

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

**Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, July 28, 2004 at 5:30 PM**

Members Present: Liz Blum, Chair; Jack Candon; Alison May; Ben Ptashnik; Suzanne Stofflet; Chief Stephen Soares, Acting Town Manager; Tina Moses, Secretary.

Also Participating: Watt Alexander, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Jamie Hess, Daniel Johnson, Dennis Kaufman, John Lawe, Cheryl Lindberg, Frank Olmstead, Stuart Richards, Henry Scheier, Stan Teeter, Irv Thomae, Clea Wheeler.

Blum called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

- 1) Executive Session (Personnel) – May **moved** to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel discussion and invite the Interim Town Manager and Assistant, and Search Committee (second Candon). **Motion passed.** May **moved** to adjourn Executive Session and reenter public session (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
- 2) Town Manager Advisory Search Committee - Candon **moved** to authorize the Chair of the Search Committee to continue the interview process as instructed in Executive Session (second May). **Motion passed.**
- 3) Approval of Agenda – May moved to approve (second Stofflet). Motion passed.
- 4) Public Comments – Charlie Kimball introduced himself and stated he was running for Vermont State Senate.
- 5) Joint discussion with the Planning Commission/DRB –Alexander briefed the board about the discussions, which occurred at the joint Planning/DRB meeting earlier in the evening. He asked if the DRB could routinely publish notices of upcoming hearings in the Valley News. Lawe said an ad every two weeks (listing the hearings and agendas) would run about \$1,000 per year. Johnson said the Planning Commission is working on revisions to the Zoning Regulations and also working on the Town Plan. He said things are going smoothly with the new members and they are transitioning well.
- 6) Interim Town Manager’s Report – Blum said the town has been very lucky to have Chief Soares step in and help out while we search for a new manager. Soares reviewed many of the meetings he has attended since becoming the Interim Manager. He also thanked the Listers for their hard work during the reappraisal process and said they should be commended for preparing the Grand List in a timely fashion due to the complexities of this tax year.
- 7) Finance
  - a) Orders on the General Fund – Processed during an off week.
  - b) Legal Bills – One bill to Desmeules, Olmstead and Ostler in the amount of \$67.50 for professional services.
  - c) Sullivan, Powers & Co Scope of Services Document – May **moved** to authorize the chair to sign the Scope of Services Document without work on GASBE 34 (second Candon). **Motion passed.**
  - d) Municipal Line of Credit – May **moved** that the Town of Norwich, pursuant to the authority of 24 VSA 1786 and for the purpose of paying current expenses of the Town, may open a line of credit to borrow up to \$500,000 from Mascoma Savings Bank, fsb by executing a line of credit promissory note in this amount dated as of July 1, 2004. This promissory note shall mature and be due no later than one year from the date of issuance,

- being June 30, 2005. (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
- e) Set tax rate – Thomae explained in detail how they arrived at the proposed tax rate for the '05 fiscal year. May **moved** that the Selectboard adopt a town tax rate of .4077 per hundred for the fiscal year 05 (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
  - 8) Transportation Committee Update - postponed
  - 9) Class 4 Road Policy –Olmstead said that he was asked to make some revisions to the proposed policy. He has done that and is now providing a revised policy dated July 2, 2004. May **moved** that the Selectboard adopt the Class 4 road policy dated with revisions of July 2, 2004 as revised on July 28, 2004 (second Ptashnik). **Motion passed.**
  - 10) Discussion of formation of a bike committee to look at non-motorized forms of transportation –Hess read aloud his reasons for wishing for more pedestrian, or cyclers accessibility to roads by using non-motorized forms of transportation. The board suggested he get this group involved with the Transportation Committee.
  - 11) Lower Willey Hill Speed Limit Reduction – Soares said he is still recommending the board change the speed limit on lower Willey Hill to 30mph. Ptashnik **moved** to follow Soares recommendation (second Stofflet). May is against the motion even though she does believe the speed should be reduced since it does not meet the 85%. **Motion passed.** (4-1). May-no.
  - 12) Route 132 Bridge over the Ompompanoosuc River – Stofflet **moved** to authorize the chair to sign the letter from Vtrans related to the bridge over the Ompompanoosuc (second May). **Motion passed.** The board asked Soares to check on the possibility of acquiring money from the superfund (Elizabeth Mine Project) to correct the problem since most of the damage is from the trucks hauling from the mine.
  - 13) Cooper / Upper Valley Land Trust (line boundary issue) – Candon explained the situation with the UVLT and the Coopers. Stofflet **moved** to accept this settlement document (second Candon). Candon **moved** to amend the proposal to reflect that the town will only ask for repayment of the actual cost of the attorneys to the town not to exceed \$1,000. **Motion passed** (4-1). May-No. **Original motion passed.** (4-1). May-No. Stofflet said she would like to express to UVLT the boards' extreme displeasure with their treatment of the Coopers in this incident. Candon agreed.
  - 14) Windsor County Court Diversion Issue – The Town Manager will send the letter as presented and dated 7/29/04.
  - 15) Mosenthal / Huntley Meadows Land Issue –Olmstead explained the reason for the request of the quitclaim. May **moved** to accept the parcel as presented and authorize the Chair of the Selectboard to sign the appropriate paperwork.
  - 16) Winslow / Boule Septic Issue –Lawe provided an update on this topic and asked that this be brought forth in August if all corrections have not been made.
  - 17) Teeter appeal issue –Olmstead asked if the board would like him to participate in the trial. This will be revisited at the August 25, 2004 Selectboard meeting.
  - 18) Listers
    - a) Errors and Omissions –Kaufman explained the reasons for the errors and omissions presented. May **moved** to accept the errors and omission in the memos as dated 7/22, 27 & 28 (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**
    - b) Appeal to the State – May **moved** that the town appeal the assessments by the Agency of Natural Resources on parcel #11-107.000 and #12-013.000 as recommended by the Board of Listers (second Candon). **Motion passed.**
  - 19) Correspondence – May **moved** to receive all correspondence as presented (second Stofflet).

**Motion passed.**

20) Selectboard

a) Appointment

- i) Planning Commission – Ptashnik read aloud a letter presented by Nancy Hoggson. She withdrew her name for consideration to the Planning Commission due to the nature of the climate surrounding the appointment. Stofflet said she would like to reopen the search and extend the deadline into September. She believes we did not get more candidates because it is summer and people are away. September 17 was set as the deadline for receipt of applications.

b) Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

- i) June 23, 2004 – May **moved** to approve (second Stofflet). **Motion passed**

c) Ptashnik **moved** to adjourn (second Stofflet). **Motion passed.**

**Next Regular Meeting – August 25, 2004 at 6:30 PM**

Approved by the Selectboard on August 25, 2004

By, Kristina Moses  
Selectboard Secretary

Liz Blum  
Selectboard Chair

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