

Hardwick Electric Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes – December 16, 2025

Attendees: Commissioners: Michael Ambrosino, Chair, Renaud Demers, Roger Prevot, Jake Lester, Myles Kamisher-Koch (zoom); Staff: Scott Johnstone; Guests: Erik Remick, Selectboard Chair; Public: Gary Circosta and Stuart Arnold.

Chair Ambrosino called a Regular Meeting of the Hardwick Electric Commission to order at 6:00 pm at 20 Church Street, 3rd floor meeting room, in Hardwick having declared a quorum present.

Two items were added to the agenda. First, consideration of the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11th were added. Second, a discussion of collaboration with Greensboro regarding the Caspian Lake dam and public access was added following the public comment period.

The approval of minutes was next on the agenda. Commissioner Prevot moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 8th. Commissioner Demers seconded the motion, and all voted favorably.

Chair Ambrosino then motions to approve the minutes of the special meeting on December 11th. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Prevot. All commissioners voted affirmatively except for Commissioner Kamisher-Koch, who abstained since he was unable to attend the meeting due to technology problems at the department.

No comments were received during the public comment agenda item.

Next Mr. Arnold updated the Commission on the status of discussions in Greensboro relating to the potential to acquire the Caspian Lake dam and public access. Mr. Arnold urged all involved to keep momentum as well as the opportunity to share the cost for certain activities that will be necessary to bring this transfer to a successful conclusion. Mr. Arnold also is seeking the creation of a task force to assist in moving this forward.

The Commission remains interested in this possibility. However, it noted, as did Selectboard Chair Remick, that it is the Town that owns the facility. Next step for the Commission is to arrange a conversation with the Selectboard. Further, this is but one of the many dams owned by the town / department. Staff wondered if a task force was in the offing that perhaps it should cover all such dams.

Lastly, with the change of the calendar, dams rated poor for any reason by the state, such as this one, will no longer be insurable by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Both the

department and town will need to consider if there are alternative paths to liability insurance or if they will need to self-insure.

Approval of an expense borrowing note was next on the agenda. HED currently has a note of this type with the Union Bank and renewed it for \$300,000 at its last meeting. This updated note increases the availability of cash to meet fluctuations of need in paying accounts payable from \$300,000 to \$575,000. After discussion Commissioner Prevot moved to approve the borrowing with Union Bank with Chair Ambrosino seconding the motion. All voted in favor. Next step is for this note to go to the Selectboard for approval.

As will be seen soon, HED desires to take out a loan to pay for a new bucket truck. The recommended financial institution for this loan is Community National Bank. However, to execute the loan, if approved, CNB requires borrowers to have a banking account with their institution. Staff seek authorization to open this account. Commissioner Ambrosino moved to authorize staff to open an account with Community National Bank and to include Scott Johnstone, Karen Field and Myles Kamisher-Koch as signers on the account on behalf of the department.

A second loan was next on the agenda, this one with Community National Bank. This note is to enable the department to borrow funds for the purpose of acquiring a new bucket truck for HED. The value is \$325,000. Once approved this too needs to go to the Selectboard for approval. Both notes were reviewed by counsel. Following discussion, Commissioner Prevot moved to approve the loan with Community National Bank as presented. Commissioner Ambrosino seconded and all Commissioners approved.

A schedule of attendees at upcoming Selectboard meetings was next discussed. The planned schedule follows:

December – Commissioner Lester

January – GM Johnstone (presuming it is on the 22nd)

February – Chair Ambrosino

March – Commissioner Kamisher-Koch

April – Commissioner Prevot

May – Commissioner Demers

The next item on the agenda was a review of the financial report. A brief discussion was held.

The General Manager's report was the next item. Mr. Johnstone noted specifically the upcoming review of all municipal electric utilities that the state is planning. No other questions remained on this matter.

At 7:12 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Ambrosino to go into executive session under VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) & (E) and (a)(2) and to include the general manager in the executive session. Commissioner Prevot seconded and all voted in the affirmative.

At 7:33 pm the Commission returned to open session.

At 7:33 pm a motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting by Chair Ambrosino. Seconded by Commissioner Demers and passed unanimously.

Recorded by:



Commissioner

Date

Feb 17, 2025

Date