

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 6:30 pm

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

Also participating: Mary Ann Hankel, Jack Harned, Nelson Kasfir, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Brian Livingston, Jeff Mathias, Lynn McGrew, Creigh Moffatt, Henry Scheier. There were about 13 people in the audience.

Blum opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

1. Approval of the agenda. Stofflet **moved** to approve (2nd May). **Motion passed.**

May **moved** (2nd Stofflet) to amend the agenda to provide for an Executive Session after the regular agenda for the purpose of considering real estate options. **Motion passed.**

2. Public comments. Kaufman once again reminded people of the April 15th deadline to file their Declaration of Vermont Homestead (H131) with the Vermont Department of Taxes. **A 1% penalty (which may be raised to 6%) of the education tax is assessed for a late filing.** He also mentioned that the State is discussing a reduction of tax rates.

Kaufman asked about the condition of Route 5 to the Dresden Fields, because of the number of trucks carrying fill. Livingston, a member of the Dresden Fields Committee, said that Dresden is receiving fill from the Norris Cotton Center as part of Phase One of a State approved project. Concerns were raised about contamination of soil and what tests were being done and who was receiving reports. Blum requested that Steve work with Phil Dechert to get copies of the reports.

Henry Scheier, on behalf of the Town Auditors, said that Town Reports would be mailed out February 18th.

3. Town Manager's report. Steve discussed and the Selectboard agreed to go live at the February 23rd meeting. May said that CATV seems to be concerned about their space in the renovated high school and asked that Steve talk with them. Steve, with the aid of John Fay, is working with North East Waste Services to develop a plan for savings regarding the Transfer Station operations. The Route 132 Bridge Construction Project is scheduled to begin May 1st and end no later than November 18th. Goodrich 4 Corners will be the temporary truck route. Steve discussed the fees involved with having the Solid Waste Ordinance reviewed by VLCT. He has discussed with Andy ramifications of the VTrans consolidation. The Dartmouth Cycling races through Norwich are scheduled for April.

4. Finance. The Town incurred significant legal expenses recently totaling \$2,600 for DRB liability, Melendy land donation, Waste Ordinance review, reclassification of Waterman Hill and the speed limit ordinance for Willey Hill. The Corridor Project is on hold, waiting for a response from the Governor's Office regarding a meeting time and place.

As of February 7, 2005, total delinquent taxes were \$33, 876. This is mostly one parcel. Lindberg asked if payment plans were in place. For the 04-05 year, total billed is \$10,487,033, total paid is \$7,879,404 for a balance due of \$2,607,629.

5. Listers. Kaufman repeated Homestead declaration reminder.

6. Announce/Record: Decision Waterman Hill Road Hearing. Pursuant to Title 19 §711(a), Candon submitted a notice of decision on the Waterman Hill Road and Blum signed. A signed copy will be maintained in the Town Clerk's Office.

7. Fire District – Town Consolidation (Open Dialog). Blum said that there should be an investigation into whether the Town and Fire District should merge. Candon described the Fire District and how it operates. May suggested Selectboard and Soares, along with the Finance Committee, should meet with the Fire District at their March meeting. There was a brief discussion of possible cost savings. Henry Scheier, speaking on behalf of the Town Auditors, said that the Fire District's annual report is in the Town Report and that the Fire District reimburses the Town for those pages.

8. Correspondence

- a) Administrative Land Use Permit Amendment
- b) Two Training Sessions for Town Employees and Volunteers
- c) Minutes of 12/8/04 Two Rivers – Ottauquechee Regional Commission
- d) Memorandum from Frank Olmstead on Liability of DRB Members
- e) Letter from Lynn McGrew (Affordable Housing). There was a mainly favorable discussion supporting affordable housing. Mary Ann Hankel talked about Starlake Village and how it operates, defending affordable housing verbally as well as in a written statement. It was noted that the Finance Committee voted to unanimously support Article 27 in the Town Warning, which Blum read aloud to the audience.

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

9. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 1/26/05 meeting. Stofflet **moved** (2nd Candon) to approve. **Motion passed.**

At 7:52 pm, pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(2), Candon **moved** (2nd May) to enter into Executive Session. **Motion passed.** The board moved back into public session. No action was taken.

May moved (2nd Candon) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 23, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Liz Blum
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – February 23, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Pending Items:

- 1) Final report of the Sewer Committee
- 2) Set meeting with State Representatives and Senators regarding Health Care.
- 3) Draft Sewage Ordinance (2/23/05)
- 4) Set meeting with Norwich Fire District (Prudential Committee)
- 5) Hazard Mitigation Plan (2/23/05)