

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

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

Others Present:
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu
Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,
Lew Shattuck, Donna Barlow-Casey
Chief James Dziobek, Mary Jean Hill,
Tod Hill, Robin Yerly, Shirley Moffatt,
Elaine Moffatt, Darlene Lamadeleine,
Julia Hood, Louise Howard, Matt Hill,
Nicole Davignon, Chief Dziobek,
Dennis Sauer, Melba May, Mary Piper,

6:01 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 November 3, 2005.

Patricia Coultas seconded
M. Tod - Yes
Patti - Yes
Todd - Yes
Charles Volk - Yes
Brad - abstained

6:02 P.M. Brad Ferland arrived.

Approval of Agenda: Dan told the Board that he had only one addition. Dan had been contacted by Eric Werner, General Manager of the Hardwick Electric Dept. and Eric wanted the Board to know that the last big storm caused over \$25,000 in expense to the HED in storm related costs. Todd Deuso stated that in regards to the Manager's report, he had not specifically requested that Donna Barlow Casey be present to talk about the Central Vermont Solid Waste District.

6:03 P.M. Charles moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Communications from audience: Lew Shattuck was present to speak about Restorative Justice. He invited all of the Board and the people in the room to attend a program sponsored with the Hardwick Area Community Coalition. Lew told the Board that Barbara Cimaglio would be talking about Methamphetamine, Methadone & Marijuana on December 13th at 7 PM at the Hazen Union Auditorium. Lew told the Board that he is "very pleased" by the response from the people in this area, in regards to volunteering for reparative justice panels. Lew also updated the Board briefly on the Hardwick

Community Television. He hopes to have a “grand opening” Memorial Day weekend. Dave Mitchell has also joined the Board as the Hazen Union representative.

Todd thanked Lew Shattuck for donating so much time to the Town.

Manager’s Report:

Central VT Solid Waste Management District

Dan introduced Donna Barlow Casey and Dennis Sauer from CVSWMD. Donna started by telling the Board why the Town of Hardwick is a member of CVSWMD. She stated that there is a benefit of economy of scale with regards to solid waste management. Donna discussed Act 78 and the State of Vermont’s minimum requirements. Donna described CVSWMD’s Board, Ad Hoc committees and staff. She explained that CVSWMD gets their funding through per capita fees (currently \$2.10), sur charge fees on every ton of waste disposed of in central Vermont and user fees from things such as hazardous waste collection days. Grant funding is also sought out. Donna and the Board discussed what types of diversion programs CVSWMD offer and how they can partner with local schools. They also discussed how the individual towns can help shape direction.

Donna advised the Board that their financial committee was recommending a \$1 per person, per capita fee increase. Todd explained that he struggled with the fee increase. He said that CVSWMD’s mission is a great one, but that their budget has gone from \$250,000 to 1.4 million since 1995. Donna answered that costs have gone up and this increase would give them an opportunity to become sustainable. Dan questioned the undesignated surplus that CVSWMD has. Donna answered that they plan on using this money to build facilities. The balance was \$250,000 last year. The Board and Donna discussed how the individual boards are selected. Donna explained that there were checks and balances and that the charter dictates that the chair of the CVSWMD’s board appoints members to committees.

Dog Complaint

Mary Hill was present to discuss an incident that took place on November 3rd. Mrs. Hill alleged that Robin Yerly’s dog Nitro went onto her property. It severely bit one of their dogs. Mrs. Hill was unhappy with the Town’s dog ordinance. It is unclear in the definition of a vicious dog. It also has few “teeth” in it for the dog control officer or police to do anything when a vicious dog attacks. Mary wants Ms. Yerly’s dog impounded, as she feels it is a vicious animal as described in the town ordinance. Dan told the Board and Mrs. Hill that Robin was issued a ticket, as the ordinance describes. Dan told Mary that she can go to small claims court to collect her animal’s veterinarian bills. Brad told Mary and Robin that it is unfortunate that “we’re back here again.” Brad agreed that the ordinance needs to be rewritten. Mary told the Board that she wanted it in writing that she can shoot this dog if it comes on her property. Robin told the Board that her dog

was home, not on Mrs. Hill's property. Dan told Mary that if she is on her own property and a dog threatens a person's body or animal then yes, she had the right to destroy that animal while it is on her property. Chief Dziobek agreed. Robin told the Board that her dog is not a vicious dog. The Board asked Dan to get other town's animal control ordinances and they would review Hardwick's.

Police Cruiser Bid Award

Dan told the Board that he had received two bids for the new police 4 x 4 cruiser: Lamoille Valley Ford - \$25,984.35 and Cody Chevrolet - \$31,463.

7:16 P.M. Patti moved to award Lamoille Valley Ford the police cruiser bid for \$25,984.35.

Charles seconded

Brad asked Chief Dziobek how often they needed a 4 x 4 vehicle. Chief Dziobek answered that he preferred that all of the police vehicles be 4 wheel drive, as the conditions in Hardwick, on it's more than 80 miles of road, are potentially snow, ice and mud for 6 months a year.

Motion passed unanimously

Police Budget Discussion

Dan introduced Chief Dziobek to discuss the potential police budget for FY 07. Chief Dziobek reviewed his budget proposal with the Board. The Board and Chief Dziobek discussed the current staffing levels and preparing different budget scenarios with six, five and four officers. It was agreed that Chief Dziobek and Dan Hill's office prepare budgets, which reflect staffing at various levels. M. Tod questioned whether we should ask this of all town departments. Patti asked Dan when he thought that we would be receiving word concerning our police regionalization grant. Dan answered that he should have an answer by the next Select Board meeting. The Board and Chief Dziobek discussed morale in the police department. It was decided to bring the cost figures back to the December 15th Select Board meeting.

Current Budget Update

Dan reviewed the current budget thru October. The Board discussed the discount expense, the police budget being in "good shape," and the highway budget.

Creative Economy Project Request

Dan told the Board that a group of interested citizens representing a variety of organizations in town want to pursue a grant to obtain technical support in promoting the creative economy in Hardwick. There is no money attached to the grant but it will provide experts to meet with Hardwick residents to formulate a plan on how to tie the various segments of our economy together so everyone can better work together.

Some of the participants include the Chamber of Commerce, NekArts, GRACE, Hardwick Trials and interested individuals.

8:15 P.M. Patti moved to authorize Dan Hill to write a letter of support for the creative economy project grant request.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Broadband Response

Dan explained that Broadband in Greensboro is being led by private citizens and the owners of Clean Yield (Ryan Fried and Doug Fleer). The Hardwick Electric Department expressed concerns that as these antennae need power to run the broadband, they are receiving calls when this service is down. The HED advises broadband users to contact their service provider.

Police Report & Zoning Report

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets were the September police activity report and the October zoning administrator's report.

Report on Funding Reduction

Dan said that Lee Ann Lee, our representative on the Northeast Kingdom Community Action board, asked him to advise the Select Board that it appears their funding is going to be reduced by 50%. This means less money to assist in paying fuel bills, winterizing houses etc. It is still being debated in Congress but it appears severe cuts are about to be made. This will create an even bigger crisis for some of our residents in the Northeast Kingdom

Select Board Reports: Todd asked the Board how they would like him to vote, based on what they had heard that evening, at the next Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board meeting concerning the increase on the per capita fee? The Board discussed, but no decision was reached.

New Business: None

Old Business: The Board discussed Bob Audette's (Adair's) housing project and their new water line. Charles explained that he had hired a surveyor to look over town records concerning the right of way that may cross over Mr. Audette's land, in order for the Hardwick/Woodbury trails to not lose whatever claim they may have to this ROW. The surveyor found that no ROW exists, but Charlie would like to be reimbursed for the \$100 expense. The Board agreed to discuss this at the next Select Board meeting. Dan told the Board that the cell tower appeal was moving along, with a site visit scheduled on Bridgman Hill next Monday, November 21st at 10:00 AM.

8:30 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts to include Dan Hill, Town Manager and Lynda Brochu, Administrative Asst.

Todd seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:45 P.M. Out of Executive Session - no action taken

8:45 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