

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Members Present:
M. Tod Delaricheliere
Marcus Brown
Bill Richardson
Patti Coultas
Brad Ferland

Others Present:
Lynda Brochu, Dan Hill,
Roger LeCours, Robin Grant,
Hannah Moulton, Andrew Meyer,
Chief James Dziobek

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

6:00 P.M. Bill Richardson moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2006.

Brad Ferland seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda: Dan Hill added the following items to the agenda: signing a town highway funds release of funds form for the Belfrey Road paving project and Dan Hale has asked that one of the Select Board members sit on the Hardwick/Woodbury trail committee. Patti Coultas added an Executive Session to discuss personnel. Brad asked Dan for an update on the Hardwick/Woodbury trail. Dan explained that there is no activity yet as Peggy Bowen needs to produce one more document to send to our attorneys.

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

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Communications from Audience: None

Managers Report

Bike Path Bid Results

Dan told the Board that there were three bids for phase one work on the bike path. This work includes improvements to the swinging bridge, relocating a storm drain at the end of Highland Ave and building two new stretches of sidewalk. The bids were as follows: J.P. Sicard - \$134,925.00, Duranleau Construction - \$147,370.00 and R.C. Contractors - \$151,300.00

Dan said that as of today, the Town has approximately \$100,000.00 for construction. Dan said he feels the Town would need a total of \$161,911.00 to complete phase one. He said that he has written a letter to Vtrans asking for additional funding to complete the work. If Vtrans agrees to the additional amount, they would

give us \$48,349.00 more and we would have to come up with an additional \$12,087.00. Dan explained that if the Town had had the sidewalks constructed and had completed minor repairs to the bridge; we would have potentially spent our match money any ways.

6:07 P.M. Patti moved to approve the bid to J.P. Sicard in the amount of \$134,925.00, pending additional funding from the State of Vermont.

Brad seconded

The Board and Dan discussed the sidewalks, the local share of the project, the swinging bridge and the contractor.

Motion passed unanimously

Andrew Meyer Presentation

Andrew Meyer was present to discuss the idea of creating an “intervale” type project on the Atkins property off Granite Street. Andrew gave some background of the Center for Biobased Economies and reviewed the scope of what they want to do in Hardwick. The CFBE is currently writing a grant to purchase the Atkins property. Andrew asked the board to sign a letter of support. If the land was acquired Andrew said they would then seek money for a feasibility study for the best use of the land. Andrew discussed the group’s vision of creating food/agriculture based businesses in Hardwick. The Board discussed a number of issues with Andrew; a business plan, zoning issues, land trusts and the size of the property – 18 acres and the infrastructure demands on the Town. Patti said that this plan “fits what’s happening in this area.”

6:31 P.M. Brad moved to sign a letter of support for a grant request for the Center for Biobased Economies.

Patti seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Budget Work

Dan and Chief Dziobek discussed the proposed Police budget with the Board. They discussed the health care changes and investigation expense.

Chief Dziobek updated the Board on the Peace project and the start of the citizens’ advisory board. Brad asked to see the names of the potential advisory board members. Marcus asked the Chief if he has looked at the potential of on call services in the police department. Jim said it’s been looked at for the last 20 years. Jim advised the Board that complaints have gone up by 345 over last year. Brad asked Jim what types of complaints were on the increase. Jim answered that social work type situations are on the increase as well as substance abuse, burglaries and domestic issues. Marcus asked the Chief what the community can do to help. Jim answered that we need to prevent the on set of substance abuse problems in our youths.

Dan reviewed the proposed payroll budget. Brad asked Dan if any money has been set aside for cell tower issues. Dan said the town was not prepared to participate in the current appeal, but that he expected to be kept informed of the proceedings. The Board and Dan discussed the process of the cell tower appeal.

Dan reviewed the proposed line item budget with the Board. Marcus asked to increase the Memorial Day budget line to include a fireworks show. The Board discussed fireworks and told Lynda Brochu to prepare donation letters for a fireworks display in the coming months to see if enough money can be raised to purchase at least a minimum show of \$3,000. The Board then discussed the cemetery line item. Tod advised the Board that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Budget would be level funded. Patti said that she feels the discount expense is too low and should be raised to \$45,000. Dan advised the Board that the Town Clerk, Alberta Miller, would be looking into short term investments to potentially offset some of the discount expense. The Board agreed to wait until the budget is more firmly fixed, before adding money to the Memorial Day line or the discount expense line. Dan reviewed the Capital Fund budget and the Revenue budget. Bill asked the Board to review the Greensboro contract portion of the budget. He proposed increasing the Greensboro portion of the police budget to 32.1% up from 22.5%. He said, "I believe we've subsidized them for years." The Board discussed and with the exception of Bill, were not ready to talk about "it" tonight.

Dan gave the Board a copy of his ten year capital plan. The Board discussed the plan. Dan warned the Board that with as many projects as projected to come up in the next few years, this fund will have to go up in the very near future. The Board discussed the fund balance and \$10,000 going into highways from the capital fund for one year.

Current Revenue and Expense Report

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the current revenue and expense reports thru the end of October. Dan said he feels that the current town budget is in good shape.

Select Board Forums

Dan told the Board that VLCT is presenting a forum for Select Board members on Saturday December 9th. Marcus asked Dan and Lynda to sign him up for the forum.

Sewer Review Delayed

Dan told the Board that due to vacations at Forcier Aldrich, he would be meeting with them on November 28th to review where we are with the Mill St. sewer line.

Police Appointment

Dan had a special police officer appointment for the Board's approval. It is for Wayne Pittman who is now working as a part-timer for us.

8:00 P.M. Patti moved to appoint Wayne Pittman to the position of Special Police Officer.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Housekeeping Motion

8:02 P.M. Marcus moved to convert the former Zoning Board of Adjustment to a Development Review Board and to preserve the Planning Commission as a separate body.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan asked the Board to sign a town highway funds release of funds form for the Belfrey Road paving project. The Board discussed having a Select Board member sitting on the Hardwick/Woodbury trail committee. Patti said she would speak with the Board's representative to this Board, Charlie Volk, first.

Select Board Reports:

New Business:

Old Business:

8:07 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations to include Dan Hill.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:25 P.M. Patti left.

8:55 P.M. Open Session – no action taken.

8:56 P.M. Bill moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate to include Dan Hill.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

9:05 P.M. Open Session – no action taken.

9:06 P.M. Bill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

M. Tod Delaricheliere, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu