

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Linda Cook, Chair; Christopher Ashley; Dan Goulet; Mary Layton, Vice-Chair; Neil Fulton, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager. Absent: Steve Flanders.

There were about 15 people in the audience.

Also participating: Doug Barba, Christopher Brien, Kris Clement, Amy Downard, Jim Gold, Jim Harlow, Matthew Hall, Melissa Horwitz, Dennis Kaufman, Steve Leinoff, Cheryl Lindberg, Suzanne Lupien, Jill Kearney Niles, Demo Sofronas, Matt Swett, Liz Tuggle, Fran Walz.

Cook opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). After some discussion of moving item #10, the Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda as is.
2. Public Comments. No actions taken.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Written report in packet and on the Town website. No actions taken.
4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Cook pointed out that the bulk of the General Fund Warrant was a check for the Norwich School District. After some questions, Goulet **moved** (2nd Ashley) to approve Check Warrant Report #15-26 for General Fund in the amount of \$1,901,087.87 and for Long Term Facility Fund in the amount of \$96.50 for the period from 04/23/15 to 05/13/15. **Motion passed.**
5. Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Action Item). Christopher Brien, Melissa Horwitz and Amy Downard were present and interviewed. Niles spoke on behalf of Girard who was at a game. Afterwards, Ashley **moved** (2nd Goulet) to appoint Christopher Brien and Melissa Horwitz to the Planning Commission for four-year terms ending in April, 2019 and to appoint Amy Downard and John Girard to the Recreation Council for three-year terms ending in March, 2018. **Motion passed.**
6. Capital Facilities – Including Follow Up from Bond Vote (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton said he is looking for direction from the Selectboard on what to do next. Swett asked if the Selectboard could unanimously support the DPW project plan. Goulet thinks the plan can be simplified and that needed repairs, especially to the roof, had been put off. Fulton answered that he has focused on making the changes needed for safety and structural reasons cited in the reports done until the Selectboard decided on the long-term plan for the facilities. No consensus was reached on next steps.
7. Speed Limit Studies on Route 132 and Academy Road (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton reviewed each of the four speed surveys. After some discussion, Ashley **moved** (2nd Layton) to have the Town Manager prepare an ordinance with the Vermont Agency of Transportation recommended rounded speeds of 30, 35, 40 and 40 for the speed studies reviewed. **Motion passed.**

8. Ordinance to Regulate Local Enforcement of Speed Limits on State Highways in the Town of Norwich (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion and agreement that this ordinance conforms with the state posted speed limits, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, Ashley **moved** (2nd Layton) for the Selectboard to adopt the Ordinance to Regulate Local Enforcement of Speed Limits on State Highways in the Town of Norwich. **Motion passed.**

9. Ordinance to Regulate Alarm Systems in the Town of Norwich (Discussion/Possible Action Item). The Police Department has an Alarm Response Policy & Procedures that was included in the packet. Leinoff analyzed false alarms for three years and concluded that there is definitely an expense for the cost of responding apparatus. Most towns have an ordinance to regulate alarms. No actions were taken.

10. Project Management (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After minimal discussion, Layton **moved** (2nd Goulet) to table this item until the May 27th Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

11. Preparation for VLCT Workshop Re: Selectboard/Town Manager Roles (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Questions for the Workshop should be to Kramer by May 21st for discussion at the May 27th Selectboard meeting. Kramer will send a reminder. Cook asked the Selectboard if they wanted her to contact a lawyer VLCT had recommended. After discussion, the Board decided by consensus to start with asking questions of VLCT.

12. Correspondence (Please go to www.norwich.vt.us, click on Boards & Committees from the blue banner, click on Selectboard and click on Recent Selectboard Correspondence in the middle section to view resident correspondence):

a) Resident –

1) #12 a), b) and c). Email from Chris Weinmann Re: For Your Consideration, Email from Watt Alexander Re: Selectboard Packets and Email from William Flynn Re: Resignation from Planning Commission. Goulet **moved** (2nd Ashley) to receive emails from Chris Weinmann re: for your consideration, Watt Alexander re: Selectboard packets and William Flynn re: resignation from Planning Commission, with regret. **Motion passed.** Alexander's email will be further discussed at the May 27th meeting under Selectboard packets.

13. Selectboard

- a) Selectboard Packets (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton will review the process with Kramer and have ready for the next meeting.
- b) Approval of the Minutes of the 4/10/15, 4/15/15 and 4/22/15 Selectboard Meetings (Action Item). After some discussion, Ashley **moved** (2nd Goulet) to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2015 and April 15, 2015, as amended, Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.** Layton **moved** (2nd Goulet) to hold the approval of the April 22, 2015 Selectboard meeting to the next meeting. **Motion passed.** Ashley abstained from voting.
- c) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Project management, Selectboard packet, Treasurer's Quarterly Report, Speed Ordinance, a Planning Commission appointment and VLCT Workshop questions will be items on the agenda for May 27th.

d) Litigation (Executive Session May be Required) (Action Anticipated). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(E), Ashley **moved** (2nd Layton) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the litigation having found that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage and to invite Neil Fulton to join the Session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:37 pm.

At 9:57 pm, Ashley **moved** (2nd Layton) to move into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Ashley **moved** (2nd Layton) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 10, 2015.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Linda Cook
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – May 27, 2015 at 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD.