

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 26, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Members present: Liz Blum; Jack Candon, Acting Chair; Alison May, Ben Ptashnik, Suzanne Stofflet; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Administrative Assistant

Also participating: Terry Boone, Jack Harned, Nelson Kasfir, Dennis Kaufman, Jill Kearney, Cheryl Lindberg, Jeff Mathias, Lynn McGrew, Creigh Moffatt, Stuart Richards, Henry Scheier, Irv Thomae. There were about 20 people in the audience.

Candon opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

1. Approval of the agenda. Stofflet **moved** to approve (2nd May). **Motion passed.**
2. Public comments. None
3. Town Manager's report. Soares has been working on developing the Town Warnings. Also, attended several meetings and took an Excel class in Montpelier.
4. Finance. There was one legal bill from Frank Olmstead for \$200.
5. Listers. All three were present at the meeting. Kaufman discussed tax exemption status on land. Stofflet asked when the tax Homestead Declaration needs to be filed. Link on Town website to an online version. Also, the Finance Office has copies.
6. Second Public Hearing Regarding FY2006 Budget. Major increases are Highway Dept. and health insurance costs. May discussed adding column on Capital Designated Funds to indicate when expenditures for equipment are expected to occur. Soares reiterated that there is no surplus to use to reduce the tax rate and that this is a "real" budget. Members of the public commented on the budget. Irv Thomae announced that the Norwich Finance Committee unanimously supports the proposed budget. **Blum moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to approve FY2006 Budget as amended. **Motion passed** 4-1 (no – Candon).
7. Planning Commission request for Town Plan line item in FY2006 budget. Jack Harned gave a presentation geared towards reinstating the \$8,000 needed in a two-year plan, i.e., \$4,000 for FY2006 and \$4,000 in FY2007. **Ptashnik moved** (2nd Stofflet) to reinstate \$4,000 for the Town Plan in the FY2006 budget. **Motion passed** 3-2 (yes: Blum, Ptashnik, Stofflet; no: Candon, May).
8. Recreation Department – revenue discussion. Jill Kearney stated they are \$17,000 ahead of where they were last year at this time. She is trying to only raise fees slightly, keeping in mind the 70/30 Instructor/Town split. May asked Soares to research issue of whether Selectboard or Recreation Council should set fees.

9. Review proposed Warning Articles for Town Meeting. Original Articles 11-27 were **moved** for approval by various members and **passed**.

Creigh Moffatt requested an additional Article be added wording as follows: “Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$45,000 to create a revolving fund to initiate contracts to acquire land suitable for affordable housing? This money will be returned to the General Fund at the end of three years.” There were both favorable and unfavorable comments from the audience. **May moved** (2nd Candon) to add the Article to the Town Warning. **Motion passed**.

May moved (2nd Blum) to approve the Town Warning, i.e., Articles 11-33. **Motion passed**.

10. Regulating Solid Waste Ordinance. Soares recommended this Junkyard ordinance and says it is court tested. After discussion by May, Candon and Ptashnik, it was **moved by Ptashnik** (2nd Blum) to table. **Motion passed**.

11. Discussion regarding VNA and Health Care & Rehabilitation Services move from Human Services to Town Appropriations for FY2007 budget. It was decided to leave as is for FY2006. Irv Thomae, on behalf of the Finance Committee, reiterated their commitment to review the entire issue of what “outside appropriations” should or should not be included in the Town budget. The Selectboard affirmed their appreciation of that review for the next budget cycle.

12. Sewer Committee membership. **May moved** (2nd Blum) to withdraw Jeff Goodrich until such time as he returns from active duty in order for the Sewer Committee to have a workable quorum. **Motion passed**.

13. Delinquent Tax Discussion. Board decided after a brief discussion to allow the status quo to continue.

14. Correspondence

- a) Conservation Biology Class, February 5th and 12th from 8:30 – 4:00

May moved (2nd Candon) to receive all correspondence. **Motion passed**.

15. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 1/12/05 meeting. **Candon moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to approve. **Motion passed**.

Blum moved (2nd Candon) to adjourn. **Motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 9, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Liz Blum
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – February 9, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Pending Items:

- 1) Village Center Designation
- 2) Final report of the Sewer Committee
- 3) Set joint meeting with School Board to discuss Budgets
- 4) Set meeting with State Representatives and Senators regarding Health Care.
- 5) Draft Sewage Ordinance (2/23/05)
- 6) Set meeting with Norwich Fire District (Prudential Committee)
- 7) Hazard Mitigation Plan (2/9/05)