30 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:31 P.M. Open Session

8:31 P.M. M. Tod moved to accept a \$6,000 cash payment and a \$2,500 personal note from Robin LeBlanc to close out her existing loan with the Town.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:32 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations.

Patricia seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:38 P.M. Open Session - No action taken

8:39 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn the meeting.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu