

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

Todd Deuso
Patricia Coultas
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Brad Ferland
Charles Volk

Others Present:

Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu
Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,
Alberta Miller

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

6:01 P.M. Todd Deuso moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2005.

Charles Volk seconded
Todd - Yes
Patricia Coultas - Abstained
M. Tod - Yes
Brad Ferland - Abstained
Charles - Yes

6:01 P.M. Patti moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2005.

Brad seconded
Charles - Yes
Patti - Yes
M. Tod - Yes
Brad - Yes
Todd - Abstained

6:02 P.M. Todd moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2005.

Patti seconded
Todd - Yes
Patti - Yes
M. Tod - Yes
Brad - Yes
Charles - Abstained

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE: None

MANAGER'S REPORT

Changes to Grand List

Alberta Miller, Town Clerk, was present to have the Board approve changes to the Grand List based on late filings of the form HS 131 and errors and omissions. Alberta handed the Board a two page list of late filings and one error & omission. She explained that these changes affected the school side of taxes not the municipal side.

6:03 P.M. Todd moved to accept the changes to the grand list based on the late filings of the HS 131 forms, as submitted by Alberta Miller.

Patti seconded

M. Tod asked if the Board would be seeing any more changes. Alberta answered that it was possible, as the State of Vermont has not really enforced any type of deadline for late filings.

Motion passed unanimously

6:04 P.M. Todd moved to approve the reduction to the grand list based on the one error & omission presented by Alberta Miller.

Charles seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Gasoline Bid Award

Dan handed the Board the results of the gasoline bid opening for the next year's purchase of gasoline. The bid results were as follows: Mike's Service Center - \$.15 per gallon over their cost and Hay's Service Station - \$.06 per gallon over their cost.

Dan explained that Mike's Service Center offers 24 hour access, via a key, to gas, while Hay's could offer 24 hour gas service with a credit card. Dan spoke with Chief Dziobek who assured Dan that this would be fine.

6:06 P.M. Patti moved to award the one year gasoline bid to Hay's Service Station at \$.06 over cost.

Brad seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Proposed Changes to Zoning Fees

Dan told the Board that at the last board meeting, he handed out a memo from Nancy Kish suggesting new zoning fees. This is in response to the increased costs of handling all of the zoning and planning issues in Hardwick. These fee increases will help to offset the costs of Hearings, mailings etc as well as the cost of paying zoning board members. They are meeting much more often than in the past and will continue to do so as they will be beginning the process of rewriting the Town Plan in the near future. The Board told Dan and Lynda Brochu that no attachment was included in their packets outlining the zoning fee schedules for Hyde Park and Wolcott.

6:14 P.M. Todd moved to accept the new zoning fees as presented, effective January 1, 2006.

Charles seconded

Patti said that she would entertain a fee for a “no show” for public hearings where the petitioner doesn’t show for his or her hearing. Brad said that he did not join the Select Board for the money and was sure that the Zoning Board did not either. He said that he was reluctant to raise fees to cover the Zoning Board cost. Alberta Miller told the Board that the increased fees were not just for salaries, but to offset zoning costs - mailings, zoning administrator and secretary salaries, newspaper warning, etc. Dan agreed that the cost of handling zoning issues is going up and the more the users pay for it, the less of a burden it will be on the tax payers. Todd said that the Zoning Board has many more contentious hearings. He continued by saying that the Select Board has a full time Town Manager/Administrator and that the Zoning Board does not. Todd said that if the Select Board considers reducing the Zoning Board’s meeting allotment then they should consider reducing the Select Board’s as well.

M. Tod - Yes

Todd - Yes

Patti - Yes

Charles - Yes

Brad - No

August Police Report

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the police report for August.

Duane Wells Tax Stabilization

Dan said that he has checked with the Town’s attorney, Bill Davies, and Bill said the Select Board does have the authority to create an agreement similar to what was discussed at the last meeting. Dan drew up a first draft of such an agreement and he forwarded it to Bill for his review. Dan said that at Bill’s suggestion, Dan included wording to resolve both the easement and road issues. Once Mr. Davies reviews and make corrections to the entire draft, Dan will include it in the Board’s packets and also send a copy to Mr. Wells. A Board meeting will then be scheduled to discuss this issue again.

Easement Request from Verizon

Dan told the Board that Verizon has submitted a request for an easement to place telephone poles along Billings Road. This will allow them to service the new house of Tim Cleveland. The poles will be in the town’s right-of-way.

6:20 P.M. M. Tod moved to sign the petition and order for pole and wire locations for Billings Road.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Patti asked to go back to the Police report for a moment. She asked Dan what the commitment was to Greensboro for police coverage. Dan answered 54 hours a week, which we were meeting.

Dan gave a brief review of what the Board could expect at their next meeting, November 3rd. The Board directed Dan to speak with Bill Kennedy about the County Taxes outside of the Board meeting.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: Patti asked Dan to look into property on Mackville Road, by Cindy Burnhams. She thinks there may be an obstructed culvert.

Old Business: M. Tod asked Dan whether he has heard anything from Hardwick Electric Department concerning a proposed rate increase. Dan said the HED was still working on it, but that he believes that they are going for a 9.7% increase, with the potential of another increase in the future.

Dan told the Board that Alfred Willey's attorney had been in the town offices that day and the Woodbury/Hardwick trail negotiations continue to move along.

Brad asked Dan about the new streetlights that were going up in the downtown. Dan explained that 6 new lights were going up, a few at a time so as not to leave the entire downtown without lights. Patti told Dan that the finish to the underside of the new rail looks good.

6:29 P.M. Todd moved to go into Executive Session to discuss revolving loan funds to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu Administrative Asst.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:55 P.M. Out of Executive Session

6:55 P.M. Todd moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign a subordination agreement for James and Mary Ellen Lovinsky's loan with the Town of Hardwick.

M. Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:56 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn the meeting.

Todd seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

M. Tod Delaricheliere, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu