

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, January 25, 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,

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

6:0 P.M. Patti Coultas moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2006.

Brad Ferland seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda:

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

Certificate of Highway Miles

We need to sign the annual Certificate of Highway Miles for the State. This is an annual report that certifies the number of miles of each class that we have in Hardwick. There are two changes to the report this year. We are changing Billings Lane from class 4 to class 3 and the State is now listing legal trail mileage for the first time. We have two legal trails in Hardwick. One is the Buffalo Mtn. Rd. and the other is a short stretch of Prospect St. between Paul Brochu's house and West End. A copy of the report is in your packets.

Adoption of the Warning for Town Meeting

We will have the proposed Warning for you at the meeting. It is not ready to be printed yet because organizations have until 5:00 pm on January 25th to submit petitions for articles. The article for the budget will be for \$1,966,654.00 which is an increase of 2.75% over last year. The final budget including the breakdown of the phone system is in your packets.

Other one time articles will include requesting permission to spend up to \$30,000 of the undesignated surplus for the purchase of the so called Ultramar property, changing the date of the first due date on taxes from July 10th to August 10th, one asking for permission to borrow up to \$100,000.00 for five years to help pay for the Mill St. sewer line and one asking if the voters want to instruct the Select Board and the legislature to support easing the permitting process for small hydro projects.

I have used the \$100,000.00 amount for the potential loan to cover us depending on whatever option we choose to follow for funding the sewer line work. If we were to get a grant from Rural Development for 45% of the project, we would be looking at a larger amount than the \$60,000. we originally used as a number. If we end up going it alone, we would only need to borrow the \$60,000 if we use the other funds available in the Sewer Capital Fund but if there is inflation or an unexpected cost, we could end up short. I think it makes sense to put the larger amount in the Warning and if we know more by Town Meeting, amend the article to a lower number.

Water/Sewer Budget Presentation

Enclosed in your packets are the proposed budgets for both water and sewer. The sewer budget, in particular, is up significantly due to the phosphorous removal project and the potential of debt repayment for Mill St. We are still submitting information to Rural Development concerning funding for Mill St. and we hope to have a more concrete idea of where we are headed in terms of paying for that project by the time we meet.

Request for Change in Speed Limit

We have received a letter from several of the residents and business owners near Buffalo St. to reduce the speed limit in that area. The 30 mph zone ends right at Buffalo St. and it becomes a 40mph zone from there to Symonds Flat on Rte 14S. They would like to have the 40 mph reduced to 30 mph out to at least D & L Beverage. If the board agrees that it should be looked at, we would send a request to Vtrans and they would do some analysis of the area and either change the speed limit or report as to why they did not. Because it is a State highway, it is not in our jurisdiction and we can only submit a request for consideration. Would the board like to have the study done?

Appointment of Fire Warden

David Brochu's 5 year term as fire warden is up. The State has already talked to him and he would like to be reappointed to one last 5 year term before he retires.

Zoning Report

Enclosed in your packets is the zoning administrator's report of permits issued during the last 6 month of 2006.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: None

Old Business:

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

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

P.M. Out of Executive Session – no action taken.

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