

TOWN OF NORWICH
P.O. Box 376
NORWICH, VERMONT 05055-0376
TEL. (802) 649-0127

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Liz Blum, Chair; Jack Candon; Alison May; Suzanne Stofflet; Ben Ptashnik; Dennis Pavlicek, Town Manager; Tina Moses, Secretary

Also Participating:

Blum opened the meeting at 6:30pm and introduced the new board.

- 1) Approval of Agenda – Candon moved to approve as amended (seconded May). Motion Passed.
- 2) Public Comments – Stofflet thanked Toni Apgar and Warren Thayer for the cookies at pre-town meeting. She also said she spoke with the weblo group about how Selectboards run. Token of appreciation they gave her a cutting board at Christmas time. May urged everyone who is interested to call Tina to get on the e-mail list. Kaufman reminded people to fill out the homestead forms for the state.
- 3) Town Manager’s Report – Pavlicek read his report aloud for the group.
- 4) Finance
 - a) Legal Bills - none
 - b) Orders on the General Fund – previous weeks
 - c) Pay Warrants – Candon said the Selectboard is asked to sign the warrant authorizing the checks to be signed. He said the layout Roberta provides is extremely helpful.
 - d) Accounting Procedures – he said it is not appropriate for the board to pay for seminars that board members or committee members fail to attend or sign up late for fire district. Livingston asked how much tax savings we would find for ... Robinson said
- 5) Proposed legislation re: tax exemption for Fire Districts – Jim Masland / Anne Seibert – Blum explained that Steve Jeffrey said a fire district employee was there lobbying for a tax exemption for the fire district. He told her he was told the Selectboard was in support of it. Pavlicek said he spoke with McMullan and directed him toward the Listers. Jonathan Vincent, Mel Biggs, and Brian McMullan joined the discussion. Vincent said this is an issue that has been going on for years. He said they were told the best way to handle it would be through the legislature. McMullan said he had met with Pavlicek and advised him what the Listers said that they believed they should be taxed to the fullest. Kaufman said he did speak to McMullan but wasn’t sure it related to this – he said the fire district as any property holder would be taxed as such. Ptashnik asked why we went the route for legislative instead of getting an exemption. McMullan said the town would continue to hold the development rights whether the exemption is voted... Hoffman said he’s not surprised it is confusing. He said the fire district adds very little to the town. Now it is an anachronism. It adds a bureaucracy and a layer of cost the town shouldn’t be burdened with. He said now with a town manager we should have the town take over the functions of the fire district by annexing the fire district. McMullan said the legislation was never meant to tax a fire district within a host town. Kaufman said Jeffrey was opposed to the bill and asked why. McMullan said he was concerned because he had no input from Norwich. Pavlicek said he knew nothing of the hearing until it actually happened. Kaufman asked if any studies have been done to see

the cost savings of merging. May moved that the Norwich Selectboard supports H716 and communicated that to our representatives (second Candon). Candon said he believes it is premature to support this at this time. He asked Masland if the bill has any chance of going anywhere because it did not meet the crossover date. Masland said he feels it does have a chance. Candon said we should take our time and do this properly not try to push it through the legislative process. Vincent said this was by no means a set up by the Fire District to try to trap the town into something. Ptashnik said he would prefer that we move to table until we have meetings to come up with a plan. May asked Masland who came up with this bill. He said Seibert came to her with direction from McMullan. McMullan apologized for the miscommunication as he thought he had explained this fully to Pavlicek. May withdrew her motion and asked that a meeting be set up for a future date. Ptashnik moved to ask our legislative people to table the bill until we have clarification (second Stofflet). Motion passed. PENDING ITEM LIST.

- 6) Proposed legislation re: Dams on the Connecticut River – Masland said the legislation passed last year. The state is not in the position to purchase all of the dams. He said if they enter into any deal they would need to enter into a partnership with someone with more financial standing. He said an executive session is coming up next week and we will do nothing until after that session. Ptashnik said he has an interest in the subject as a resident of Norwich not necessarily as a Selectboard member. Mathias said ... May asked for a written report in the future from our representatives. Hoggson said she feels it is beneficial to have this kind of discussion. Candon said he feels it is an important topic but not for Selectboard action.
- 7) Proposed Parking Ordinance – Final Draft in preparation for public meeting – Soares and Hodgdon. Soares said.....He suggested it be brought before town council before bringing to the public. May moved to amend the parking ordinance to put a no parking here to corner at the beginning of Hazen Street (second Candon). Motion passed. May said the trail heads should also be looked at due to lack of parking at trail heads. Candon moved to amend to relocate the piece in section one to section four and add section #12 (second May) Motion passed. Said “that this is a consolidation of previous ordinances and upon its adoption takes over. McGrew said his pet peeve is carpenter and main at the Ledyard bank. He questioned putting the one foot rule for parking. He also questioned the enforceability of 2 hour parking. Soares said this ordinance is trying to simply what has been in place for years but give it teeth and still be fair. Ptashnik said he is beginning to learn about the lack of parking in town but wondered if the areas had more accidents. Soares said he is unsure, but that that was not why the ordinance was reworked. Pavlicek thanked Chief Soares, Linda Cook and Roger Berry for their input and help with this document.
- 8) Request for placement of “No Parking” sign(s) on a portion of State Highway Rt. 5 – Blum reviewed the letter as requested by the Chief. Soares said he has met with the principal of Marion Cross and they agree it is a safety issue. Stofflet moved to authorize the chair to sign upon approval of the school board (second May). Motion passed.
- 9) Convene Liquor Control Board- 2004 Liquor License–Kensington Inv.-Alice’s Bakery (now Allechante) – Blum moved to convene as the Liquor Control Board (second Stofflet). Motion passed. Ptashnik moved to table (second May). Motion passed. May moved to close the liquor control board and reconvene as the Selectboard meeting (second Blum). Motion passed.
- 10) Correspondence re – May moved to receive the letter from Bill Johnson on the Knapp appeal, the e-mail from Karen Horn and letters from Alison May (second Stofflet). Motion passed.

11) Selectboard

- a. Appointments for 2004 – Tina to work with May on this. Cook said new people gathering. Stuart Richards said if you expect the town website you need to make it worthwhile. Anne Garrigue. Applications to be received by April 2nd with interviews to take place on the 13th and 14th of April.
- b. Review the need for a SB yearly planning session – Stofflet said we had a planning session last year and she would like to see the board have another. May said that the board should have a session to set goals for the Town Manager. Candon said he did not find last years beneficial. He said the board should get together to review the need for review procedure and calendar dates and that just after that we should meet to review the TM's goals. Blum said she found it helpful and also believes the town manager's goals were reviewed during his evaluation. DP circulate goals to the board members. Mathias said that the town manager planning meeting has no grounds for Executive Session. Ptashnik suggested two hours of planning and one hour with the Town Manager. The goal meeting will now take place on the 23rd just after a brief Selectboard meeting.
- c. Request for Proclamation from Family Place regarding April as Month of the Child – May moved that the town proclaim – and authorize the chair to sign (second Ptashnik). Motion passed.
 1. Set regular Selectboard meeting schedule – May suggested 2 meetings in March, April and May, but one for June, July and August with the July meeting be the last one. Ptashnik moved starting in March we begin with only one meeting with that being the fourth Tuesday with the reserve the second Tuesday of the month and schedule extras only when we need to. But plan extras in December when the budget process begins (second May). Close said the erratic ness of the once a month meeting will affect participation in public meetings. MAKE SURE THE CALENDAR SHOWS WHAT THE SB WILL DO AT EACH MONTHLY MEETING. POST DATES FOR ALL SB MEETINGS. Motion passed.
 2. Confirm actions taken at the Town Meeting –Candon said the SB made presentation... Candon moved to confirm the actions taken by the previous board about the resolutions at town meeting (second Ptashnik). Motion passed.
- ii. Selectboard Minutes
 1. February 24th – Candon moved to adopt (second Stofflet). Motion passed. May and Ptashnik abstained.
 2. March 3, 2004 – May moved to approve (second Candon). Motion passed.
 3. Candon moved to adjourn at 9:25pm (second May). Motion passed.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 23, 2004.

Norwich Selectboard Meeting
Page 4 of 4

By, Kristina Moses
Selectboard Secretary

Liz Blum
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting March 23, 2004 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items

- 1) Class 4 Road Ordinance
- 2) Scenic Village Designation

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV VIDEO TAPES ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE TAPE. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.