

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

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

Others Present:  
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu  
Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,  
Bert & Kathryn Smith, Joan Brown,  
Chris Cammera, Ruth Bunde,  
Mary Brochu, Margaret Speir,  
Lorraine Hussey, Phyllis Zechinelli,  
John & Maureen Rowell, Tom Dunn,  
Joseph Gresser, Paul Rowell,  
Clara Fogg, Henrietta Bedell,  
Will Belongia, Dan Hale, Harold Martin,  
Rick Bailey, Ben Patoine,  
Kate Scarlett, Rob McLeod,  
Chad Patten, Jody Howe, Randy Bulpin

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

Minutes were passed over, as there was not a quorum from the last Select Board meeting.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Dan added the following items: winter sand bids, trail grant information, ditch funding, sidewalk update and an Executive Session for Union Negotiations.

6:01 P.M. Patti moved to accept the additions to the agenda as presented.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

##### Lighting for Swinging Bridge-Parking Lot

Dan told the Board that after our Public Hearing about the proposed bike path, he had a discussion with Al Pratt of VTrans about the lighting of the swinging bridge. Dan had originally thought the town would upgrade the lighting in the municipal parking lot at the Daniels Building but had not considered actually placing lights on the bridge. Dan said he later asked the engineer to give us an alternative plan which would include 3-4 small lighting fixtures on the bridge. Dan asked the Board for their thoughts on how they would like to see the swinging bridge area illuminated. The Board discussed the

potential lighting of this area. They felt the light would enhance the area and welcome more parking at the Daniels Building, but they also were wary of the lights being targets for snowballs and other damaging items.

#### Request from Red Cross

Dan reminded the Board that at the last meeting, using the Memorial Building for a Red Cross Shelter was discussed. The Board decided that either of the schools would make a better location for their purposes. Dan then relayed that information to the Red Cross, they asked that the town still allow them to consider our building in the case of a special instance where the other buildings were not practical. The Board questioned whether the town could have control over what situations would warrant the Memorial Building being used. Dan said he believed that the town could, especially in the event of a large catastrophe, the Memorial Building is not handicapped accessible, as the elevator is not connected to the generator and the third floor would be a command center.

6:07 P.M. Brad moved to allow the Red Cross to use the Memorial Building as a shelter, but not as a first choice and only under Board approval.

Patti Seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Change of Venue

Dan reminded the Board that he had originally planned to hold this Select Board meeting at the Town garage and give them a tour. Dan told the Board that the next Select Board meeting, scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, would begin at the Town Garage on Creamery Road.

#### Fuel Oil Bid Opening

Dan told the Board that his office received only one bid for our heating fuel for the coming winter, even though bid requests were mailed to four different companies. Bournes quoted two options: #1 We buy fuel at \$0.077 over their cost with a maximum price of \$2.179 and #2 We prebuy at a cost of \$2.089 per gallon. Dan suggested prebuy, as no fuel would probably even be purchased before the first of October and he expects that the price would be higher than the prebuy cost per gallon.

6:09 P.M. Patti moved to award the bid to Bournes for a prebuy cost of \$2.089 per gallon.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Police Officer Appointment

Dan told the Board that Chief Dzoibek has hired Mark Poulin as a full time officer,

effective August 1,2005. Mark is already part time certified. Mark needs to be appointed to a full time Officer Position by the Board. Dan said that he expects that Officer Ashley Barnes will probably go to the academy in February. Brad asked whether we need to make up savings in our new budget, due to the increased gas prices that were not budgeted for, by keeping a position vacant? Dan answered that everyone will be tightening their belts because of record fuel prices. Dan said that we are still one officer short. He believes that it is cheaper in the long run to be up to staff or just down one officer, then to pay the costs of overtime.

6:14 P.M. Patti moved to appoint Mark Poulin to a full time officer position.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

6:15 P.M. Patti moved to recess the Select Board meeting for a public hearing.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Public Hearing for Grant Proposal

Joseph Gresser was present to talk about a grant proposal for the Hardwick Historical Societies depot. He started by introducing himself. Joseph thanked Dan Hill and the Board for their past support. He told the Board that he is now preparing an Agency of Transportation grant proposal in the amount of \$235,000.00 (approximately) to start phase 2 of the depot restoration. Joseph briefly described phase 1 work completed. He then described what the funds would accomplish in phase 2: the platform that goes around the depot and the old freight room would be restored and a conservator would be hired to help catalog and devise themes for exhibits. Joseph said that the depot has become a great resource for the community. The Board members were all very supportive of the depot. Brad said that the restoration under phase 1 alone was "very impressive." Joseph estimates the grant request to be in the area of \$235,000. Because construction would be scheduled for 2007, inflation would have to be factored into the grant amount. He also stated that there is a 10% match, 5% can be donated labor or inkind. The other 5% would have to be raised by the Historical Society. Bert Smith spoke in favor of this grant proposal.

6:26 P.M. Public hearing closed

Select Board meeting resumed.

6:26 P.M. Patti moved to pass a resolution supporting the Historical Society applying for a grant for phase 2 of the depot project.

Brad seconded

M. Tod told the people in the room, representing the Historical Society, that they had done a great job, with the restoration of the depot.

Motion passed unanimously

#### Insulation for the Memorial Building

Dan told the Board that with the cost of fuel continuing to spiral, he would like to use approximately \$1,100.00 of the money we have set aside for Memorial Building repairs to have Ralph Ainsworth cap the building with insulation. There is currently very little insulation in the attic and the heat loss has to be substantial. The Board discussed past repairs to the Memorial Building.

6:30 P.M. Patti moved to approve using \$1,100.00 of Capital Fund money for insulation in the Memorial Building.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Request for a VCDP Grant

Will Belongia, the Executive Director for, Vermont Community Loan Fund, was present to ask the Board to consider becoming the lead community of a consortium (including Waterbury) to apply for \$100,000.00 in grant funds from Vermont Community Development Program. VCLF would like to apply for the funds and then loan them out over the northeast kingdom and central Vermont in amounts of \$15,000.00 or less. Will gave the Board a brief history of VCLF. He described how the funds would be directed towards childcare facilities for technical services assistance. He handed the board an outline of where he sees the money going. VCLF would loan this money out at 0% to 8-12 people over the next 12 months. This money would be used in Washington County and the Northeast Kingdom. The Board discussed whether there were other grant applications that were being planned for cycle 3 of VCDP grant funding. There were no other competing grants. Patti wanted assurance that these funds were not just going to be handed to people, but that VCLF would be working with the applicants as well. Will assured her that VCLF does work with their clients. The Board discussed liability for the Town by accepting funds and then distributing them to another group. Patti agreed that there is a definite need for daycare in the community. Dan asked questions concerning his office and the potential pay back of money to the State. Brad told Will that the Board would be counting on VCLF complying with the State regulations. The Board discussed the implications of a single audit by being the lead applicant. Patti asked Will to ask Waterbury, when he approached their Select Board, whether they were already planning on having a single audit and if they were then they could be lead applicant.

7:01 P.M. Patti moved to pass a resolution supporting Vermont Community Loan Fund applying for \$100,000 in Vermont Community Development Program grant funds.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

#### Letter of Support

Dan told the Board that in their packets was a letter from AWARE supporting the police department and the level of service they provide.

#### Hardwick Electric Department Report

Dan said that also in their packets was the latest Hardwick Electric Report.

#### Sen. Patrick Leahy/Preservation Trust of Vermont Grants

Dan told the Board that Sen. Patrick Leahy secured \$600,000 in federal funds to help preserve historic buildings in Vermont's smaller communities. The Memorial building is receiving \$20,000 to help preserve and weatherize the windows on the third floor. The Jeudevine Memorial Library is receiving \$50,000 to complete their exterior masonry work. The Town House is receiving \$30,000 to continue their restoration work. The Board discussed the Memorial Building windows.

Dan gave told the Board that his office has received two bids for winter sand: Davis Contracting bid \$2.55 and Demers Excavation bid \$2.55. Dan and Tom Fadden, Road Foreman, recommend giving ½ the bid to each local company.

7:07 P.M. Patti moved to award ½ the winter sand bid to Davis Contracting and ½ to Demers Excavation.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that the Town of Hardwick was awarded one million dollars to work on phase 2 of our bike trail that begins at the swinging bridge and ends at the community garden under phase 1. Dan told the Board we owe a big thank you to Andrew Meyers, who worked with Jefford's office at one time and was responsible for advising Dan about these funds. Dan told the Board that when Jefford's office called he had to make an immediate decision on whether to accept the funds or not. Originally there was a 20% match for the community, which Dan said the town could not afford. VTrans has now committed to "kicking in" \$100,000 and we can potentially use the money already expensed in phase 1 to count towards our 10% match. This money can also be spent over the next 3-4 years. The Board discussed the money. Brad asked Dan to write a letter to the State asking for consideration of the Wolcott Street reconstruction project, as these Jefford's funds were also coming into the State for highway projects. The Board and Dan agreed. Dan also made it clear that this money was given to the town for a bike path and that the town had no option on what these funds could be used for.

#### Proposed Town Road Policy for ATV's

Dan Hale provided a first draft for a proposed Town Road Policy pertaining to ATV's along with maps to the Board in their packets. This policy showed the roads or

sections of roads VASA would like to open for ATV access. Patti asked Dan Hale to explain why these roads had been chosen. Dan answered that many of the roads were chosen, as they gave access to the ATV trails for VASA members. Patti's concern was that she did not want a "piece meal" road system for each person who wants access to the ATV trail system. The Board looked at and discussed Dan's map. The Board discussed Buffalo Trail and the existing ATV trail along Wright Farm Road. Patti said that she would like a public hearing before opening any roads. She would like to notify and invite adjoining land owners to this public hearing. She said that she feels people would appreciate being able to discuss this issue. Dan Hale said that he doesn't believe a public hearing would accomplish what he wants accomplished. The Board discussed the existing snowmobile policy, that Dan Hale would like mirrored in the ATV policy. Brad said that he feels the Town needs a legal trail system to keep the controversies down. The Board discussed the ATV "stigma." Charles said that he feels that a public hearing may become a "mud hole" that the Board can never get out of. The Board discussed law enforcement and what kind of money was available for funding patrolling. Dan Hale and the Board discussed potential funding, the hours each club must log on patrol, signage and specific language being included in the policy, including exact 911 addressing for where roads become open and then closed.

Kate Scarlett told the Board that she would like them to welcome a public hearing and not consider it a "mud hole." She stressed that ATV's are not the same as snowmobiles. Rob McLeod added that cars are essential traffic, ATV's are not. He said that riding an ATV for recreational purposes is a privilege. He asked that if access to the road of a different nature is allowed that courtesy to land owners would be having a public hearing. Ben Patoine said that if a public hearing takes place about ATV access then the snow mobile policy should be opened too. M. Tod agreed. M. Tod went on to say that Dan Hale has come to the Board every time and that the Board has put a "tight leash" on him every time. M. Tod said that he was not for a public hearing as the Board is elected to represent the Town. Kate asked the Board to set a specific time frame to allow use of the roads. Dan Hale said that the season would be from May 15 to November 1<sup>st</sup>, when deer season started.

The Board discussed speed limits - the same as the roads and how Marshall Street should be 15 MPH due to the lack of visibility at the top. The Board decided that the next step would be for Dan Hale to implement the changes suggested: specifics regarding roads to be open - including exact measurements or 911 addresses where available, including a specific ATV "season", and a number of other small corrections that Dan Hill picked up on. Once Dan Hale has made those changes, Chief Jim Dziobek will look at the policy. Dan Hill told Dan Hale that he does not want to see a new road added every meeting, but that if new roads are added for access by ATV's, that Dan Hale's group come to the Board once or twice a year. Dan Hale answered, "I don't see me asking for any more roads in the next five years."

Dan Hale agreed to make the suggested changes and will bring the ATV policy to the Town Manager's office so that Chief Dziobek can take a look at it. The proposed

ATV road policy will be on the August 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Dan Hill told the Board that he had met with representatives from Local Roads and Vermont Water Quality. The Hardwick Electric Department was fined for draining Jackson Dam a few years back. Their fine was used to plant trees along the Lamoille River, but there is still \$5,000 to \$6,000 left to spend. This money will be used to buy material for the Town to stone line ditches, primarily in East Hardwick.

Dan advised the Board that on Monday morning sidewalk work would begin on Main Street and Wolcott Street.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: None

Old Business: Patti reminded the Board that there is a Patch meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> that she would be attending.

8:05 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the revolving loan fund to include Dan Hill, Lynda Brochu, Chad Patten, Jody Howe and Randy Bulpin.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

8:39 P.M. Open Session - No action taken.

8:40 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations to include Dan Hill.

Brad seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

9:07 P.M. Open Session - No action taken.

9:07 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn the meeting.

Charles seconded  
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

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