

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, December 16, 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,  
Bill Hill, Jack Corley, Chris Cammera,  
Mary Jean Hill, Bob Ferlazo,  
Chris Benda, Arthur Bombardier,  
Rich Tetrault, Shaunna Clifford,  
Jim Hill, Lorraine Hill, Lucien Avery,  
James Coultas, Wayne Farr,  
Sue Holmes, Todd Holmes,  
Lew Shattuck, Lee Ann Lee,  
Richard Bright, Sherry Bright

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

6:00 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of December 2, 2004.

Kristina Michelsen - seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: Mary Jean Hill was present to speak about a sewer complaint. Mary Jean said that her neighbors have a failing sewer system which is leaking sewage on to her property. She said she has been working with Dan Hill, as Town Health Officer, to see if there is any way the town can help stop this problem. Unfortunately, as they are both private land owners and there are no laws in the State of Vermont preventing this type of issue, no one has been able to help. Kristina asked Mary Jean if she has consulted with an attorney. Mary Jean answered that she has but because of her neighbors financial status, even if they were to go to court, the neighbors could say they do not have the financial means to fix the problem. Dan Hill told the Board that he has asked Nancy Kish, Zoning Administrator, to look into the problem, to see if our zoning bylaws could be of any help. Todd Deuso said he and M. Tod would go to the property and make a recommendation, if Nancy is unable to help. Mary Jean also complained about a dog. Dan recommended that Mary Jean keep calling the police when she sees that it is running loose.

## MANAGERS REPORT

### VTrans Presentation

The Board and people attending the Select Board meeting moved to the other side of the room, where a power point presentation was setup concerning the landslides

on Glenside Avenue. Chris Benda started the presentation, with a little background. There were three slides; November 10, 2003, April 19, 2004 and September 10, 2004. He displayed an overview of a typical land slide. He then continued by reviewing the work done to date. The State of Vermont has installed erosion control devices, maintained the ditch on Route 15 and removed fill. These were all temporary measures to slow the movement. They have also completed a subsurface investigation. They have done borings, installed inclinometers and monitoring wells. They have also completed a slope stability evaluation and removed trees. Mr. Benda said that many alternatives were evaluated: drainage ditches, drainage pipes, counter weight, a retaining structure, load reduction and reinforcement. He said that the State's preferred alternative is a combination and variety of solutions. They propose to realign Route 15, install a stone counterberm, buy out one property owner and remove the structure, and they will install drainage for the surface and groundwater. Mr. Benda then opened the floor for discussion. The Board and people in the room discussed the matter. Todd Deuso thanked the State for all they have done to help the residents of Glenside

#### Reparative Justice Request

Lew Shattuck was present to request Town support for a grant application to support Hardwick's reparative justice program. This grant has to be requested by the municipality which would then allow the reparative justice group to administer it. The Board had received in their packets some background material. Lew explained that Hardwick is in the forefront of restorative justice. He gave some background about what his group has done so far. He told the Board that this grant would allow his group to offer other services, such as community supervised probation. They would also be able to expand the precharge program by adding additional boards, including one that could deal with quality of life issues.

6:55 P.M. Kristina moved to support the grant application for the Hardwick Area Reparative Justice program.

Charles Volk seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Discussion on Main Street Railing

Lucien Avery and Jack Corley were present to begin finalizing the new railing along the river. Lucien was advised by Dan Hill, prior to the meeting, that the Board wanted to reduce the length of the rail from 126' to 93'. He was also advised that the Board wished the cost to be between \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Lucien and Jack asked the Board to select a design so that they could continue with a proposal. The Board discussed the designs and selected design #1 from the package of information presented at the November 4<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting.

7:16 P.M. Kristina moved to accept railing proposal design #1 with points on the top.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Request From the Historical Society

Dan told the Board that the Hardwick Historical Society has made a request to have the Town allow them to move the contents of the museum in the Memorial Building to the depot and display them there. This would be a better way of preserving the items in the museum and allowing more people to enjoy them. It would also free up that room so we could move the zoning administrator and the Listers there and then use the upstairs office for the reparative justice director and or storage. Dan suggested that we add an article to the Warning for Town Meeting asking voter approval to either give or loan the contents of the museum to the historical society, to read as follows:

“Shall the Town loan the contents of the museum in the Memorial Building to the Hardwick Historical Society, to include the display cases and their contents?”

The Board agreed this decision belonged on the warning.

#### Woodbury/Hardwick Railroad trail

Dan told the Board that we now have the signed lease agreement with Swenson Granite for a 99 year lease for the Hardwick-Woodbury rail line. A copy of the lease was included in their packets and if acceptable, the Board can vote to sign the lease. The responsibility for management of the trail would then be turned over to the committee that has already been formed in conjunction with Woodbury. Charlie is our representative on that committee. Charles told the Board that he has since learned that there is a lister in Woodbury researching who really owns the rail bed.

7:29 P.M. Charles moved to accept the lease for the Hardwick/Woodbury with Swenson Granite.

Patti seconded

Charles thanked Dan for all his hard work.

Motion passed unanimously

#### Meeting on Recycling Depot

Dan told the Board that Chris Patterson and Liz Helrich of the Central VT. Solid Waste District and he had met with the owners of the property on Route 15 to discuss using a small part of their land for a regional trash and recycling depot. Dan said that they seemed receptive to the concept but asked for time to consider the idea.

#### Hardwick Electric Report

Dan told the Board that the latest report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners was included in their packets.  
Budget Work Session

Dan handed the Board the most current budget sheets for their review at the meeting. The Board discussed the newest budget figures. Dan will bring the budget before the Board one more time on January 6, 2005.

The fire department has asked that we give the voters a choice as to how much to borrow for their new truck. They want an option to borrow \$380,000 and an option to borrow \$225,000. The Board discussed this issue and agreed that they had made the decision at a previous meeting that the fire department could ask for \$225,000, with the warning to read as follows:

“Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow a sum not to exceed Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$225,000.00) for a term of ten (10) years to buy a new fire truck? (Per title 24 VSA, Section 1786A, this article will be voted by Australian Ballot).”

Dan talked to the Board about the tractor and mower article. It would read as follows:

“Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow a sum not to exceed Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for a term of three (3) years to buy a tractor and brush mower?”

#### Bike Path Discussion

Dan told the Board that he walked the proposed bike path route from the swinging bridge to Cottage Street again and took some measurements. Dan feels that he has enough room to create an 8' wide gravel path between the road and the river. Dan said he would continue with the bike path. He also advised the Board that his office would be administering this grant, not NVDA as previously agreed.

#### Update on Auditors Report

Dan told the Board that he is continuing to work with both the library board and the fire department to incorporate all of their accounting and fund accounts into the Town system as requested by the auditors.

#### Town Report Dedication

The Board discussed the dedication for the Town Report. The also decided to put the Veterans's Memorial on the cover.

## Skating Rink Update

Dan told the Board that Ken Atkins has decided to allow the Town to put the skating rink on his property on Granite Street again this winter. The road crew has already assembled it at that site. Thanks to Ken for his generosity.

Dan handed the Board the latest police report and letter from Sandy Howard. He told the Board that the Town had received a letter of commendation from concerning the Wolcott Street sewer line project.

Select Board Reports: The Board thanked Dave Brown for his many years of service in the Legislature.

Old Business: M. Tod and Todd gave a quick review of the regional police meeting of December 6<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2005.

7:56 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst. and Sherry and Richard Bright

M. Tod seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:30 P.M. Out of Executive Session.

8:31 P.M. M. Tod moved to approve a revolving loan to Sherry and Richard Bright for ten years in the amount of \$68,000 with a first mortgage on their home or \$35,000 for ten years with a second mortgage on their business.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:32 P.M. M. Tod moved to adjourn the meeting.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

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Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu