

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:

William "Bill" Richardson
Marcus Brown
Brad Ferland

Others Present:

Lynda Brochu, Dan Hill
Nathan Menuer, Robin Grant
James Teuscher, Gordon Wilkinson,
Sue Cross, Alberta Miller, Lori Ferland,
Norman Etkind, Joe Wood, Warren Hill,
Ken Davis, Elizabeth Cate,
Nicole Davignon, Roger LeCours

6:00 P.M. Brad Ferland called the meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. Marcus Brown moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 1, 2006.

Bill Richardson seconded

Brad corrected the people present by striking Tom Fadden.

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda: Dan Hill added a number of things to the agenda: an audit agreement, a lease proposal with VTRANS for property by the depot, a library trustee resignation, Dan's vacation schedule and an executive session for legal.

6:02 P.M. Marcus moved to approve the agenda as amended

Bill seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Communications from Audience: Lori Ferland asked the Board to place garbage cans out on Main Street. She also suggested the Board have a meaningful discussion in regards to the police advisory committee, as proposed by Chief Dziobek. James Teuscher was present to show the Board the last piece of artwork for the park next to the Gazette building – a hanging blue heron.

6:06 P.M. Bill moved to approve the blue heron sculpture be placed in the park next to the Hardwick Gazette.

Marcus seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Joe Wood was present on behalf of the Hardwick Area Chamber of Commerce. He handed the Board members new brochures. He explained that the Chamber is rolling out a new marketing campaign. Robin Grant from the Hardwick Community Television

station was present to inform the board that there is a bill making its way through Congress, S2686 that would give telephone companies more power over lines that they have installed for communication purposes. Robin said should this bill pass, it would restrict small towns and public TV stations. Robin said he would be presenting the Board with a letter to be signed by the Board asking our elected officials to not support this bill.

Interviews for Board Positions

There are three openings on the Hardwick Electric Board of Commissioners to be filled effective July 1st. Four people responded: Joe Wood from Woodbury, Gordon Wilkinson from Craftsbury, Norman Etkind from Woodbury and Warren Hill from Greensboro. The Board asked all four gentlemen to introduce themselves and explain why they wanted to be appointed to the HED Board. Marcus asked the candidates what their feelings were on renewable energy. Bill told the candidates that being on the HED Board was a big commitment. The Board and Warren Hill discussed the major challenges ahead. The Board thanked the candidates and told them that at the end of the meeting they would hold an Executive Session to deliberate as to who they want to appoint.

There were also two positions to fill on the Hardwick Planning/Zoning Board as of July 1st. Elizabeth Cate, Nicole Davignon and Ken Davis applied for these positions. The Board asked the three candidates to introduce themselves and explain why they were interested in serving on the Planning/Zoning Board. The Board asked Ken Davis, the incumbent, to explain what it means to be on the zoning board. The Board asked the three applicants whether they had agendas, how they felt about cell towers and the future of Hardwick? Elizabeth told the board she wanted to get more involved in the community. She said that a cell tower was a "tricky issue" but that she was personally against one. Elizabeth said she would like to see a "strong local community." Nicole Davignon told the Board said she would like to see healthy land use and responsible development. She answered that communication is important, but we need to understand the impact of a cell tower. Each cell tower should be a "site by site situation." Nicole said that future growth is hard to predict, but zoning dictates what the town will see. She said that Hardwick has a lot of potential and she would like to see a stronger local economy and down town. Ken Davis said he likes a challenge and believes that Hardwick needs to "come into the 21st century." He said that not all cell towers are hideous. He said he would like to see communication infrastructure increased in Hardwick, because it's tough to do business in Hardwick without modern day communication. The Board thanked the candidates. Brad went on to thank Averill Brown for his years of service on the Zoning/Planning Board.

Town Clerk Updates

Alberta was present to discuss issues in the Town Clerk's office. Alberta told the Board that she had a Line of Credit from the Union Bank in the amount of \$200,000 that

needed to be signed. She explained the challenges ahead for her office in getting out tax bills in July. She discussed the timing of the school budget revote and the reappraisals affect on the tax bills. She explained how the grievance process would work for the recent reappraisal. She told the Board the reasons that the school vote had moved to the Memorial Building. Alberta updated the Board on tax maps, the voting machines and how funding to pay for them would be drying up on December 31st. The Board asked Alberta's opinion on drive through voting. Alberta updated the Board on water and sewer billing. She told the Board that her office now does DMV renewals for a \$3.00 charge. The Board and Alberta discussed the prebate credits coming against tax bills this year. Bill asked Alberta what the Board could do to support the Town Clerk's office. She answered that attending Board of Civil Authority meetings was the most important thing they could do. She said she sometimes has a hard time getting a quorum.

7:08 P.M. Bill moved to approve a \$200,000 line of credit with Union Bank at a rate of 4.00%.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Police Survey Results

The Board asked that Lynda send the final version of the police cost survey to them via internet.

Line of Credit for Hardwick Electric

Dan told the Board that Hardwick Electric would like the Select Board to approve their annual Line of Credit. It is for \$300,000.00 with an interest rate of 3.95% and it is for the time period of August 1, 2006 thru July 1, 2007.

7:09 P.M. Bill moved to approve the Hardwick Electric Department's line of credit in the amount of \$300,000 for 3.95%.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Public Discussion about a Development Review Board

7:11 P.M. Marcus moved to convert the Zoning/Planning Board to a Development Review Board.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Pick-up Bid Results

Dan told the Board that they had no offers for the foreman's pickup. The Board directed Dan to put a "For Sale" sign up in the windshield.

Hardwick Electric Report

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the latest report from Eric Werner to the electric commissioners. The Hardwick Electric Department would be invited to a future meeting.

Hardwick-Woodbury Trail Update

Dan told the Board that Peggy Bowen has completed extensive research on the ownership of the Hardwick-Woodbury rail line and has submitted it to his office. We have turned the file over to Kristina Michelsen, a Hardwick attorney working out of Ed Zuccaro's office in St. Johnsbury. She is going to prepare a formal response to Mr. Illuzzi.

Budget Update

Dan said that enclosed in the Board's packets was our budget thru the end of May. Dan said that he thinks that we may be right on target even if we do fully fund the capital funds in both the general fund and the sewer fund. While the water fund is looking better, we are still very close there and may not be able to fully fund that capital fund. The board discussed the roads and gravel with Dan.

Meeting Schedule for July

Dan and the Board agreed to meet on July 13th, beginning at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Dan presented the Board with the Sullivan, Powers and Company auditing contract for next year. The board discussed the audit and whether the town should look for other auditing firms in the future.

7:28 P.M. Marcus moved to sign the contract for audit with Sullivan, Powers and Company for \$12,000.00.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that he had met with Larry Donna from Vtrans. Land that the Town is using next to the town garage and depot is owned by the State of Vermont. Dan would be working with Larry to complete a long term lease of this property, if this was ok with the Board. The Board agreed it was.

Dan told the Board that Eleanor McQuillen resigned from the Jeudevine Library Board of Trustees. He would be advertising for a replacement in the local paper.

7:31 P.M. Bill moved to accept Eleanor McQuillen's letter of resignation.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan advised the Board that he will be on vacation the last week in June.

Select Board Reports: Marcus told the Board that he had spoken with Bridget Collier, Town Clerk of Greensboro, concerning how the Greensboro Police contract evolved over the years. He said that 1980 was the first year of the contract, with Greensboro paying 20% of the Hardwick police budget, without any specified patrol hours. In 1992 Hardwick approached Greensboro telling them that another police officer had been hired and that Greensboro's cost would increase to 25% of the total police budget. The two sides agreed to split the difference, which is where the current 22.5% comes from. In 1992 specific minimum hours of coverage were also included. Marcus told the Board that over this period of time, Bridget said that Greensboro has been very happy with their 24/7 coverage.

New Business:

Old Business: Bill asked the other Board members if they had reviewed his police questions, that he wanted to include in the tax bills as a questionnaire. The Board asked Dan to add this item to the next Board agenda.

Brad told the Board that he had contacted the Secretary of States office about forming a sub committee and whether the meetings had to be open to the public. After explaining the intention of the Greensboro fact finding committee, the Secretary of State suggested that what the Board needed was to simply assign administrative tasks to members. A sub committee was needed if decisions were to be made or money spent or appropriated.

7:39 P.M. Brad moved to dissolve the Sub committee of Brad and Marcus.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Brad, as Chair, assigned the administrative task of investigating and fact finding of the Greensboro Police contract to himself and Marcus. They would then report back to the full Board.

Marcus asked Dan for an update of Dan's meeting with Steve Patterson from NVDA in regards to future commercial development. Dan said that he and Steve and gone through Hardwick and there are not a lot of options. The Board discussed.

Brad and the Board discussed Bill Davies, the Town attorney's opinion of our dog ordinance. Brad asked Dan to call Brandon, whose ordinance we modeled ours after, to see how they handle removing dogs without a search warrant. The newly updated

ordinance will go into effect as of June 19, 2006 and the Board will address this section later.

7:49 P.M. Bill moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, to include Dan Hill.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:17 P.M. Out of Executive Session

8:17 P.M. Bill moved to appoint Warren Hill to a three year term to the Hardwick Electric Department Board.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Brad stated that the Select Board could not reach consensus on the other appointee and would revisit the issue.

8:17 P.M. Marcus moved to appoint Ken Davis to the Hardwick Development Review Board.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Brad stated that the Select Board could not reach consensus on the other appointee and would revisit the issue.

8:20 P.M. Bill moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal, to include Dan Hill.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

9:07 P.M. Out of Executive Session – no action taken.

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

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

Brad Ferland, Co-Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu