

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:  
Patricia Coultas  
Kristina Michelsen  
M. Tod Delaricheliere

Others Present:  
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu  
Roger LeCours, Nathan Meunier,  
Alberta Miller, Donald Ferland,  
Ronald Bellavance, Jennifer Greaves,  
Dave Merrill, Charles Deasy,  
Mary Jean Hill

6:03 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere called the meeting called to order.

6:03 P.M. Patricia Coultas moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of January 20, 2005.

After some discussion, the Board was unable to approve the minutes, as the quorum present (three Board members) had one member who had not attended the meeting of January 20th.

6:04 P.M. Patti withdrew her motion.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: Mary Jean Hill was present to thank Dan Hill and the Select Board for helping her with a neighbor's sewer running on to her property. The Zoning Administrator, Nancy Kish, is now trying to help, as the zoning regulations address sewer issues.

## MANAGERS REPORT

### Town Meeting Informational Discussion

This time has been set aside to allow any member of the public or the Board a chance to ask questions or make comments about issues pertinent to Town Meeting. Article 5 (the fire truck), in particular, as it is an Australian Ballot item and cannot be discussed at Town Meeting. Charles Deasy asked the Board to describe the proposed fire truck. Ron Bellavance, Chief of the Hardwick Fire Department, described the truck. Mr. Deasy also asked about the penalties or interest associated with the proposed elimination of the discount expense. It was decided by the Board to continue with the agenda items, but allow people to come in and ask questions about the upcoming Town Meeting.

### Homeland Security Grant Application

Dan told the Board that in their board packets was a copy of the grant submittal

the Hardwick/Greensboro police department made for Homeland Security money. Within the application guidelines, Chief Jim Dziobek has asked for what he feels are reasonable improvements to our operations. The satellite phones have now been changed to cell phones as the original request was amended by the review board. Jim's narrative explains the other items on the list. This list, with the change in phones will now go to the State level for further review. Chief Bellavance told the Board that his department has received approximately \$80,000 - \$90,000 in homeland security grant money. M. Tod told Ron that he has been hearing about the fire departments new ATV on the radio, because they responded to an accident in Woodbury. Ron told the Board that he is very happy with this new four season rescue vehicle.

#### Regional Policing Update

Dan told the Board that he has checked with other towns that have been attending the regional policing issue with and it appears all except Wolcott have put an article on their warning for Town Meeting. Wolcott decided not to pursue it at this time.

#### Hardwick Electric Report

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets was the latest monthly report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners. M. Tod asked Dan about whether there would be another rate increase. Dan answered that with the price of purchased power continually going up, he would not be surprised if there was another increase.

#### NEKCA Board Nomination Request

Dan said that Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. sent his office a notice that Hardwick has the opportunity to appoint someone to their board. They rotate these positions and it is now Hardwick's turn if we want it. This group is involved with a number of programs such as Head Start/Early Head Start and other child and parenting efforts. They are based in Newport. Lesa Cathcart and the early education program in the Masonic temple are affiliated with this group. Lee Ann Lee has offered to represent Hardwick on this board. If this is acceptable, the Select Board needs to nominate her.

6:15 P.M. Kristina moved to nominate Lee Ann Lee to serve on the Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. Board.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Fireworks Contract

Dan told the Board that his office has signed the yearly contract with Northstar Fireworks for the Spring Festival weekend. The Town gets additional fireworks by signing early. Lynda Brochu will be sending out letters to solicit contributions for more funding to expand the show. In the past, the community has been very generous in

supporting this event.

#### Library Report

Dan said that included in the board packets was the latest library report from Lisa Sammet. Dan also said that his office has now converted all of the library accounting functions to the town records as the auditors requested. Also included is a copy of new by-laws the trustees have adopted. In addition, Lenore Renaud has resigned as a trustee effective immediately. This means we will need to elect someone at Town Meeting to fill the fully expired term of Joyce Merrill, someone to fill out the remaining two years of Dawn Dreschler's term and someone to fill out the remaining year of Lenore's term. M. Tod asked Dan to have the Library Trustees keep the Board up to by giving the Select Board copies of the Library meeting minutes.

#### Hardwick-Woodbury Path Update

Dan told the Board that he held a meeting in early February to officially turn over the management of the Hardwick-Woodbury trail to the committees from the two towns. They are going to choose their own officers and begin to plan improvements to the trail. Charlie Volk will now be the Board's liaison with this group.

#### Police Reports

Dan told the Board that included in their packets was the police report for both December and January.

#### Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

In your packets is a copy of the draft of a pre-disaster mitigation plan for Hardwick. This is a result of meetings with a consultant working for NVDA who is preparing this document for all of the towns in the northeast kingdom. Please review and advise if you would like any changes to it. This draft is being forwarded to the State level for their review and ultimately will be used by Vermont Emergency Management along with our Rapid Response plan which is already on file. The Board discussed two potential issues: Jackson Dam and the ice jams in the river.

#### Phosphorous Removal Meeting

Dan said he held a meeting with Wayne Elliott of Forcier-Aldrich to discuss beginning the engineering for the State mandated phosphorous removal at our treatment plant. Wayne is going to prepare a contract for us and Dan will bring it to the board for their review. This will be paid for by State funding on a reimbursement basis. Implementation is scheduled for 2007 at the earliest depending on State funding availability but we need to begin the preliminary engineering soon so we are ready.

Dan and Ken LaCasse also met with Paul Olander of the state wastewater

division concerning our existing plant and how to increase capacity and efficiency in a cost effective way. Dan is waiting for some statistical analysis from Paul that should give us some ideas on improving our BOD capacity while managing sludge production and removal. The Board asked Dan about the BOD capacity and ways to reduce phosphorous.

#### Water System Study

Dan told the Board that at the same meeting with Forcier-Aldrich, they discussed doing a long term study of the needs of our water system which has never been done. Out of this would come a map of our system (which we committed to produce two years ago) along with a priority list of upgrades we can begin to budget for. Forcier-Aldrich is going to prepare a scope of work and get back to us with costs for the study. The Town may want to delay once again our upgrade to West Church Street until we see where that fits in the master plan for the entire system.

#### Request From AWARE

Dan told the Board that April is violence awareness month and AWARE usually holds events to promote education and protection. AWARE has asked if they can place special flags on the Christmas tree in the park on April 13<sup>th</sup>. They would also like to park 3 cars along the business section of Main St. for a day to get the word out. These cars would have signs on them to bring attention to the issue. The Board agreed that AWARE could place special flags on the Christmas tree in the park; however, they were hesitant in setting the precedent of allowing three cars to be illegally parked on main street. Dan said he would contact AWARE and see if they can work with the Town in order to not park illegally but still get their message out.

M. Tod closed the Town Meeting informational discussion portion of the meeting.

#### Water and Sewer Budgets

The Board decided to pass over the Water and Sewer Budgets.

#### Annual Bridge Report

We have received the annual bridge inspection report from Vtrans. They inspect every town bridge over 20' long every two years and issue a report listing the status and recommended improvement, if any. The only bridge on the report this year is the N. Main St. one which is almost brand new and in good shape. Dan said that the Board needs to make a motion and sign a form accepting the results of their report.

6:35 P.M. Kristina moved to accept the results of the annual bridge inspection.

Patti Seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Liquor Licenses

Dan told the Board that he had a number of liquor licenses which needed approval.

6:35 P.M. Kristina moved to approve a second class liquor license for Perry Oil.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:36 P.M. Patti moved to approve a second class liquor license for G.U. Market.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:37 P.M. Kristina moved to approve a second class liquor license for D & L Beverage.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:37 P.M. Patti moved to approve a first class liquor license for the American Legion.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:38 P.M. Kristina moved to approve a first class liquor license for the Hardwick House of Pizza.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Education Fund Resolution

Dan stated that the Select Board had received, in their packets a request that the Town adopt a resolution to stop the State from raiding the money in the education fund for other purposes. Dan asked the Board whether they wished to adopt this resolution? The Board passed over this resolution.

#### PILOT Payment from Heartbeet

Dan said that the Town has received a donation in the form of a payment in lieu of taxes from the non-profit on Town Farm Road called Heartbeet. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year

they have given us money to help offset the loss of property tax revenue on their property. The Board thanked Hearbeet for their donation.

Dan advised the Board that the town received their reparative justice grant money, which the town will administer.

Dan told the Board that Wolcott Street's paving has failed. VTrans is responsible for paving every ten to twelve years, while the town is responsible for the upkeep of this road. Dan said that he has written to VTrans, because this road has structural failure. Dan is also going to be contacting Lucy LeRiche to see if she can put some pressure on the Vermont Agency of Transportation to pay for rehabing Wolcott Street. Dan said that if the State won't help, then the town will have to come up with the money to fix Wolcott Street.

Dan told the Board that Sergeant Phil Brooks has resigned effective March 7<sup>th</sup> from the police department.

Old Business: None

New Business: Kristina advised the Select Board that the Zoning Board will be proposing a cell tower study. Dan said that there is no money in the town budget this year for this study, but potentially after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Select Board Reports: Kristina reported that NEKARTS had a good board retreat. They are trying to set up an organized board, in the event Addy Reiman-Smith ever decided to step down as director.

Patti advised the Board that Northeast Kingdom Youth Services was unable to find a Americorp Vista volunteer. The Appropriation money they requested at last years town meeting will not be used.

Dan advised the Board that this year's budget is tight and he has told his department managers that there is to be no discretionary spending until after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dan told the Board that the handicapped accessible bathrooms at the Town House are not complete, but will be usable for town meeting next week. The Board discussed town meeting.

6:50 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst. and Donald Ferland.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:13 P.M. Out of Executive Session

7:13 P.M. Patti moved to approve a revolving loan fund in the amount of \$5,000 to Donald Ferland, with interest only payments for the first three months and then \$100 plus interest payments until the loan is paid.

Kristina seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:14 P.M. Kristina moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:15 P.M. Out of Executive Session

7:15 P.M. Kristina moved to approve a revolving loan in the amount of \$30,000 for ten years with a second mortgage as security, for Connie Kapusta.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

7:16 P.M. M. Tod moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Manager's review to include Dan Hill.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:10 P.M. Out of Executive Session - no action taken

8:10 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