

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 13 people in the audience.

Also participating: Rhonda Henderson, Ken MacDonald, Cheryl Lindberg, Chief Doug Robinson, Roxanne Russell, Henry Scheier

May opened the meeting at 6:29 pm.

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

2. Public Comments (Discussion). None.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Soares stated that severe storm damage has caused a culvert to collapse on Bragg Hill Road. The estimated repair cost is \$80,000. Andy Hodgdon has applied for funding from the State as well as emergency funding and is seeking a contractor to repair the damage as soon as possible. Soares met with the Norwich Energy Committee recently. Topics of discussion included the possible use of biodiesel fuel and lighting changes in Tracy Hall. The Town Manager has received 99% of the first drafts of Town budgets and is on track to bring the preliminary FY07 draft budget information to the Selectboard on October 26th. The Norwich Police Department has begun union contract negotiations. Soares is seeking volunteers for a community effort for the repairs and painting needed by the bandstand. The lights at Huntley Field have been redirected and Soares awaits comments from the neighbors regarding effectiveness. The Town Hall emergency generator has been removed and is being looked at by the Highway Department. A new draft financial policy has been distributed to Department Heads for their comments and feedback, after which the policy will be brought before the Selectboard for their review. Soares read a thank you note from Rose Swift regarding the use of Tracy Hall for blood drives.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Reports #06-22, 06-23, and 06-24 in the amounts of \$96,258.20, \$15,999.98 and \$2,785.00, respectively, for the period from 09/29/2005 to 10/12/2005. **Motion passed.**

5. Listers. Errors and Omissions (Discussion). Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve a reduction to the 2005 Grand List of \$62,500, and a loss in municipal tax revenue of \$283.31, to correct the errors and omissions in the assessment of Parcel ID #10-204.000 owned by Robert and Sandra Kerekes. After a brief discussion regarding why taxes were being reduced following extensive renovations, the Selectboard decided to postpone making a decision on this parcel until the October 26th meeting.

Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve a reduction to the 2005 Grand List of \$18,500, and a loss in municipal tax revenue of \$83.86, to correct the errors and omissions in the assessment of Parcel ID #11-036.000 owned by George and Dorothy Dorion. **Motion passed.**

6. Dog Ordinance Pooper Scooper (Revision) (Discussion/Action Item). Soares stated that the changes in the revised ordinance mainly consisted of an increase in fines from \$25 to \$50, a new section 4.B.3. regarding public defecation by dogs and new wording in section 7. Pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, Childs **moved** (2nd Candon) for the Selectboard to adopt the Norwich Animal Control Ordinance. **Motion passed.**

7. GMP Bragg Hill Pole Placement Plan Reconsideration (Discussion/Action Item). Soares stated that residents in close proximity to the area and the Norwich Conservation Commission had been notified that this discussion was on the agenda. Ken MacDonald of Green Mountain Power (GMP) stated that approximately six trees will need to be removed, that no herbicides will be used, that GMP has easements from the property owners for anchors and trimming and that the main purpose of the plan is to increase ease of service and reliability of the system. MacDonald also stated that the estimated cost of the job is \$40,000 and will be borne by GMP. The Selectboard gave their consensus for the project to move forward under the Town Manager's guidance.

8. Transfer Station Improvement Project (Discussion). The Transfer Station is being reconfigured to accommodate a new container for glass, a new ramp and allow for better traffic flow. The project is mainly being done by the Highway Department with the only cost to the Town being \$1,400 for the cement blocks. Once the new setup is operational, Soares stated that the Town should be able to save \$10,000 a year in disposal fees.

9. Parking Ordinance Amendment (Action Item). The only change to the ordinance is in section 6.7 regarding reserved handicapped parking. After some discussion regarding complaints of alleged abuse of handicapped parking and signage inconsistencies, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971 Childs **moved** (2nd Candon) for the Selectboard to adopt the revised Town of Norwich Parking Ordinance. **Motion passed.**

The Selectboard asked the Town Manager to bring the revised ordinance before them at a future date for discussion/review.

10. Correspondence

- a) Wood Chip Heating System (Information Only)
- b) Letter from Harry Holland Re: Parking. The Selectboard decided to further review this letter when they discuss the revised parking ordinance.
- c) Email Re: Norwich Library Board. Soares will speak with a Library Board representative and advise the Selectboard.
- d) Letter from Robin Taylor Re: 348 Main Street Home. May read the letter. The Selectboard has asked the Town Manager to keep in close contact with Taylor regarding the timing and price of the sale.
- e) Letter from State of VT Dept. of Taxes Re: Parcel ID # 10-145.000

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

11. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 9/28/2005 meeting (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Watt Alexander's Letter of Resignation (Discussion). Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to accept the resignation of Watt Alexander as Chair of the DRB effective December 31, 2005. **Motion passed.**
- c) Selectboard Annual Report 2005. The Selectboard approved the report with minor corrections.

Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on October 26, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – October 26, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Noise Ordinance

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