

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, February 23, 2005  
Executive Session at 6:00 PM Public Session at 6:30 PM

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

At 6:00 pm, pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of a three-month review of the Town Manager. **Motion passed.** The board moved back into public session.

Also participating: Phil Dechert, Nancy Hoggson, Daniel Johnson, Scott Johnson, Nelson Kasfir, Dennis Kaufman, Jeff Mathias, Alison McRee, Lynn McGrew, Stuart Richards. There were about 16 people in the audience.

Blum opened the public meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Approval of the agenda. Candon **moved** to approve (2<sup>nd</sup> May). **Motion passed.** Candon suggested the Agenda be amended to move discussion of the open Lister position to Agenda item 5. This was agreed to.

2. Public comments. Jeff Mathias advised the public that the results are in from the major river water quality study. This report can be viewed at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) under Bulletins. Blum announced that there is an upcoming community informational meeting on Universal Health Care at Tracy Hall in the Multipurpose Room February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The public was also reminded of the Town Meeting discussion session Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Tracy Hall Multipurpose Room.

3. Town Manager's report. Soares recently attended an Upper Valley Transportation Management Association meeting where the 12A Corridor in Lebanon was the main topic of discussion. An energy survey of Tracy Hall has been performed and Soares is reviewing. Soares is also reviewing the rental and space use of Tracy Hall. He will present the new policies to the Selectboard at a future meeting. Soares passed along to the Selectboard a request by a representative of the Valley News to receive a copy of the Selectboard packets prior to the Selectboard meetings. The Selectboard agreed to make sure the Valley News has the Agendas in compliance with Title 1 VSA § 310

There was a discussion initiated by the Chair regarding the Corridor Enhancement Committee, its present role and where the Project stands currently. Dechert said that the Corridor Committee has been under the Town Manager. Ptashnik **moved** to have Soares make inquiries and organize a meeting with Selectboard and Corridor Enhancement Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Stofflet) and that meanwhile Neil Fulton must not represent the Committee. **Motion passed** 3-2 (yes - Ptashnik, Stofflet, Blum; no – Candon, May.)

4. Finance. The Town made a \$1,000,000 tax payment to the Norwich School District.

5. Discuss tentative open Listers position. Candon initiated a discussion regarding the necessity of moving forward quickly on filling this position, should it become necessary. May suggested a March 9<sup>th</sup> deadline for receiving applications. Kaufman thanked the Selectboard for being proactive on this matter.

6. Scott Johnson, Postmaster – Continuity of Operations Plan. Johnson spoke to the Selectboard about the need for the Post Office to have a plan in place for any emergency situation lasting from 1 to 30 days. The Post Office would need space to sell stamps and hand mail to Post Office Box people. The Selectboard acknowledged their willingness to work with the Post Office to best service the Town of Norwich should the need arise. Soares will meet with Johnson to work out the details.

7. Hazard Mitigation Plan. There was discussion about whether adopting the Norwich Town-Specific Plan committed the Town to monetary expenditures and it was agreed it would not. Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to adopt the Plan without appropriations. **Motion passed.**

8. Draft Sewage Ordinance. Soares recommended the Selectboard receive the Ordinance and set a hearing date. The Selectboard agreed to pass this along for the new Selectboard's consideration. Soares reported that the Health Officer has notified him that it appears the septic issues on Winslow's property on Loveland Road have now been resolved.

9. Proposal to erect Norwich "Welcome Sign". Soares stated the sign would be located on State land and that no zoning permit was necessary. May reported that the Norwich Women's Club has set aside \$4,000 for this purpose. Soares will invite a representative from the Club to the March 9<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting for further discussion.

#### 10. Correspondence

- a) Letter from Lynn McGrew (Affordable Housing). No comment.
- b) Dean Seibert's resignation letter (Planning Commission). Stuart Richards thanked Seibert for all his humanitarian efforts.
- c) TRORC January 26, 2005 Minutes. Candon expressed his concern that with 21 of 30 Towns not present, but a quorum declared, it meant 5 positive votes were controlling decisions.
- d) Letter from Anne and Pete Silberfarb. No comments.
- e) Letter from Planning Commission. There was discussion regarding the "recommendation" paragraph in the letter. Dan Johnson expressed his and the Planning Commission's wish for an "open planning process".
- f) Letter from Terry Boone (Listers). No comment.

**May moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Candon) to receive all correspondence. **Motion passed.**

#### 11. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 2/9/05 meeting. Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Stofflet) to approve. **Motion passed.**

- b) Set date for Special Selectboard organizational meeting – Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room, Tracy Hall.

Blum stated that she enjoyed her time on the Selectboard and thanked everyone for their cooperation. Kaufman, on behalf of the Listers, thanked Stofflet and Blum for their respective work on the Selectboard.

The Selectboard initiated a discussion regarding the need for uniform “Open Meeting” policies for all committees. Soares will look into including the adopted policies on the application form.

**Candon moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Stofflet) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 9, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer  
Administrative Assistant

Liz Blum  
Selectboard Chair

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

Pending Items:

- 1) Village Center Designation
- 2) Final report of the Sewer Committee (March)
- 3) Set meeting with State Representatives and Senators regarding Health Care
- 4) Set meeting with Norwich Fire District (Prudential Committee) (March)
- 5) Ordinance Regulating Solid Waste “Junkyard Ordinance” (Tabled)
- 6) Tracy Hall Rental Policy (March)

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