

TOWN OF NORWICH
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Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 22, 2004 at 6:30pm

Members present: Liz Blum, Chair; Jack Candon; Alison May; Stephen Soares, Town Manager

Also participating: Dennis Kaufman, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood, Bill Aldrich, Nelson Kasfir, Adele Fulton, Douglas Hoffman, Henry Scheier, Lynn McGrew, Dean Seibert

Blum opened the meeting at 6:35pm.

1) Approval of the agenda. Candon **moved** to approve as amended (second May.) **Motion passed.**

2) Public comments. Kaufman expressed his deep gratitude to the fire department members for their hard work in containing the fire at his house on Campbell Flat. Hoggson raised questions about the recent meeting at the Library concerning the presentation made by a committee regarding future needs of the fire and police department buildings, and asked about the hiring of a landscape architect. Soares responded that the committee was formed by the previous town manager, and money was set-aside for this (Phase 1) in the current budget. Blum announced various meetings the Conservation Commission will be sponsoring.

3) Town Manager's report. Has met with the DRB, Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator regarding policy cooperation and timeliness of grants. Met with Ames Byrd and Alan Berolzheimer to discuss the concept of a wood chip boiler to serve both Marion Cross and Tracy Hall. 90% of the school portion could be funded by the State. Soares met with the Auditors and the Finance Committee. He participated as a committee member at the meeting regarding fire/police facilities. Soares presented the annual septage agreement with Hanover, but because the Board was unfamiliar with this, it was agreed he would return at a later meeting with more information. He is raising the fees at the Transfer Station from \$20 per card to \$25, and individual bags to **\$3.00**. The date for the change will be February 1, and notice will be sent out. Because Kaufman will be unable to serve on the Dresden athletic fields committee due to the recent fire at his house, the Town Manager will ask Jill Kearney to suggest a substitute member. One of the compactors at the Transfer Station has burned out. The Manager hopes to have it back in operation soon. Officer Roger Berry has been activated by the Vermont National Guard. The Board sent Officer Berry support and well wishes.

4) Finance. Payroll and payable warrants were signed yesterday in the Finance Office. There were no legal bills.

5) Listers.

a) Errors and Omissions. Candon **moved** (second May) to approve the errors & omissions as presented by the **Listers** December 22, 2004 regarding Parcel ID #04-002.300, as confirmed by Kaufman. **Motion passed.**

b) Grand List. Kaufman announced that the Equalized Education List will be \$5,377,950, with a CLA of 108.21%. The Governor is recommending that the State education tax be \$1.02 – it will need to be voted upon by the Legislature. This implies a 12% increase in education taxes, rather than the approximately 20% previously projected.

7) Discuss Willey Hill speed limit/review Adele Fulton letter. Fulton says she is troubled by the process the Selectboard followed in reducing speed on Willey Hill. Have we followed the law? Have we involved the public? Has the engineering study been done in an independent manner? Soares reported that Bill Pierce, who presented the Manager with a petition from Willey Hill residents, performed the engineering study. Hoffman said he supported the reduction. Kasfir said it was logical to have the town attorney give an opinion. Fulton asked when the ordinance was published. Soares answered that it was not published in a newspaper. Scheier questioned having Pierce do both the petition and the engineering. No action was taken. Soares recommended that the Selectboard re-sign the Willey Hill speed ordinance at the next meeting, based on the opinion of Town counsel.

6) Nancy Hoggson, Bill Aldrich & Nancy Osgood to speak about Historical Society funding. Hoggson reviewed the Society's request for \$25,000 (\$20,000 for the capital campaign, \$5,000 for operations.) Osgood reviewed the ongoing and proposed programs at the Lewis House. Aldrich discussed the role of the Society in the future regarding after school programs. No action was taken.

8) Draft Septic Ordinance. Postponed to 1/12/05.

9) Correspondence

a) Sewer committee – request for funds/reschedule final report. McGrew noted the wide disparity of cost estimates for hook-ups to Hartford or Hanover, and asked that the committee be allocated \$1,000 to acquire reliable information. Without this information, the committee does not feel it can present a meaningful final report. Seibert supported the request. The Town Manager will review the current budget and see if he can find the funds.

b) Letter to Town Manager, BL Benn architect. Benn indicates that a study of the needed repairs and a maintenance plan will cost about \$5,000. The Town Manager is including this in his proposed 2006 budget.

c) Letter from Lynn McGrew about truck noise, etc. Received.

d) Town Report Distribution. The Selectboard and Scheier discussed possible revisions in how the Town Report will be distributed, and a possible Town Meeting article. Scheier will return with more information

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10) Selectboard

a) Approval of the minutes of the 12/08/04 meeting. Candon **moved** (second May) to approve. **Motion passed.**

b) Letter to Keenie & Peter Richardson. The Board informally approved.

Candon **moved** (second May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at **8:30pm.**

Next meeting – January 5, 2005, Norwich Public Library, 6:30pm – for budget discussions only.

Next regular meeting – January 12, 2005, 6:30pm, Tracy Hall

Approved by the Selectboard on January 12, 2005

By:

Alison May

Selectboard Clerk

Liz Blum

Chair