

TOWN OF NORWICH
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Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Liz Blum, Chair; Linda Cook; Nancy Hoggson; Suzanne Stofflet; Dennis Pavlicek, Town Manager, Secretary Tina Moses.

Also Participating: Jake Blum, Ed and Joyce Childs, Susan Jorgenson, Nelson Kasfir, Dennis Kaufman, Jeff Mathias, Creigh Moffatt, Anne Seibert, Stanley Teeter, Irv Thomae. There were approximately 25 members in the audience at this meeting.

Blum opened the meeting at 6:30pm

- 1) Approval of Agenda – Cook **moved** to approve with changes (second Hoggson). **Motion passed.**
- 2) Public Comments – Mathias presented a letter to the board requesting some changes related to the Planning Department. He urged the board to consider making changes regarding the current job description for the Planning Coordinator. Blum asked the Town Manager to look into the questions as presented by Mathias and report back to the board at the next meeting. Moffatt said she has requested to speak at a Dresden Board meeting to ask if Dresden would look into the feasibility of putting some affordable housing on some of the Dresden property on Route 5. This is a portion of the land acquired by the bond vote related to the Co-op land. She said this will be very good opportunity to work together as a team on a project. She urged the Selectboard to come to the affordable housing committee with any suggestions or comments on this issue.
- 3) Town Manager’s Report – Pavlicek discussed the following items; Vtrans (Corridor Project), the letter from Commissioner Hall to Tara Bamford which relates to Regional Planning Commissions, the congregational church paving project, and Frank Olmstead’s work on the deed issue for the land at the Transfer Station and Highway Garage. Blum asked about the trees on Beaver Meadow Road. Pavlicek said he plans to visit the site tomorrow and believes the Highway Department will bring hay to help alleviate the erosion issue. Pavlicek will check into herbicide issues and tree cutting on New Boston, Beaver Meadow, Bragg Hill and Tigertown Roads and report back to the board.
- 4) Finance
 - a) Legal Bills – Downs, Rachlin and Martin in the amount of \$412.50 for police contract negotiations and to the VLCT in the amount of \$187.50 for their written opinion of the open meeting law.
 - b) Orders on the General Fund – Cook **moved** to approve Accounts Payable Warrant # 222 in the amount of \$5,539.00, Accounts Payable Warrant #221 in the amount of \$24,910.72 and the Payroll Warrant for the period ending 6/7/03 in the amount of \$23,808.82 (second Hoggson). **Motion passed.**
- 5) Anne Seibert update Education Funding Law – Seibert explained she prepared a packet for the Selectboard which outlines where we are now with the Education Funding Law. She then outlined in detail the many pieces involved in this bill and why she decided to support it. There was a question and answer session with the board and the audience. No action was taken on this item.
- 6) Tree Warden Update – Jake Blum said the most consuming part of his job is dealing with dead and diseased trees in the town’s ROW. He has formed a good working relationship with Andy Hodgdon and is impressed by all the “good qualities” Hodgdon brings to the town. He said Andy is very proactive about dealing with the trees. He said he has also planted trees in some spots in

Norwich and is open to suggestions. Another project he is working on is providing hardwood that is left over to the needy. With the help of the highway crew, some land on Beaver Meadow has been cleared and wood is being stored to provide to those who might need it this winter. He is looking for volunteers to help coordinate the splitting and delivering of this wood for the upcoming season.

- 7) Transportation Committee Update - postponed
- 8) Correspondence
 - a) Al and Merry Converse letter re: Gile Mountain parking area – Blum said the Converse’s are asking that the parking lot at the Gile Mountain Town not be enlarged. Cook said there is no plan to increase the space at this point. Pavlicek said he would look at the parking area to see if the school bus can turn around.
 - b) VLCT opinion of Open Meeting Law – Cook said the written determination from VLCT is very clear as to who it applies to and she believes the board should support it and utilize it as their policy. Hoggson said she is very aware of how important it is to follow the open meeting law and agrees with the document. Stofflet said she is comfortable adopting it until something better comes along. Cook said she doesn’t want it to be tabled as she feels it’s important to adopt now. The Town Manager will send the document with a cover letter to all boards and committees asking for input and bring back to a meeting in July.
 - c) Final report of MAPA – received.
- 9) Selectboard
 - a) Appointments
 - i) CT River Joint Commission subcommittee – Hoggson **moved** to appoint Mathias as the Norwich Representative to the subcommittee (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
 - b) Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
 - i) May 27, 2003- Cook **moved** to approve as amended (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm.

Next Regular Meeting – June 24, 2003 at 6:30 PM

Approved by the Selectboard on _____

By, Kristina Moses
Selectboard Secretary

Liz Blum
Selectboard Chair