

Approved Minutes  
Norwich Finance Committee (NFC)  
9-18-07

The meeting was called to order by Karen Kayen at 8:05 AM  
Members present: Karen Kayen, chair, Paul Tierney, Henry Scheier, Cheryl Lindberg and Al Converse  
Also present: Gerard Chapdelaine, and Sara Noonan; Steve Soares and Roberta Robinson joined later

1. The minutes of 8-21-07 were approved, 4 for and Cheryl Lindberg abstaining.

2. Old Business

2.1 VT Construction aid payout.

To be discussed at our next meeting.

3. New Business

3.1 Reports from Selectboard and Schoolboard meetings.

Karen and Al discussed the school board meeting in which the budget guidelines were adopted. A written copy of the final version has been requested from the Superintendent. Our changes, presented in last month's minutes, were accepted after modification.

Paul intends to do an analysis of ten years of the Norwich School budget, similar to what he is doing on the Dresden budget.

Henry reported that the Selectboard accepted the final report from the Town Governance committee. The purchase of a police car was approved. The Corridor Project was discussed.

3.2 Discussion of the Strategic Planning Committee

Paul reported that there had been no meeting. He distributed his personal suggestion for a charge to the committee. Paul is keen that the town people articulate a vision of the town that could serve as a basis for the planning. Karen felt that the people don't have enough understanding of the issues to do this. Henry reminded us of the general meeting on opportunities for involvement in town affairs held last year. Al felt that public participation works best when it is coupled with a vote on a specific issue.

3.3 Norwich Town Plan Phase 2 – The Corridor Project

The effect of zoning was discussed briefly. The Dechert memo was discussed and a few concerns were raised. Karen is to write to Phil Dechert concerning these concerns.

The funding situation surrounding the Corridor Project was discussed with the help of Roberta, Cheryl and Steve. \$400,000 has been budgeted, of which \$80,000 is to come from the Town of Norwich and \$320,000 is to come from the federal government through the state. It appears that \$166,000 has been spent for planning and design. The discussion ended with the recommendation that Steve prepare a written report for the Selectboard on the funding and the status of the work done to date.

3.4 Update on the Town Audit

The auditors (Fothergill, Segale, and Valley) have spent a long day collecting data from Roberta on the '06 budget and expenses.

3.5 Moving tax dollars to the school district to earn interest.

Due to the structure of the Vt. education funding laws, taxpayers benefit more from interest earned by the school district than by interest earned by the town. Therefore it was moved (Converse, seconded by Tierney) that we recommend that the school district portion of tax funds be transferred from the town to the school district as soon as practicable. Passed 3 to 2 with Kayen and Scheier opposed. The opposition felt that the interest funds at stake were small and that the school district could manage the cash flow if the transfer were done as soon as required by Vt law.

4. New business

4.1 Review of the anticipated effect of the end of the Dartmouth grant in '09 on the Norwich taxpayer—Henry will review the matter with John Aubin

4.2 Budget for the Finance Committee.--- \$500 will be included in the Town Manager's budget for committees to permit a bulk mailing or attendance at Vt. meetings.

It was then moved (Scheier with Kayen sec) to adjourn at 10:20 AM

**NEXT MEETING IS OCT. 16 AT 8 AM**

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin Converse