

Minutes

Town of Norwich Finance Committee Meeting Friday, January 23, 2009 Tracy Hall, Norwich, Vermont

Members present: Alvin Converse (Chair), Stephen Lajoie (Vice-Chair), Stephen Flanders (Secretary), Karen Kayen, Cheryl Lindberg, and Fred Crawford.

Members absent: None

Also Present: Peter Webster (Town Manager), Roberta Robinson (Finance Officer), Neil Fulton, Dennis Kaufman

Chairperson Converse called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

Agenda Items Discussed

1. Review/Approval of Minutes:

- Flanders reviewed the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2008, citing corrections from Lajoie.
- A discussion ensued. Several further corrections were suggested.

Motion: Lajoie moved and Crawford seconded that the minutes be accepted with the corrections incorporated.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input: None

3. Norwich School District Budget:

This item was discussed after Item 4.

- Converse asked for discussion of the draft paragraph that he had prepared on the Norwich School District Budget. Concern was voted on whether the stated \$4,633,651 figure included an allowance of the teachers' contract increase. The opinion of most in the group was that the contract increase was included in that number.

Motion: Lindberg moved and Kayen seconded that: "The NFC supports an expenditure budget of \$4,633,651 for the Norwich School Budget for FY 2009-10."

The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Converse to write text that reflects the motion.

4. Norwich Town Budget:

The NFC agreed to discuss this issue before Item 3.

- Converse offered draft text that would go into the town report as the Norwich Finance Committee's Town Budget Statement. Some suggestions included:
 - Improved language was offered for the first paragraph to say: "In setting the tax rate, we urge that the Undesignated Fund Balance not be reduced below a value of 13% of the approved gross spending general town budget for FY2010, as of June 30, 2009.
 - NFC members suggested using elements of the previous year's first paragraph as the basis for this year's statement.
 - A discussion of the estimated tax rate arose. NFC members suggested, "In addition to reviewing expenditures, the NFC has elected to look at the estimated tax rate to formulate its recommendations."
- Fulton observed that there are two special town articles that pertain to transfer of funds from the training facility and the town manager car to (which will be closed) the Tracy Hall fund. Fulton suggested that the amounts be mentioned in the NFC report, since they were not mentioned in the warnings.

Motion: Lindberg moved and Kayen seconded that "NFC supports the articles pertaining to moving the funds from the fire training facility and the town manager car designated funds to the Tracy Hall designated fund and explaining these articles in the Norwich Finance Committee report."

- Discussion addressed whether to give the discontinued funds back to the voters. The justification cited was the deteriorating condition of Tracy Hall. The total dollar amount is about \$31.6K

The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Converse to draft a second version.

- The NFC will meet again on 28 January after the DFC meeting to finalize the write-up.

5. Other New Business: Business.

6. Adjournment

Motion Flanders moved and Lindberg seconded that the committee adjourn.

The vote was unanimous. Adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 5:30 PM in Hanover Town Hall.