

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 6:00 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 22 people in the audience.

Also participating: Chris Ashley, Virginia Close, Phil Dechert, Robert Godleski, Sandra Hoeh, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Warren Loomis, Jeff Mathias, Creigh Moffatt, Nancy Osgood, Brita Reed, Chief Doug Robinson, Henry Scheier, Warren Thayer, Irv Thomae

May opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Litigation (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and to invite Steve Soares and the Listers to join the session. **Motion passed.**

At 6:28 pm the Selectboard moved into public session.

Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Candon) to appeal the decision of the Norwich Board of Civil Authority regarding Parcel ID # 10-145.000 to the Director of Property Valuation and Review. **Motion passed.**

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

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Lindberg asked if a public presentation could be made regarding the new street vendors and door-to-door solicitors ordinance. May asked Soares to submit an article to the Norwich Happenings explaining the highlights of the ordinance. Scheier stated that letters requesting narrative reports from organizations for the Town Report have been sent out. Mathias reported that a survey for the Town Plan should be out around October 9th. May announced that CATV is having an open house on October 6th at 6:00 pm.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Appropriation request letters have been mailed with a return date of October 14th. Quotes are being solicited for the painting of Tracy Hall and also the Gazebo. Soares stated that the Tracy Hall emergency generator is not operating at this time and may need to be replaced. A memo has gone out to the Town Department Heads and Selectboard discussing proposed health care coverage changes for Town employees which will result in a savings to the Town of approximately \$50,000. Soares is in the process of updating/revising the Personnel Manual and expects to have a revised version before the Selectboard by November 9th.

After consideration of items brought to light by an email from Peter Silberfarb, Ptashnik **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to withdraw Selectboard approval of the Green Mountain Power (GMP) Petition to Place Electric Poles on Bragg Hill Road given at the September 14th Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Childs abstained.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve Check Warrant Reports #06-15, 06-16, 06-17 and 06-18 in the amounts of \$183,542.75, \$1,400.00, \$1,700.00 and \$4,527.00, respectively, for the period from 09/15/2005 to 09/28/2005. **Motion passed.** Candon noted that there was a difference between the final warrant #06-15 and the one in the Selectboard packets, which the Town Manager explained.

6. Listers Department Review (Discussion). Thomae spoke about the reasons for the delay in the Listers Department review by the Finance Committee which were mainly due to health and vacation issues. Thomae also stated that the Committee as a whole felt that there was a general lack of support for the Police Department review. A consensus was reached to drop the Listers Department review at the present time. Going forward, it was agreed that a plan would be worked out before starting the Highway Department review.

7. Development Review Board (DRB) Interview/Appointment (Action Item)

Applicant:

- Christopher Ashley

After interviewing Ashley and a brief discussion, Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to appoint Ashley to a 3-year term ending June 30, 2008 as an alternate to the DRB. **Motion passed.**

8. Liquor License Application “Shear Luck” (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Selectboard convene as the Norwich Liquor Commission. **Motion passed.** Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the liquor license of Brita Reed and Robert Godleski for their Bed and Breakfast called Shear Luck. **Motion passed** contingent upon their refile for Shear Luck LLC with the State and that the permit is restricted to registered guests at the Norwich Bed and Breakfast only. Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to close the Norwich Liquor Commission session and reconvene as the Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

9. Historical Society Request for Grant Support (Action Item). With one revision, Childs **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to approve the Chair signing a letter of support for the Norwich Historical Society’s grant application to the Vermont Arts Council. **Motion passed.**

10. Tubestock (Discussion). Loomis gave a brief history of what Tubestock is and when it started. Problems discussed were: (1) underage drinking, (2) litter, (3) traffic and (4) liability. Also discussed was the lack of Dartmouth College’s leadership role in this event and how to convince the College to do so. Sandra Hoeh, who is the Director of Community Relations for Dartmouth College, stated that she has met with the Greek Leadership Council and she is confident that the litter problem is being addressed. Loomis agreed to draft a letter for the Selectboard’s review to send to Dartmouth College. It was agreed that Soares will try to set up a meeting with the Town Managers of Hanover and Norwich, the Chairs of the Hanover and Norwich Selectboards, the Police Chiefs of Hanover and Norwich and representatives of Dartmouth College.

11. Application for a FY06 Planning Grant for Town Plan Preparation (Discussion/Action Item). Dechert stated that the application is for a Municipal Planning Grant in the amount of \$12,000 and is part of the process of updating the Norwich Town Plan. After some discussion, Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to adopt the Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant and to authorize the Chair to sign said document on the Selectboard's behalf. **Motion passed.**

12. Dog Ordinance Pooper Scooper (Revision) (Action Item). Soares stated that most of the language of the ordinance remained unchanged with the exceptions of fines being increased and the addition of a new item under General Provisions regarding animal damage to private or public property including fecal matter not being removed. May asked Soares to highlight the changes and to bring the document back to the Selectboard for a public hearing on October 12th.

13. Transfer Station Improvement Project (Discussion). Postponed until the October 26th Selectboard meeting.

14. Correspondence

- a) Watt Alexander Letter of Resignation from the DRB. At the suggestion of Candon, the Selectboard decided to postpone acceptance of Alexander's resignation until the October 12th meeting.
- b) N.E. Wolff Letter and Susan McCoy email Re: Huntley Recreation area and lighting in the parking lot. May read McCoy's email to the audience. Close spoke about how bright the lights are now that they are on all night and the light pollution. Ptashnik **moved** (2nd Childs) that GMP be contacted and told to remove the new lights and revert to the old ones. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ptashnik, Chapdelaine; no – Candon, Childs, May). After further discussion, the Selectboard asked Soares to contact GMP and work with them in either redirecting the lights to shine straight down or reverting to the old ones. The Town Manager will keep the neighbors and the Board informed.

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

15. Selectboard

- a) Update on Zoning Regulations. Childs moved (2nd Candon) that the Norwich Selectboard requests that the Norwich Planning Commission initiate action to consider an amendment to the Norwich Zoning Regulations that were adopted on September 11, 1990 to expand the existing Village Residential District to include approximately 42 acres of land along the easterly side of Route 5 north from the current boundary to the right-of-way for I-91. After discussion on affordable housing and the need for timely action, May **moved** (2nd Candon) to amend the motion to: Pursuant to Title 24 VSA Chapter 117 § 4441 (g), the Norwich Selectboard requests that the Norwich Planning Commission initiate action to amend the Norwich Zoning Regulations... **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Candon, May; no – Childs, Ptashnik, Chapdelaine). After further discussion, the original **motion passed 4 to 1** (Ptashnik opposed). Mathias stated that the Planning Commission will forward the new zoning regulations to the Selectboard by October 30th.

- b) Discuss Plan for Town Volunteer Night and Pot Luck Dinner Friday, November 4th from 6-9 PM. The Selectboard agreed to the potluck email going out to the Town list on October 7th with the hope that this would be the first of many such events.
- c) Approval of the Minutes of the 9/14/2005 meeting (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- d) Discussion of Norwich Times Article. It was agreed that May would write an article for the paper.
- e) Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. **Motion passed.** No action was taken.

At 10:14 pm the Selectboard moved into public session.

Candon **moved** (2nd Ptashnik) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on October 12, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – October 12, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Parking Ordinance (Revision)
- 2) Zoning Regulations Review
- 3) Noise Ordinance

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV VIDEO TAPES ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE TAPE. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.