

Town of Norwich
PO Box 376
Norwich, VT 05055
(802) 649-0127

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of April 30, 2002 at 6:00pm

Members Present: Liz Blum; Linda Cook; Neil Fulton; Douglas Hoffman, Chair; Nancy Hoggson

Also Participating: Dennis Kaufman, Alison May, Jonathan and Priscilla Vincent. There were approximately 4 members in the audience at this meeting.

Hoffman opened the meeting at 6:03pm.

- 1) Executive Session (real estate) – Cook moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and personnel items whose premature disclosure could put the town at a disadvantage (second Blum). Frank Olmstead, the Agent to Prosecute, was asked to join them for the Real Estate portion. Steve Jeffrey from VLCT was asked to join the portion pertaining to the hiring of the Town Manager. Kaufman explained that the previous Selectboard was required to discuss in detail and publicly the sale of the Williams property and the development rights of the Norwich Fire District easement. He asked why has there been no public discussions on this topic and what is appropriate for Executive Session. Hoffman said Title 1 VSA310 and following specifies that the discussion and securing of real estate options is a legitimate activity in Executive Session. It is the only action that a public body may take in Executive Session. Kaufman asked why the Selectboard is operating in secret? Hoffman said the Board is acting to preserve an option which can then be presented to the town. He said he had planned to discuss this in open session, and the town's attorney advised him not to do so, and so he followed his advice. May said if the Selectboard is going to spend any money on an option it must be brought before the Selectboard in public session and voted on in public session. Fulton said he believes this should be discussed openly and that the community should be involved in any discussion of the possibility of purchasing real estate (4-1) (Fulton-No). Motion passed.
- 2) Blum moved to adjourn at 8:00pm (second Hoggson). Motion passed.

Approved by the Selectboard on May 28, 2002

Douglas W. Hoffman
Selectboard Chair