

**HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING  
307 Main Street  
Gilbertville, MA 01031  
June 26, 2023**

Attendees: H. Robert Ruggles (HR), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Eric Vollheim (EV), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator.

Meeting was called to order on June 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**Marcum LLP Contract**

NP stated the only language change in contract was Marcum LLP needs a 10-day notice. Marcum LLP can leave Hardwick with a 10-day notice and would come one day a month. The Town can now terminate them whereas previously the Town did not have that option.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept changes to the Marcum LLP contract dated June 13, 2023 that adds the either party can disengage services within 10 days, and they will remain coming in person one day a month.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Annual Appointments**

NP stated she will obtain contact information and confirm all parties want to be reappointed. Julie Quink should be removed, and Erik Vollheim should be added.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to update the Personnel Committee to read Eric Vollheim and not Julie Quink for term expiring 2026.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

- **Broadband Advisory Committee** – NP recommended disbanding the committee as it has been deemed it is no longer necessary.

**Motion**

HR made a motion to dissolve the Broadband Advisory Committee

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the appointments as written except for the Broadband Advisory Committee and the correction to the Personnel Committee.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0)

**Superintendent Report**

Scott Potter said the flow meter at Gilbertville Pump Station failed. They were unable to repair it so a technician was brought in for repairs and reactivation. The pump is now working.

A new gas meter was purchased for entering confined spaces.

It was discovered the phone line for the Eagle Hill Pump Station had been disconnected. Apparently, Eagle Hill has been paying the bill for the past 7 or 8 years when the pump was put online. We are in the process of taking over that bill payment, and the phone line has been reactivated.

Scott took a tour of the Middlebury, VT wastewater treatment plant which has an Aqua-Aerobic system similar to what is being proposed for the Wheelwright facility, and the operators there are very happy with that system. They say it's a good company to deal with.

Seeing the layout of their plant reinforced to Scott that we should be taking some measures to try to get the temperature up on our wastewater whether it's insulating our tanks or mounding dirt up on our tanks or something to that effect. The engineers agreed with that, but they don't want to take it up now with the contractor. When someone is granted the bid, they will plan on bringing it up once the work is underway.

HRR requested the Superintendent be present at the Annual Town Meeting going forward should any questions arise.

**ARPA**

The new bid package for a Highway Department truck was reviewed.

NP stated there's still \$160,000 in the account. Money not spent needs to be used by December next year 2024. Note: Items sitting in the Treasury are probably going to be taken away.

**Motion**

KK made a motion for approval for ARPA funding for new 2023 Ram 5500 chassis cab in the amount of \$108,748 for the Highway Department.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Motion**

KK made a motion to appoint Sharon Hardaker to the MART Advisory Board for FY24 starting July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Signatures and Approvals**

NP presented the Board with a reimbursement form for signature pertaining to a past Comcast invoice.

Citation of Appreciation was presented for signatures, it was decided it would be presented to the recipient in person.

**Selectboard Roundtable**

HRR noted the need to come up with a plan for checking in and keeping a pulse on the job with regards to sewer.

KK stated a check and balance system is needed. More detailed quotes are needed for wastewater system options. There is accountability for the Town to the Town's people.

NP stated she will get a more detailed quote similar to Blue Heron.

EV suggested reaching out to Whitewater Wastewater and Graham Wastewater who are knowledgeable with regards to wastewater systems.

NP stated Lori Dell'Olio was no longer with Marcum LLP. Marcum to reappoint another accountant as of June.

NP stressed she wants to keep in the forefront the need for a shared accountant with another town which would be 100% Hardwick time and not sporadic here and there.

NP stated the streaming equipment for the meetings is broken, therefore, the meetings are being done via Zoom. The TV tech and NP are working with the company that bought out our Access AV which provided the necessary equipment for streaming. Both are working diligently trying to replace that.

NP stated we submitted testimony for Hardwick at the State House to equalize the value for PILOT *Chapter 90 Formula* and *Municipal Building Assistance Authority* in the Commonwealth via written testimony.

NP received a quote for 3 new EV charging stations for approximately \$40,000.

NP is going to apply for a grant for Mass EV IP (Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program), noting the only items not covered are the warranty and maintenance. NP would like to do a 4-year warranty and maintenance which will probably cost Hardwick \$5,000 out of pocket.

HRR asked if we make any money on that right now. Hardwick is paying for the electricity. NP stated we do not. NP will ask Patrick Mahoney, who is Guardian Energy, how we can go about doing that. Currently all 3 stations are not working. HRR told NP to move forward to see if the Town is eligible for a grant.

NP made a request to the Selectboard for permission to close Town Hall offices on Monday (July 3, 2023). Permission was granted.

HRR noted plans for buildings regarding tax title is being researched noting only a certain number of titles are done per year.

### **Adjournment**

KK made a motion to adjourn.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.