

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 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,
Everett Hurlburt

6:03 P.M. Tod Delaricheliere called the meeting to order.

6:03 P.M. Patti Coultas moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2006.

Brad Ferland seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda: Dan Hill canceled two agenda items: item #1, Mr. Gohl's parking request and item #8, the signing of the highway union contract. Dan added the following items to the agenda: a financial handout from the Hardwick Trails committee, a volunteer from the Select Board to serve on a bid committee for the RFQs for engineers for phase II of the bike path, the Town received a planning grant for \$12,000 to rewrite our Town plan, a handout from the Vermont Coalition of Municipalities asking Hardwick to join, two special police officer appointments, local government day and audit. Brad added two executive sessions: one for contracts and one for personnel.

6:05 P.M. Marcus Brown moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Bill Richardson seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Communications from Audience: None

Managers Report

Finalizing the FY '08 Budget

Dan reminded the Board that enclosed in their packets was the proposed budget for FY '08. It includes the county taxes which decreased by \$2,300.00, the additions to the Capital fund for a new phone system and fireworks.

Brad asked Dan to take the new phone system out of the capital budget and reallocate it over the various departments, which would be seeing the benefit of the phones. Patti asked the Board if they had received any feedback about adding the fireworks back into the current budget. The Board members heard both positive and negative feedback.

6:11 P.M. Brad moved to recess the meeting.

Marcus seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:14 P.M. Board meeting reconvened.

The Board continued to discuss the budget. There were no other suggestions. Dan and his office will reallocate the phone system and bring back the warning to be signed at the next Select Board meeting.

Request for Article at Town Meeting

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets was an Email from Anne Stevens of Greensboro and a proposed article asking for the Town to instruct the Select Board and our legislators to support easing the regulations on small hydro projects. Patti and Tod had no problem putting it on the warning, but would like someone to attend Town Meeting to answer any questions voters may have. Brad asked Dan if this was typical of how an article was placed on the warning or did there have to be a petition filed. Dan said it was rare that the Select Board placed an item on the warning without a petition.

6:25 P.M. Patti moved to place the proposed small hydro project article on the warning for Town Meeting.

Tod seconded
Bill – No
Brad – No
Patti – Yes
Marcus – Yes
Tod - Yes

Current Budget Update

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets was a copy of the Town's current budget expense report for the first 6 months. Dan reviewed the different departments. The Board discussed health care costs, unions, the fire department, highway, appropriations and line items. Brad asked Dan how the Highway department liked the new truck. Dan answered that they were happy with it.

Tax Sale for Water and Sewer

Dan told the Board that Alberta had given him a list of our most delinquent water and sewer users. There are 13 different accounts that are at least 12 months behind in their rent. The Board discussed going to tax sale for these 13 accounts.

6:37 P.M. Brad moved to hold a tax sale for 13 delinquent water and sewer accounts

as presented by the Town Clerk.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan told the Board that he needs one volunteer to sit on a committee to review the Requests for Qualifications of engineers for phase II of the bike path. Patti volunteered to sit on this committee.

Dan said he had two Special Police Officer appointments; one for Tanner Atwood and one for Scott McCullough.

6:43 P.M. Patti moved to appoint both Tanner Atwood and Scott McCullough to be Special Police Officers.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Dan reviewed a letter from our auditors detailing three issues they wished to have us work on. Patti said "Good Job."

Everett Hurlburt asked the Board whether they supported the Police Department. Everett told the Board he did.

6:47 P.M. Marcus moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts.

Bill seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:44 P.M. Out of Executive Session – no action taken

Report on Greensboro Policing Contract

Brad summarized the Greensboro contract study that he and Marcus completed. Their conclusions were that the current format is reasonable but they recommended that representatives of the Hardwick board meet with representatives from the Greensboro board sometime after Town Meeting to review the contract and work to make it simpler and to ensure it was fair for everyone.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: None

Old Business: Patti volunteered to be considered for the rail trails advisory board. The Board agreed to have her go forward.

Brad asked if there was anything new on the Woodbury trails. Dan stated that

we are still waiting for Peg Bowen's report. Peg has started a new job and that has slowed down her work, but she will have a final report by the end of the month.

7:50 P.M. Marcus moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

8:02 P.M. Out of Executive Session – no action taken.

8:02 P.M. Bill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes approved by:

M. Tod Delaricheliere, Chair

Minutes taken by: Lynda N. Brochu