

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:  
Patricia Coultas  
Brad Ferland  
M. Tod Delaricheliere  
Charles Volk

Others Present:  
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu  
Nathan Meunier, Roger LeCours,  
Toni May, Alberta Miller, Sue Cross

6:01 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere called the meeting called to order.

6:01 P.M. Patricia Coultas moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of May 19, 2005

Patricia Coultas seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Dan added six items to the agenda:

- Police Officer resignation
- Police Reports for April and May
- Loan application for phosphorus removal
- Two special Town Meeting proposals
- Water study cost proposal
- Hardwick Electric Department Line of Credit

6:04 P.M. Brad Ferland arrived

6:05 P.M. Brad moved to accept the additions to the agenda as presented.

Patti seconded

Patti asked that the petition request be moved to the top of the agenda.

Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGER'S REPORT

Management Contracts for FY '07

Dan told the Board that in their packets were the proposed contracts for Tom Fadden, Jim Dziobek and himself for the next fiscal year.

6:06 P.M. Patti moved to authorize Dan Hill to sign Tom Fadden's contract for Highway Foreman.

Charles Volk seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:07 P.M. Charles moved to authorize Dan Hill to sign Chief Jim Dziobek's contract for Chief of Police.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:08 P.M. Patti moved to approve signing Dan Hill's contract for Town Manager.

The Board discussed Dan's contract.  
Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Alberta Miller, Town Clerk/Treasurer, told the Board that she has received two petitions from Burt Smith to call a Special Town Meeting to discuss police issues and Australian ballot voting for appropriation requests. Alberta said her office verified that there were the proper number of registered Hardwick voters who signed both petitions. Alberta sent both requests to May & Davies (town attorneys), Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Deb Markowitz - Vermont's Secretary of State for a legal opinion to the validity of both petitions. All three resources were unanimous in calling Mr. Smith's police budget petition "illegal", "useless" and "frivolous." The Board asked Alberta to write a letter to Bert Smith with copies of the three opinions. The Board took no action on the police budget petition.

Alberta told the Board that the second petition in regards to voting appropriations by Australian Ballot was questionable, but the intent was clear. The three opinions received from the above resources, felt the Board had three choices:

- 1) Warn a Town Meeting as the petition asked and from that voice vote, warn a special vote by Australian ballot
- 2) Try and create a clearer warning for a special town meeting, which reflects Bert's and the petitioners intent
- 3) Take no action, thereby throwing the petition out

The Board discussed in great length the intent of the petition, the time constraints in calling a special town meeting and the ambiguity of the petition. M. Tod offered a letter that Bert had given M. Tod, trying to clarify Burt's intent. The Board agreed that this letter made the intent even more questionable, especially to tax payers who signed Burt's original petition. No action was taken.

Police Cruiser Bid Results

Dan told the Board that he had received 5 bids for the 2000 police cruiser. They were as follows: Bay Ridge Motors, Inc.- \$1,895.00, Grace Quality Used Cars - \$2,555.00, Government Cars Dist.- \$2,187.00, Darryl Johnson - \$525.00 and Tri-State Auto Brokers -\$1,253.00. Dan said he recommends awarding the bid to Grace Quality Used Cars.

6:50 P.M. Patti moved to award the 2000 police cruiser bid to Grace Quality Used Cars in the amount of \$2,555.00.

M. Tod seconded

Brad asked Dan if this was a reasonable price. Dan said it was an average bid amount, some cars go higher and some police cars go much lower.

Motion passed unanimously

#### CVSWD Purchasing Explanation

Dan said that at the last Select Board meeting, Todd asked him to check on Central Vermont Solid Waste's purchasing plans and what financial effect they would have on any town seceding from the district. Per Donna Barlow Casey, they are going to be making a number of capital purchases but they are doing it on a lease purchase arrangement so there should not be any impact to an individual town should they leave the district.

#### Library Report

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets is the latest librarian's report from Lisa Sammet.

#### Fire Truck Loan Decision

Alberta presented the Board with quotes from surrounding area banks in regards to borrowing money for the new Fire Truck. Alberta recommended accepting the Union Bank quote.

6:53 P.M. Brad moved to accept the Union Bank rate of 5% for ten years for \$220,000.00.

M. Tod seconded

Motion passed unanimously

#### Wolcott Street Bridge Update

Dan told the Board that his office has just received the semi-final plans for the rehab of bridge #67 which is on Wolcott Street. The estimated cost of the project went down to approximately \$870,000.00 from \$1,000,000.00 at the last stage. The Town is responsible for 5% of the total cost of this project. We currently have \$32,500.00 set

aside for our share. We will continue to set aside money until time of construction so we should be able to cover our share with no problems. The Board and Dan discussed the temporary bridge.

#### Verizon R.O.W Request

Dan told the Board that Verizon is changing 3 poles in Greensboro Bend that fall in the Town's Right-Of-Way. They need the Board's permission to move them.

6:58 P.M. Patti moved to allow Verizon to change the 3 poles, as described in their map, in Greensboro Bend.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Humanitarian Awards

Dan told the Board that the annual humanitarian awards event is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Hardwick Town House at 6:30 pm. The Board was asked to nominate a local citizen. Brad Ferland nominated Roger LeCours. The Board was unanimous that Roger was an excellent choice. Brad agreed to present Roger's award to him on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Budget Update

Dan and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst. handed out the most recent revenue and expense reports for the General, Water and Sewer Funds. Dan told the Board that he estimates the potential deficit to now fall some where between \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00, assuming the capital fund is fully funded. The Board discussed the current budget.

#### Paving Decisions

Dan told the Board that the town requested paving quotes from 4 different paving companies for our summer paving projects. His office received 2 quotes for the work.

Green Mtn. Paving quoted a price of \$11,700.00 to do a 1 ¼" shim 12' wide for 1,400 feet of Wolcott St. Bigelow Paving quoted a price of \$10,800.00 for a 1 ½" shim for the same distance. Both of these are estimates and may change a little depending on the actual tonnage used.

Green Mtn. Paving quoted a price of \$21,600.00 to do 2 ¼" of paving around the treatment plant and out to the gate. Bigelow quoted a price of \$10,400.00 to do a 1 ½" coat for the same area.

The Board discussed the increased cost of paving and how long the new pavement would last on Wolcott Street. The Board asked Dan to continue applying

pressure in the legislature, through our house representative and senate representatives in order to get the State of Vermont to reconstruct Wolcott Street. Patti asked Dan to take pictures of the existing road, before Wolcott Street is paved.

7:11 P.M. Patti moved to award the paving bid to Bigelow Paving.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Hardwick Electric Report

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the latest report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners. M. Tod discussed the oversight of dams moving to Safety Inspections - Agency of Natural Resources.

Dan told the Board that Officer Cory Bingham submitted his resignation. Dan said that we are currently down two officers including Sergeant. The Board and Dan discussed the reasons for Cory leaving. Dan said that Chief Dziobek advised Dan that this May had 21 more incidents than May 2004. Brad said that at the last Select Board meeting he did ask a lot of questions and felt that the Board and the Police Department had a "healthy discussion." Brad said that there were no personal attack and that the Board was just looking at long term planning and at the current budget problems. He said he feels that these were the right questions to ask and discussions to have as a Select Board member.

Dan handed the Select Board the April and May 2005 police reports.

Dan had the application for the revolving loan fund for phosphorus removal, which the Board had previously approved. The Board signed the application.

Dan handed the Board the water line study cost proposal. The cost was \$12,400. Dan explained how the money is already in the water capital fund and that he feels this project is long overdue.

7:27 P.M. Charles authorized Dan Hill to sign the water study contract.

Patti seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan presented the Board with a line of credit request from the Hardwick Electric Department.

7:29 P.M. Patti moved to approve the line of credit in the amount of \$300,000.00 with an interest rate of 3.1%.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Select Board Reports: Brad said that he and M. Tod had been discussing the web page improvements. After they have finalized their ideas, they will be asking for input from Hardwick residents. Lynda said she would invite Susan Wood when M. Tod and Brad were ready to discuss the web page again.

New Business: Charles asked the Board whether they had heard any opinions on the new fence. Dan, Lynda and the Board said that they have heard nothing but wonderful praise for the new fence. Charles told the Board and the people in the room that he wanted two things clarified: the fence cost approximately \$35,000 and the money was given to the town from the Douglas administration for downtown improvements, not for general maintenance of Wolcott Street or any other street.

Brad asked Dan whether he has received any applications for the Zoning/Planning Board or the Hardwick Electric Board. Dan answered that he has received two applications. The Board discussed the Town's Line of Credit and the property on route 14 by Sugarman's of Vermont.

Old Business: None

7:40 P.M. Charles moved to adjourn the meeting.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

M. Tod Delaricheliere, Chair  
Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu