

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Patricia Coultas  
Charles Volk  
M. Tod Delaricheliere  
Kristina Michelsen  
Todd Deuso

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu  
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier,  
Emilian Geczi, Lorraine Hussey,  
Eleanor McQuillen, Joyce Merrill,  
Lisa Sammet, Jerry Schneider,  
Anne Batten, Alberta Miller,  
Chief James Dziobek,

6:02 P.M. Todd Deuso called the meeting called to order.

6:02 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of November 18, 2004.

Patricia Coultas - seconded  
Todd - Abstained  
M. Tod - Yes  
Patti - Yes  
Charles Volk - Yes  
Kristina Michelsen - Yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: Dan Hill, Town Manager, made an announcement that he had just received a press release announcing that the Town of Hardwick had received \$100,000 from Senator Patrick Leahy's office. This money is federal money that Sen. Leahy had secured to go towards restoration and preservation of historic Hardwick buildings.

## MANAGERS REPORT

### 1. Budget Workshop

Dan reviewed the current status of the budget, before any cuts are made. Lisa Sammet and members of the Jeudevine Memorial Library Board were present to discuss the library appropriation request. Lisa reviewed her circulation statistics, the expense items and her job. She spoke about maintenance issues, building needs and increased programming. Lisa said that she feels that too much of her time is being taken up with maintenance issues. She said she would like an assistant. Jerry Schneider spoke as to the library's need for additional children's programs. Lorraine Hussey spoke up to say she feels that the libraries budget is too high. Patti stated that based on previous years, circulation does not appear to be connected to the budget. She questioned how much the library was looking for as an appropriation if their expenses were expected to be \$56,575.00? Lisa answered that the revenue that the library receives is minimal. Lisa spoke about the idea of an endowment being established some day to help generate

some revenue for the library. The Board asked questions about the maintenance budget. Dan read a paragraph from Sullivan, Powers & Companies Audit Opinion. The auditors questioned the relationship between the Town and the library. Dan will seek an opinion from Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns. The entire Board praised the library and the librarian, but told the Library Trustees and Lisa, the librarian, that this was not a good year to ask for a 41% increase. Anne Batten spoke about how Lisa has "brought the library back to life." M. Tod suggested the Library Trustees create a financial oversight committee and start fund raising. Todd suggested asking other towns, who use the library, to start paying for it as well. The Select Board thanked the Library Trustees and Lisa.

6:50 P.M. The Board recessed

6:51 P.M. Meeting resumed

Dan reviewed the police budget. Todd told the Board that even though the issue of regional policing concept would be discussed on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, it would not have any effect on the proposed budget. The Board discussed uniforms and special officers with Chief Dziobek.

Chief Dziobek spoke about a grant request he had just submitted. It is called Go Girl, Go. The National Woman's Sports Foundation sponsors this grant, which is targeting girls ages 10 through 13. Chief Dziobek would run an eight week summer program of outdoor activities. The Board thanked Chief Dziobek.

Dan reviewed the Line Items section of the budget. The Board discussed the discount rate. Dan said if the voters decide to eliminate the discount expense there would have to be mandatory payments to keep the cash flow to run the town. Patti suggested looking into reducing the discount percent. Todd said he feels eliminating the discount is fair to everyone. The Board discussed and asked Dan to include an article for town meeting asking the voters if they wish to eliminate the 3% property tax discount if paid prior to November 10<sup>th</sup> and establish three mandatory payment dates of September 10<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dan reviewed the Equipment Replacement Fund portion of the budget and the Capital Fund portion. The Board discussed the proposed new fence/wall along the river by the swinging bridge. They asked Dan to contact Jack Corley and Lucien Avery to advise them of the length change and ask them to see if they could produce this new fence for \$25,000. The Select Board decided to appoint Patti Coultas and M. Tod Delaricheliere to sit down with Dan and review non union salaries. The Board discussed the budget as a whole, looking for cuts. They directed Dan to reduce the line item for the Jeudevine Library by \$8,275 and level fund the Police Special's line for now. They will discuss the Capital fund being reduced by \$5,000 at the next meeting, when the wrought iron fence is brought before the Board again.

2. Bid Opening Police Cruiser

Dan handed the Board the Police Cruiser bid opening results. They were as follows: Lamoille Valley Ford, \$20,573.50 (with am/fm radio), \$20,673.50 (with CD player), Morrow Brothers Ford, \$21,195.00, Texoma Ford, \$27,777.00 and Heritage Ford \$22,641.00 & \$24,652.00 (loaded).

8:45 P.M. M. Tod moved to award the 2005 Police Cruiser Bid to Lamoille Valley Ford in the amount of \$20,573.50.

Todd seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan advised the Board that the annual tax sale had taken place on 29 properties. We have an outstanding balance for delinquent taxes of just under \$20,000. Dan handed the Board an updated Sewer & Water Ordinance and an updated Traffic Ordinance. He asked them to sign these ordinances. All of the changes made at the last meeting were incorporated into these documents.

Dan told the Board that Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst., was applying for grant money in order to improve the windows in the Memorial Building.

8:47 P.M. M. Tod moved to sign a letter of support for the Historic Preservation Grant.

Todd seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan updated the Board on the Village Restaurant sidewalk (will be fixed in the Spring at Bruno Fontaine's expense), the Swenson Granite bike path (no answer), a Central Vermont Solid Waste landowner meeting for Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> (to discuss the recycling facility) and the Alan May complaint (Northeast Rural Water found not noise problems and would be issuing a report).

Dan asked the Board to think about who they would like to dedicate the Town Report to. Dan also asked the Board to reconsider the bike path that was going to be built starting at the swinging bridge, running along the river and going to the Cottage Street bridge. Because of the new parking lot by the Daniel's Building and the narrow road and increased traffic on Daniels Road, Dan said he was starting to have reservations about whether that was the right starting point for the bike path. The Board was going to consider this issue.

Todd said he went to the CVSWD meeting. The CVSWD Board is drafting a biosolids policy which would ban the spreading of septic and sludge on fields. This would cost the Water and Sewer rate users more money to find alternatives to land application.

8:52 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal to include Dan

Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:59 P.M. Out of Executive Session. No action taken.

9:00 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

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Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu