

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd 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,
Dan Hale, Kate Scarlott,
Dennis Pudvah, Dan Courchaine,
Harold McCoy, David Covell,
Val Covell, Grace Johnstone,
Rob McLeod

6:00 P.M. M. Tod called the meeting called to order.

6:02 P.M. Patricia Coultas moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of December 16, 2004.

Kristina Michelsen -seconded
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE:

MANAGERS REPORT

Final Audit Report

Dan told the Board that they had received the final version of our financial audit for the year ending 06/30/04. Dan explained that there are no changes from the draft version the Board saw earlier. Patti asked if the fire department and library issues had been resolved? Dan answered that we were starting to take over the library payroll and accounts payable as of the first of the year. The Fire Department has agreed to allow us to run their finances as well, but that transfer has not taken place yet.

6:05 P .M. Todd Deuso arrived

Lucy Leriche Visit

Lucy Leriche, our new representative, was present to hear what was on the Board's mind in terms of issues she may be involved with at the State level. Lucy started by saying she was aware of the high cost of health care and the impact to the Hardwick budget. She also said that she would be following the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Town's recommendations. She told the Board to contact her if she could be of any assistance. Charles asked Lucy to keep an eye on the Agency of Transportation as they are supposed to be creating wider shoulders for bicycle use on any newly paved highways. Dan asked Lucy to watch out for unfunded mandates.

Snow Machine Policy Discussion

Kate Scarlott and Rob McLeod, who live on Ward Hill near the Walden town line, were present to

discuss our current snow machine policy. Dan Courchaine and Dennis Pudvah of the Snowflake Ridge Runners were also present as they are in charge of trails in Hardwick. Rob stated that he had read a portion of the snowmobile policy in the local newspaper and he had concerns about the unrestricted travel on the gravel roads. Kate explained that where she lives on Ward Hill, there have been snow machines traveling up and down the road at high rates of speed. Kate asked for the Board to place restrictions on the dirt roads limiting access and curfew times. The Board agreed that the intent of the policy was not to have town roads open all the time for everyone. The intent was for snow machines to use the town roads to access existing VAST trails. Kate said that a curfew was also in order. People who live on unpaved roads should have the same right to peace and quiet as people who live on paved roads. Patti asked Dan if he has received any complaints? Dan said that there were a few isolated cases last year. -The Board discussed Ward Hill and the clarity of the language in the snow machine policy. Harold McCoy spoke up that he agreed that the roads should be closed to snow mobiles with the exception of accessing the trails. Dennis and Dan Courchaine agreed that they would look into the snow mobiler who was causing problems on Ward Hill, if Kate and Rob could get them a description of the machine.

6:41 P.M. Kristina moved to change the language in the policy regarding snowmobiles section A to read as follows:

"All gravel roads in the municipality shall be open to snowmobile travel for the purpose of accessing trails, except Carey Road from Dix Road to Mackville Road."

Patti seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Budget Work

Dan told the Board that they had received the latest numbers for our budget in their Board packets. He said that these now include firm amounts in all areas except County taxes. Ron Bellavance was going to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the article in the Warning dealing with borrowing money to buy a fire truck. He wants to ask for \$380,000.00 for this truck and if that fails, ask for \$225,000.00. The Board agreed that there should be one option of \$225,000 as agreed at a previous meeting.

The Board discussed the article that would loan the contents of the museum to the Hardwick Historical Society. M. Tod wanted a provision making it clear that the contents of the museum would stay at the depot. Kristina advised Dan, that should this article pass, make sure that the loan agreement to the Hardwick Historical Society was clear that the contents stay in the depot.

Dan also included a Letter of Transmittal that explains the bigger changes to our budget from last year. Charles questioned a few errors in the letter of transmittal. Letter From Roger Howard

In the Select Board packets there was a letter from Roger Howard again concerning cell towers. Kristina advised Dan and the Board that she and Ken Davis would be attending an upcoming telecommunications seminar at Lake Morey.

Todd asked Dan to increase the professional fees to reflect the potential cell tower appeals.

Lynda handed the Select Board the latest Hardwick Electric Report.

Dan gave the Board Lucien Avery's formal proposal for the fence by the swinging bridge. The Board reviewed the proposal.

7:05 P.M. Todd moved to authorize Dan Hill to sign the proposal.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:06 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager, David Covell, Val Covell and Grace Johnstone.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:42 P.M. Out of Executive Session

7:42 P.M. Patti moved to transfer Karen Cayer's town revolving loan to the Vermont Community Network, Inc.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:42 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations to include Dan Hill, Town Manager.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:05 P.M. Out of Executive Session - No Action

8:05 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:25 P.M. Out of Executive Session -No Action

8:26 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kristina seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Todd Deuso, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu