

HARDWICK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES DRAFT

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 (6:00 PM)

Attendees

Commissioner Roger Prevot
Commissioner Renaud Demers
Commissioner Jake Lester
HED General Manager, Sarah Braese
Stew Arnold, The Greensboro Association
Paul Brierre, Greensboro Association

Virtual (via Zoom)

Commissioner Michael Ambrosino, Chair
HED Business Office & Finance Manager, Beth Essary

- Commissioner Ambrosino called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to approve the Agenda. GM Braese requested the addition of the Wolcott Hydro Dam as an Executive Session.
- Commissioner Prevot made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of Tuesday, August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting, Friday August 29, 2025 Special Meeting and Monday September 8, 2025 Special Meeting. Commissioner Ambrosino seconded the motion. Commissioner Demers abstained from the approval of the August 19 minutes as he was not present. There were only 2 remaining commissioners for approval, so the August 19 minutes were not approved. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the meetings of August 29 and September 8.
- Stew Arnold with The Greensboro Association requested information regarding the status of Caspian Dam, and how the Association can be a stakeholder in future discussions, shared recent concerns and conversations with HED staff and the State Agency of Natural Resources regarding lake water levels. Information was shared and Mr. Arnold will continue working with HED, Hardwick Select Board and The Greensboro Association regarding Caspian Dam.
- Commissioner Lester arrived, so Commissioner Prevot made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lester seconded the motion. Commissioner Demers abstained. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Prevot made a motion to change the bank signature authorities for HED to remove Lynne Gedanken and add Commissioner Jake Lester. Commissioner Ambrosino seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The financial reports were presented. GM Braese responded to a question about tax reduction by explaining the change in methodology used by the State to assess the value of municipal utility plants which resulted in a tax liability reduction.
- GM Braese provided information about the proposed Utility Operations Manager position. Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to approve Sarah to create a job description and advertisement for the Utility Operations Manager at the stated salary agreed to at the meeting. Commissioner Demers seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- GM Braese provided an update on Wolcott Hydro repairs, and a FEMA update.
- GM Braese reviewed briefly the General Manager's Report.
- There was no other business presented.
- At 7:07 pm Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the VTDEC Site Investigation Workplan. Commissioner Kamisher-Koch seconded the motion. Motion passed. The board entered Executive Session at 7:03 pm with invitation to GM Braese to attend.
- The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:14 pm. No Board action was taken.
- Commissioner Prevot made a motion to authorize GM Braese to execute and agreement for additional sampling in accordance with the VTDEC Site Investigation Workplan. Commissioner Lester seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

- Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss non-tax grievance issues. Commissioner Lester seconded the motion. Motion passed. The board entered Executive Session at 7:15 pm with invitation to GM Braese to attend.
- The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:35 pm. No Board action was taken.
- Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to authorize GM Braese to propose a payment arrangement to resolve a non-tax grievance. Commissioner Lester seconded. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Prevot made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Wolcott Hydro Dam. Commissioner Ambrosino seconded. Motion passed. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:36 pm.
- The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55 pm. No Board action was taken.
- Commissioner Prevot made a motion to authorize GM Braese to identify and solicit representation by legal firms specializing in FERC and federal permitting issues for public power utilities. Commissioner Ambrosino seconded. The motion passed.
- Commissioner Lester made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Prevot seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Recorder

Date

Commissioner

Date