

A regular meeting of the Hardwick Select Board was held on Thursday, February 8 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,
Dan Hale, Kate Scarlett, Wayne Elliott,
Rob MacLeod, Dan Courchaine,
Ken LaCasse, Art Williams,
Ralph Ainsworth, Denis Chase,
David Hale, Joseph Brochu,
Dann Rogers, Ben Patoine,

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 January 25, 2007.

Brad Ferland seconded

Bill added to the last page that Dan agreed to complete an exit interview with Chad Bean.

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda: Dan added a liquor license approval, the monthly Hardwick Electric Department report, a Vermont Coalition of Municipalities, a \$500 assessment grant for the Town House and Jeudevine Library, the December and January monthly police reports and an announcement of a USDA grant to complete a feasibility study on an incubator building in the industrial park. Bill and Marcus asked for an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

6:06 P.M. Patti moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Communications from Audience: None

Managers Report

Phosphorous Removal Project Update

Wayne Elliot from Forcier & Aldrich was present to update the Board on the phosphorous removal project. Wayne explained his agreement for their services through the construction phase of this project and the formal grant request to fund the project. The grant application is for \$680,000 and includes money already spent. Brad asked is this project was a fixed bid? Wayne explained that even if the project went

over budget, the Town would not be on the hook as the State of Vermont would modify the request for funds.

6:15 P.M. Patti moved to approve the grant application for \$680,000.00.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

6:15 P.M. Patti moved to approve the contract with Forcier, Aldrich and Associates and authorize Dan Hill to sign said contract.

Tod seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Mill Street Update

Dan told the Board that the Town has received a preliminary announcement from Rural Development concerning funding the Mill St. project. Based on a total cost of \$160,000.00, they would grant us \$91,000.00 and then loan us \$61,000.00 on a 30 year note with interest of 4 1/8 %.

Police Dept Update

Dan told the Board that Ashley Barnes has submitted his resignation to take a position with the Morrisville P.D. He will be required to pay the Town back a percentage of what he was paid while he was at the police academy because he has not been with us two years and he was the first officer under the signed agreement that he stay with us for two years. Dan added that Dominic Etili has requested that we change him to part-time status effective February 14th. He is returning to the nursing profession. The Board discussed the state police physical assessment, why officers were leaving and how the Town could retain them. Dan said he feels that Hardwick is a hard town to work in. The Board discussed.

Request from Local ATV Club

Dan told the Board that enclosed in their packets was a letter from Dan Hale on behalf of the local ATV club requesting to again alter the ATV policy for the Town. Also included was Dan Hale's draft of the changes they want to the current policy. Dan Hill told the Board that also included in their packets was information provided by Kate Scarlett in regards to safety issues, should the Board allow the ATV trails and roads to be open year round. Dan Hale spoke on behalf of the ATV group stating that because of the lack of snow, he would like to use the already approved town roads and trails year round for ATV travel. Patti asked what other communities have done. Brad said he thought that VASA was going to work towards getting ATVs off town roads as this was only a temporary solution. Dan Hale answered that he wasn't sure what other towns were doing and that he did not intend to set a time limit on getting ATVs off town roads. Marcus asked Dan Hale if it his group had any safety concerns because of

winter road conditions and high snow banks. Dan answered no. The Board asked Dan Hale who would make the determination if there was enough snow to for VAST to groom trails. Dan answered his group VASA would make that determination. Dan Hale said that road travel could also close when Buffalo Mountain Trail is groomed by VAST for the first time. Dan Courchaine spoke on behalf of VAST and asked the Board to leave the dates as they are in the current ATV policy. He said that they dates are in the policy for a reason, so that no ATV's are on trails during the wet season (fall and spring) and so that VAST can prepare their trails. He questioned how VASA could contact all their members and let them know that VAST groomed on a Tuesday evening at 9 PM and that the ATV's were no longer able use the trails. The Board discussed with the people in the room the positive strides that VASA has made, the number of phone calls the Board has received in regards to this issue, safety issues and where the ATVS could currently travel. Brad stated that it was a difficult decision when there are two groups asking for different things. Kate Scarlett spoke to say that residents were also affected by this decision. The Board decided to get more town input and decided to add this issue to the agenda on March 8, 2007 in order to give residents more time to think about this issue and contact their Select Board members.

Reverse E911 Meeting

Dan told the Board that he invited a company that provides reverse 911 calling to a meeting last week. Also invited were the electric department, the fire department and the police department. Dan Hill said that the initial cost is prohibitive at \$24,000, with an additional yearly up keep charge of \$1,500.00. Dan said that they were not going to pursue this unless Homeland Security Grant funds became available. Brad said that he spoke with a State of Vermont Enhanced 911 representative and they may be developing a policy on how towns could tap into their system for this type of emergency contact.

Town House Heating System

Dan updated the Board on the Town House. Dan said that two heat exchanges should be replaced on Friday or Monday. The Town Meeting location was discussed and Dan said a decision would need to be made at the Select Board meeting of 02/22/07 as to where the Town Meeting would take place. Dan said that the NEKARTS Board will probably be at the next Select Board meeting to talk about their future.

Nichols Pond Dam Update

Dan told the Board that Hardwick Electric had a meeting on February 7th to discuss the options for Nichols Dam. Dan said that the Electric Department had three options with the dam: remove it, fix it or leave it. The Board discussed the Nichols dam.

Dan told the Board he had a liquor license that needed to be approved.

7:21 P.M. Bill moved to approve a second class liquor license for the Hardwick Kwik Stop and Deli.

Patti seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: None

Old Business: Brad asked if the proposed no passing section of Center Road was in effect yet. Dan answered it was.

7:26 P.M. Patti moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Brad seconded
Motion passed unanimously

7:53 P.M. Out of Executive Session – no action taken.

7:53 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