

**Hardwick Board of Selectmen
Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building
307 Main Street
Hardwick, MA 01031**

Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022

In Attendance: Julie Quink (JQ), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H. Robert Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator.

Meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Halloween Dates and Rain Dates

NP stated Police Chief said Saturday or Sunday the 29th or 30th would be best; however, if it rained it could be on the 31st. Lauren, who runs the event, agreed the 29th was good with a rain date of the 30th.

Potential Equine Farm Applicants Informational Session Reminder – September 27, 2022

JQ asked if anyone in the audience had received propaganda in their mailbox pertaining to the horse farm and racetrack. She gave a brief overview of what the document was regarding. NP presented a printed copy of the presentation which would be discussed at the session.

NP stated a public hearing will be held October 3rd and will take place at the Hardwick Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Cable Contract

JQ opened discussion. NP stated the status is with Town Counsel who deals with cable contracts, and he said he would redline the contract with his recommendations including rates for the Board's review and recommend the Board vote on it at the October 24th meeting.

Treasure/Collector Department Update

JQ recommended taking the report under advisement. It will be placed on the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

New Employee for MART

NP said the Board has paperwork for new employee, Pauline Supka, for the part-time MART bus driver. She will need to complete a drug test and take a course as well. Rate: \$14.25/hr. NP will need to confirm number of hours.

Motion

KK made a recommendation the Board approve the prospective new employee (Pauline S.) for part-time MART bus van driver with the rate of other MART drivers as reimbursed from MART based on approximately 7 hours a week.

HRR seconded.

Vote Taken

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Ambulance Service Zone Plan

NP stated Eric Vollheim, Emergency Management Director, Lieutenant Landine who works for 911 dispatch, Dan McCall who is our ambulance service for part of Hardwick, and NP had a meeting with Tina Dixon who would ultimately send documents up for other approvals. Tina Dixon completed most of the paperwork during the meeting. Discussion ensued with regards to the comprehensive plan handled by Captain Bert Diverny.

JQ stated the Board would take it under advisement to review and offer edits.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Minutes from August 29, 2022

KK voiced concerns regarding accuracy pertaining to the minutes and the importance of keeping accurate records.

Discussion Regarding Vote Relative to ARPA Funding

NP received updated quote for meters for water from TiSales. Rates and regulations are still being reviewed. Also need input from professionals with regulations being updated as well.

NP stated the importance of getting the meters with accessibility for entry into houses or onto owner properties for readings being an issue. Quote was updated on 9/21 with install charge added in for East National Water and it comes up to about \$30,749.00 which comes to \$80.00 for them to install each meter. JQ mentioned it had been talked about at the last Water Commission Meeting with KK acknowledging it has been mentioned frequently.

Motion

KK made a motion to fund all new meters and installation for the Hardwick Center Water District not to exceed an amount of \$32,000.00 to be funded through ARPA funding.

HRR seconded.

Vote Taken

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Pending projects were reviewed. There was a discussion about moving the offices and accessibility of phones. Most economical options are being reviewed.

Town Administrator's Report

NP reviewed the report with the Selectboard:

- USDA update
- DPC to submit NOI for proposed pump station
- New applicants proposing horse farm and race track
- Council on Aging resuming office hours
- Ghost Walk October 15th
- Concern expressed pertaining to communication difficulties
 - Discussion ensued
 - JQ requested a joint meeting with Hardwick Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Leicester. Board of Health Chair agreed.
- Youth Center Open House successful
- Explore a possible new position for maintenance coordinator/custodian possibly coordinating with other towns. Discussion ensued.

Ongoing:

- Retirement Insurance
- Personnel Policy
- DLS and financial reviews
- Hardwick Open Space & Recreation Plan update - grant received for \$10,875
- Accountant shared services
- Recycling container contract
- Community Compact Cabinet Grants
- Water Commission and updating technology

Signatures and Approvals

- NP stated signature needed on DEP Bureau of Waste Prevention and Recovery Program

Motion

KK made a motion to acknowledge and accept the Hardwick Open Space & Recreation Plan update project for \$10,875.

HRR seconded.

Vote Taken

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Selectmen Round Table Discussion

JQ brought up Article 97 Insight Plan Assessment which will be discussed with Counsel tomorrow. Update will follow.

KK noted meetings with department heads, boards, etc. have started up once again with concerns voiced including the horse farm, police presence in Hardwick, condition of roadways, etc. Treasurer brought up a new payroll service system which was being considered, Conservation Committee working with natural heritage addressing endangered species needing to be moved plus Wheelwright Dam removal, Planning Board discussed solar and moving forward plus rewriting marijuana by-laws, Board of Health brought up public health and the big picture regarding air, water, land etc., Recycling discussed \$10,000 grant with regards to mattresses.

Discussion ensued not every department has cell phones and computers. Going forward something will need to be done. Discussion followed having department meetings periodically.

Adjournment

Motion

HRR made a motion to adjourn.

KK seconded.

Vote Taken

HRR yes

KK yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.