

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Alison May, Chair; Jack Candon; Ben Ptashnik; Ed Childs; Gerard Chapdelaine; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Administrative Assistant

There were about 10 people in the audience.

Also participating: John Chamberlin, Nancy Dean, Phil Dechert, Neal Fox, Ian Harvey, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Kathy Parsonnet, Henry Scheier.

May opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Candon **moved** to approve with one additional item (2nd Chapdelaine). **Motion passed.**

2. Public Comments (Discussion). None.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Soares attended a conference of Vermont Town Managers in Manchester last week. Currently, Soares is attending a three-day course on Incident Management/Unified Command for Terrorism Incidents in White River Junction. Soares stated that the Corridor Project is making progress and that the Public Meeting on May 24th went well in his opinion. A start time of spring, 2006 for the project is still on track. Soares announced that the information gathering forum about the Police Department services and costs is set for May 26th at 7:00 pm at the Marion Cross School and that the Memorial Day parade is scheduled for noon on Sunday, May 29th. Survey results from Robert Sokol regarding the Dresden athletic fields are available in the Town Manager's office. The Fire District work on Elm Street will start this week. Soares stated that the FY05 budget is on target and that he wished to commend the work of the Finance Director (Roberta Robinson), Finance Committee and individual Selectboard members who have spent a great deal of time providing consultation on making this happen. Soares also thanked the Department Heads for the sacrifices they have made in this effort. The Town of Norwich received an award recently for "most improved" in the Catamount Trail Pedometer Challenge, a wellness program sponsored by VLCT that some Town employees and their spouses participated in led by Jill Kearney and Doug Robinson. The so-called "Junk Yard" Ordinance has been reviewed by VLCT and has been passed on to the Town Attorney for final review.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Reports # 05-41, 05-42 and 05-43 in the amounts of \$68,970.38, \$3,800 and \$1,304.86, respectively, for the period from 05/12/2005 to 05/25/2005. **Motion passed.**

5. 7:00 pm Appointment with Kathy Parsonnet Re: Dresden Fields (update) (Discussion). Kathy Parsonnet, Co-chair of the Dresden Athletic Fields Committee, and John Chamberlin from the Dresden School Board were present and discussed the mission of the committee and progress to date. The committee is in the process of getting permits for two interim fields on the Norwich site that could eventually replace other fields. Parsonnet stated that the committee's focus is to meet the needs of the community over the long term.

This has included analyzing the findings of the survey, developing a long-range plan for athletic fields in Hanover and Norwich, developing specific plans for the fields, and exploring partnerships within the communities.

Ptashnik said he feels that the cost of any bond will be detrimental to Norwich taxpayers.

Parsonnet announced that there will be a public forum on June 7th at the Hanover High School Library at 7:00 pm. She encouraged all to attend. Other ways to keep in touch with the committee's progress are to visit the website www.sau70.org and click on the link to Athletic Fields Committee or to send mail to fields@valley.net.

6. 7:30 pm Appointment with Neal Fox Re: Overview of Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) (Discussion). Fox stated that GMEDC consists of 30 towns from Wells River in the north to Windsor in the south and west to Killington. GMEDC provides both municipal services, including such things as managing revolving loan funds, grant acquisition and sewer line extension, and business services such as site selection for new businesses. Fox invited Norwich to join GMEDC's membership at a present cost of 50¢ per resident.

7. 8:00 pm Appointment with Ian Harvey Re: Huntley Meadow Dugouts (Baseball) (Action). Soares introduced Ian Harvey and commended him for being involved with this project. Harvey stated he wanted to do this project for his Eagle Scout badge and to give back to the community. He proposes building two above ground dugouts in Girard Field, outside the fences along the 1st and 3rd base lines, 8' tall and 24' long. Harvey will be soliciting private business to fund the project. Harvey projects that construction would begin this summer and end by fall. Safety will be a major consideration in building the dugouts. Soares was instructed by May to check with VLCT on any possible liability to the Town. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the project with a promise that the approval is not final until any legal problems are resolved. **Motion passed.**

8. 8:30 pm Kendall Station Road (Discussion) with Roger Blake, Resident. Blake was not in attendance. Soares stated that there are concerns and/or questions about whether a section of Kendal Station Road is public or private. Soares indicated that the Town may have to taken title to the road, but maintains the entire road. Candon suggested that the Town Manager quantify the problem and then bring it back before the board.

9. Correspondence

- a) TRORC Minutes of the April 27, 2005 Meeting
- b) Copy of VTrans letter to Town Manager
- c) Adelphia Letter
- d) DRB Chair's Report to Selectboard Re: DRB Member Attendance. May briefly discussed, pointing out the Chair's suggestion of amending the process of reporting.

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

10. Selectboard

- a) Discuss changing 7/6 meeting. After discussion regarding moving the tax rate setting date to July 1st due to the absence of Neil Fulton and Soares on July 6th, the Selectboard decided to leave the date unchanged (July 6 at 5:30 pm).
- b) Approval of the Minutes of the 5/11/05 meeting (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**
Approval of the Minutes of the 5/12/05 meeting (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.** Candon abstained.

Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 8, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – June 8, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Pending Items:

- 1) Ordinance Regulating Solid Waste “Junkyard Ordinance” (June 8)
- 2) Develop List (Cycle) for all Departments Operations Review

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