

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, July 14, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Charles Volk
Todd Deuso
M. Tod Delaricheliere

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu
Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,
Bert & Kathryn Smith, Alberta Miller,
Travis Hill, Aaron Hill, John Rowell,
Maureen Rowell, Judy Waible,
Greg McDonald, Scott Johnson,
Andrew Meyer

6:04 P.M. M. Tod Delaricheliere called the meeting called to order.

6:04 P.M. Todd Deuso moved to approve the regular Select Board minutes of June 23, 2005

Charles Volk seconded
Motion passed unanimously

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: M. Tod told the Board that he wanted to move the "action" items to be addressed first, as Todd Deuso had another commitment that evening and would be leaving by 7:00 P.M. Dan added four items to the agenda: diesel bids, appointment of Town Service Officer, Library Report and police staffing. Dan also cancelled the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

6:06 P.M. Charles moved to accept the additions to the agenda as presented.

Todd seconded
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: M. Tod read a letter out loud, written by Arthur Williams, supporting the Australian ballot charter change being suggested by Bert Smith. Mr. Williams also supported the idea of a PATCH office in Hardwick "provided the State pays for it." He also told the Board they made a mistake when they "ignored" the request for a Special Town meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion with Bert Smith

Bert Smith spoke about the two citizen's petitions that he had presented to the Town Clerk and which were ultimately turned down by the Select Board. Bert presented his rationale for utilizing the citizens' petitions on the police article and the social service

article. He discussed his previous meetings with the Select Board, Town Manager and Chief Dziobek concerning community policing and regional policing. Bert wants the Board to consider warning a Special Town Meeting to discuss the regional policing concept. He wants the Board to hold a vote on a referendum concerning the regional policing concept.

Bert then spoke about his second petition concerning Australian Ballot voting for Social Service appropriations. He told the Board that he was “gratified” that they took no action concerning this petition. Bert told the Board that his “true” agenda is to have Australian ballot voting for all of the Town Meeting articles, not just the social service ones. Bert said that Town Meeting is no longer serving the objectives of Democracy. He would like the Board to consider holding a special town meeting no later than September 1st, to amend the town charter to have all articles voted on by Australian ballot. If the Board chooses not to warn a Special Town Meeting, then Bert would have to warn an article for Town meeting, but he would not be present to debate this article.

M. Tod asked Town Clerk/Treasurer Alberta Miller how many people attended Town Meeting? She answered 225. M. Tod then asked how many people voted on the last Hardwick Elementary School budget. She answered 260. M. Tod stated that it “scares” him to open the Town Charter to the Legislature, were they can make changes as they see fit. Todd said that he was not in support of a referendum, concerning police, as three months ago the study to investigate the regional policing study was approved at Town Meeting. Todd went on to ask Bert how there could be a referendum vote when the Select Board and the voters do not have any information to base their decisions. The Board decided to wait for the regional police study before discussing this issue further. Dan added that no one is saying that regional policing is the “way to go”, but the Board and Dan want research. Dan said that it was clear that people are concerned about the cost of the police force. Dan said they would be receiving an objective opinion from an outside firm. Dan asked the people in the room that once a decision is finally made about the direction the police department will be taking, please give it a chance to work. The Board agreed to discuss the charter issue at a later meeting.

Right of Way Declaration for Wolcott Street

Dan told the Board that the State of Vermont has completed it’s right-of-way work for the bridge work on Wolcott Street, but they have not been able to determine the width of the street from researching Town records. In the absence of a historic survey, the Select Board can declare a statutory right-of-way of 49.5’.

6:44 P.M. M. Tod moved to declare a statutory right-of-way of three rods for Wolcott Street.

Todd seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Junkyard License Renewal

Dan told the Board that Mrs. Alfred Putvain has had a small junkyard on her property on Putvain Place (off Bunker Hill) for many years. The Putvains have to register with the State each year and file a new license request every 3 years. When they file for a new license, the Town has to sign off on it.

6:45 P.M. Todd moved to sign a certificate of approval for a junkyard owned by Mrs. Alfred Putvain on Putvain Place.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Setting a Tax Rate

Town Clerk/Treasurer Alberta Miller was present to explain the new tax rate and ask for Board approval on setting this new rate. Alberta gave the Board a handout explaining the breakdown of the new tax rate. She told the Board that the State sets the school tax rate. She added that because Hardwick has fallen below 80% of the common level of appraisal, our tax rate was a little higher then it normally would be. Even though the town has started reappraisal, the higher tax rate would still be in effect.

6:49 P.M. Todd moved to set the tax rates as presented by the Town Clerk.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Tax Stabilization Request

Andrew Meyer was present to ask for tax stabilization for his new building in the industrial park. Dan included in the board packets a request letter from Andrew as well as a copy of the Town’s stabilization policy. He reminded the Board that they can only stabilize the municipal portion of taxes.

6:50 P.M. Todd moved to approve the tax stabilization agreement as presented.

Charles seconded

Andrew updated that Board on his plans to build in the industrial park and start two business. He added that he appreciates the support of Dan Hill and the Select Board.

Motion passed unanimously

Dan went on to say he would like Board approval to have the Town Road crew remove fill from a lot behind Essex Arms. The lot Andrew Meyer is purchasing needs to be elevated with this fill. Dan made it clear that the road crew would remove the fill with the loader on a slow work day. Dan’s office would then charge the Economic Development Fund for the town’s time. This request was fine with the Board.

Request from Red Cross

Dan told the Board that the American Red Cross has requested that the Town consider making the Memorial Building a Red Cross shelter. Dan said that currently there are three different locations as emergency shelters in our Town Emergency Management Plan. They are the Memorial Building, the elementary school and Hazen. The Memorial Building is also the command center for any operations. An emergency generator was installed to energize everything in the building except for the elevator. Because our shelter area would be on the 3rd floor and there would potentially be other things happening here as the command center. Dan suggest that the Board point them toward either of the two schools. The Board agreed and asked Dan to point the Red Cross to a more usable facility.

Lighting for Bike Path

Dan said he would bring this subject back up on the next agenda.

Request for Yard Sale

Dan told the Board that he had received a request from Morgaine Bell of Lower Cherry Street to use Hodgdon Field for a neighborhood yard sale. The Board agreed that this would not be an appropriate location for a personal lawn sale.

Police Report

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the police report for June. It is a different format which gives you the hours of service to Greensboro and the hours of foot patrol. It also lists the incidents dealt with during the month.

Better Back Roads Grant Approval

Dan told the Board that the town has received word that we have been awarded a Better Back Roads grant in the amount of \$3,980.00. This will cover the cost of materials to ditch a long section of Bunker Hill that has been a problem for several years. We hope to do the work this fall once the money arrives.

Sidewalk Replacement

Dan said his office requested prices for the replacement of sidewalks along Wolcott Street between Mike Gravel's house and Bond Auto and a portion of Main Street from the intersection of Holton Hill to the Chinese restaurant. The only price received was a price from Carroll Concrete, who we have worked with before. They will do both sections of sidewalk for approx. \$7,000.00 which is within our budget.

7:00 P.M. Todd moved to approve awarding the sidewalk work to Carroll Concrete.
Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan handed the Board the latest Jeudevine Library report.

Dan handed the Board the diesel bids, which his office received from Ultramar and Bournes. Dan told the Board that he recommends awarding the 2005-2006 diesel bid to Ultramar using the markup method with a cap.

7:02 Todd moved to award the Diesel Bid award to Ultramar at \$.09 markup over bidder's cost per gallon with a maximum cap cost of \$2.59 per gallon.

The Board discussed the bids.
Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that Mae Chapin graciously accepted to serve as Town Service officer.

7:03 P.M. Charles said he was pleased to appoint Mae Chapin as Town Service Officer
Todd seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that Chief Dziobek has interviewed an officer and may be hiring him soon.

7:04 P.M. Todd moved to appoint Charles Volk and M. Tod Delaricheliere to a subcommittee of the Select Board to listen to the PATCH presentation and present this information back to the Board.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:05 P.M. Todd moved to adjourn the meeting.

Charles seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

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

A subcommittee meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, July 14, 2005 at 7:07 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Charles Volk

M. Tod Delaricheliere

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu

Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,

Bert & Kathryn Smith, Judy Waible,

John Rowell, Maureen Rowell,

Greg McDonald, Scott Johnson,

Presentation on the Revival of the Patch Office

Greg Macdonald and Scott Johnson of the VT Agency of Human Services came before the subcommittee to discuss the idea of reviving the Patch office in Hardwick. They wanted to get input as to the Board's feelings about the concept. They feel that because of Hardwick's unique location bordering several service areas for their department it might be a more efficient way to provide service to our residents.

The subcommittee meeting ended 7:30 P.M.