

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Patricia Coultas
Brad Ferland
William "Bill" Richardson
Marcus Brown

Others Present:
Daniel Hill, Lynda Brochu
Nathan Menuer, Roger LeCours,
Sara Urban, Richard Lee
Bill Karjeski, Andrew Meyer,
Allison Meadors, Mike Miller

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

6:00 P.M. Bill Richardson moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2006.

Patricia Coultas seconded

The Board made changes to the minutes as follows: on page 2 under the major points of discussions the Board wanted to add "part of the reason we don't have coverage is because we have our own police department," page 4 "at least quarterly" needed to be changed to "monthly" and on page 6 option #3 should be typed out.

Lynda will bring the changed minutes to the next meeting to be signed by the chair if approved.

Motion passed unanimously

6:04 P.M. Patti moved to approve the Special Select Board meeting of April 28, 2006.

Bill seconded
Brad – Yes
Billy – Yes
Marcus – Yes
Patti – abstained
Tod - abstained

Approval of Agenda: Lynda Brochu explained that Dan Hill would be late, as he was coaching a home varsity baseball game. Lynda added a few items to the agenda: Dan will be on vacation next week, Green up Day is this Saturday, an executive session to discuss personnel needs to be added to discuss the Hardwick Electric Department appointment, and the Jeudevine Library monthly report has been handed out to the Board. The Board agreed that item #5 Business Development Discussion be moved to the end of the meeting, so that Dan Hill could be present during that discussion.

6:06 p.m. Marcus Brown moved to approve the agenda.

Patti seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Communications from Audience: None

Manager's Report:

Hardwick Electric Interview

Richard Lee was present to be interviewed for the position of Hardwick Electric Commissioner. He wishes to fill the unexpired term of Bill Richardson, which will end on June 30, 2007. The Board interviewed Richard, asking him why he was interested in the position and whether he had any conflicts of interest with management or staff at the Electric Department. Richard answered that he was interested in helping in his community and had seen an ad in the paper. He told the Board that he had no conflicts of interest. Bill advised Richard that the first few years were the most complex and confusing, but that he should "stick it out." The Board questioned Richard on his feelings about alternative power. Bob Chaffee spoke up to say that Richard was a good candidate.

6:12 P.M. Brad moved to appointment Richard Lee to the position of Hardwick Electric Commissioner.

Bill seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Reappraisal Update

Bill Krajewski of New England Municipal Consulting was present to give the Board an update on the reappraisal process. He told the Board that everything was going well. His firm was currently holding informal hearings of which they have scheduled less than 100, way under what they were expecting. He explained that it has been a long time since the town has had a reappraisal and that this reappraisal was a "good conservative increase." The Board discussed the percentage increases to properties, the view taxes, the grievance period and process and the Common Level of Appraisal. Bill told the Board that the staff in Hardwick has been great throughout this whole process.

Greensboro Police Contract

Lynda told the Board that enclosed in their packets was a copy of the proposed policing contract with Greensboro for FY '07.

6:25 P.M. Patti moved to accept and sign the policing contract with Greensboro for FY 2007.

M. Tod seconded

Marcus asked the Board to look at future contracts to see if the hours or amount we are charging Greensboro for policing services are fair. The Board discussed the contract

and agreed that it was too late to change this year's contract, but that they would like to create a subcommittee to explore next year's contract. The Board asked Lynda to have Dan place this discussion on the next agenda so that the Board could discuss who would sit on this subcommittee.

M. Tod – Yes
Patti – Yes
Marcus – Yes
Bill – No
Brad – Yes

Preliminary Police Survey Results

Lynda told the Board that enclosed in their packets was her first attempt of presenting the results of our policing survey. The Board added a number of things that they would like to see in this survey including: gridlines, include Greensboro's population and expense in the survey, include road miles covered, include percentage to total budget for police portion, ask what town's are paying for Vermont State Police Dispatch and include other town's, of similar size to Hardwick, that don't have police coverage.

Highway Financial Plan Approval

Lynda told the Board that enclosed in their packets was the financial plan for our highway budget as prepared by Vtrans after holding their annual visit with us. The Board discussed Belfry Road. Patti said that she was glad the road crew had gone to get hot mix asphalt on the first day the plants were open to pave the potholes along Wolcott Street. Bill agreed.

6:37 P.M. Brad moved to approve the Highway Financial Plan.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Bemis Block Tax Question

Lynda told the Board that Dan had spoken with Jean Hackett, because at the last meeting, someone asked about the property tax situation with the Bemis Block. Currently, and for the last few years, they have paid property taxes based on the appraised value of the property less 10%. This is due to the owner being a non profit who provides low income housing. Brad said that he had a few questions, but would speak with Dan later.

Hardwick Electric Report

Lynda told the Board that enclosed in their packets was a copy of the latest report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners. Bill said he would like to have Dan set a schedule where the Select Board would meet with manager's at different locations. Bill said it was important that the Board give the manager's the Board's time. The Board

agreed that the next Select Board meeting be started at the Town Garage in order to tour the garage and speak with Tom Fadden, the Road Foreman.

Lynda updated the Board on Green up Day this Saturday. Brad asked that All Metals Recycling be contacted to help with the clean up along the road that leads to their business.

The Board asked Lynda for an update of the Jeudevine Library budget. Lynda told them that her estimate, as of the end of April, was that they would have between a \$4,000 and \$4,500 deficit as of the end of the fiscal year. The Board asked Lynda to add a financial discussion to the next agenda and have Dan speak with the town attorney about the Board's liability and responsibility in regards to the library.

Dan arrived.

Select Board Reports: Marcus advised the Board that he went to a VLCT conference for Select Board training. He added that for a new member he picked up a few good points. Marcus asked Dan to add to the next Select Board agenda a conflict of interest policy and a policy in regards to audience participation, so that the Board can discuss and possibly adopt both. Marcus told the Board that he also had attended the Andrew Meyer Soybean forum. He said the meeting was very well attended and that the project was good for the community.

Business Development Discussion

Dan told the Board that Marcus asked that we include this on the agenda. Marcus started by asking what the Board's role is in attracting new businesses to Hardwick. Dan explained that he felt the Town's role was to make sure that the infrastructure was in place so that the town was ready when businesses wanted to come to Hardwick. Dan said the town needs to determine where new growth will take place. Sites in the village are limited because of the flood plain. Dan said he plans on meeting with NVDA and touring the town to see if there are any viable sites. Dan recommended that the Select Board meet with the Planning Commission to make sure that when they rewrite the Town Plan, the Select Board be involved. The Board discussed the Chambers role. Mike Miller was present as the chair of the PC to discuss the Town Plan, which needs to be rewritten by August of 2007. The Board and Mike discussed what would impact growth in Hardwick. The Board discussed telecommunications and the status of the cell tower appeal. Mike said that they need financial resources to rewrite the Town Plan. Tod asked that the Board start receiving copies of the agenda's and minutes of the planning committee meetings. Bill asked for a copy of the Town Plan. Lynda asked Mike to make sure that the Board and the public be involved before the plan rewrite was finalized, as happened with the new Zoning bylaws. The Board discussed wind towers and high speed internet. Marcus asked where we start looking for more industrial area. Dan said he would begin with the tour he has planned with Steve Patterson. Mike Miller suggested that the Planning Commission and Select Board take a subcommittee

approach to rewriting the Town Plan.

New Business: Bill asked Dan why the Revolving Loans were confidential. Dan explained that the original loan amount and information was not, but that after the loan repayment reporting was considered confidential as we were acting as a bank. Lynda explained that there was a certain amount of financial liability if we were to give out personal payment information. Bill said that he had come up with additional questions to include in Chief Dziobek's survey. The Board discussed and decided to ask Jim to attend the next Select Board meeting to discuss this survey. Bill questioned whether it was wise to have these surveys, once completed, returned to the chief. The Board discussed. The Board briefly discussed Wolcott Street.

Old Business: None

8:25 P.M. Bill moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Revolving Loan Fund to include Sara Urban, Dan Hill and Lynda Brochu.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

9:07 P.M. Out of Executive Session: No action was taken.

9:08 P.M. Patti moved to adjourn the meeting.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

M. Tod Delaricheliere, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu