

Norwich Finance Committee
Approved Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2007

The meeting convened at 8:16 AM. Members present: Henry Scheier, (acting chair), Al Converse, Irv Thomae, and Cheryl Lindberg, Also present Stephen Soares and Roberta Robinson from the Town, Dawn Cary from the Norwich Public Library, and Paul Tierney .

1. The possibility that the library might become a department of the town was discussed. Dawn Cary presented reason why this should not be done. The finance committee, while not supporting the change did point out that the allocation voted at Town Meeting was more than half the library's budget. The meeting ended with the feeling that the Town Report should carry more information about the library. A copy of the library's budget was left with the finance committee.

2. The motion to accept the draft minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2007 was made by Irv Thomae and seconded by Cheryl Lindberg. Passed unanimously.

3. Cemetery Commissions .. left for next time

4. Amortization of VT construction aid ... left for next time

5. HS 122 Assistance

It was moved by Cheryl and seconded by Al that: sessions be held in Tracy Hall on 3/26, 3/29 and 3/31 to explain, and assist individuals in, how to obtain one's entitled income-based reduction in the school property tax.. Passed unanimously. This is to be publicized in a transaction ad and posted announcements around town. The Town Mgr. agreed to pay the \$60 for the ad.

6. Financial Policies

The NORCAP report, a report from a study of needed long-term public capital facilities and the corresponding budgeting process, is to be made available to the members of the finance committee by way of the finance committee's mail box in town hall. The Selectboard has requested that the two policies which stem from the above study, the debt management policy and the capital budget policy, be reviewed by the finance committee.

Members were asked to study these three documents so that a position could be adopted at the next meeting.

7. Appointment of Paul Tierney to the finance committee.

Irv moved and Cheryl seconded that: Having heard that Paul Tierney intends to apply to be appointed to the finance committee, we urge the selectboard to appoint him. Passed unanimously.

8. Broad-band communication facilities were discussed. There was a feeling that the Town should not be involved in encouraging providers to serve individual neighborhoods except as part of a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the entire Town.

9. Roberta was thanked for the budget report that was distributed. While the budget is generally in good shape a few very minor problem areas were noted in the report.

10. Legislative Update.

Irv presented a memo in opposition to the legislature's current effort to reduce school spending by penalizing school districts that spend over 1.15 of the state per-pupil average rather than 1.25. He also opposed increasing the liability of local districts for Special Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin Converse

Next Meeting: April 17 at 8:15 AM