

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 26, 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 20 people in the audience.

Also participating: Brooke Adler, Bill Aldrich, Virginia Close, Dennis Kaufman, Mark Langlois, Jeffrey Mathias, Lynn McGrew, Cheryl Lindberg, Chief Doug Robinson, Irv Thomae, Paul Tierney, Jay Van Arman, Suzanne Wallis

May opened the meeting at 6:28 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Candon **moved** to approve with one additional item (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs). **Motion passed.**
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Dennis Kaufman announced that a Hanover Fields Forum was taking place this evening at 7:00 pm in the Richmond Cafeteria. May said that the Norwich Fields Forum is slated for Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Marion Cross School Multipurpose Room.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Department Heads budget reviews have been conducted during the last two weeks. Brooke Adler has taken on the task of codifying the Town ordinances. Soares attended a Tubestock meeting in Hanover where progress was made in developing protocol for students during the event. The Town, with the help of Advance Transit, is moving forward with a second bus shelter for Senior Housing on Town owned land. Soares has talked with Robin Taylor about his mother's property on Main Street and the potentiality of a Town interest in it. The Bragg Hill culvert repairs are scheduled to start October 31<sup>st</sup>, at which time the road will be closed for approximately three weeks. At the present time, it appears that the Town will need to fund 10% of the project, or around \$11,000. The Recreation Department has been awarded a \$10,000 grant to continue with the Huntley Meadow Improvement Project.

Soares and May reminded townspeople of the upcoming Potluck Supper honoring volunteers at Tracy Hall on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited. Please let Nancy Kramer know what you would like to bring (main dish or salad) at (802) 649-0127 or [manager-assistant@norwich.vt.us](mailto:manager-assistant@norwich.vt.us).

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Reports #06-25, 06-26 and 06-27 in the amounts of \$178,291.92, \$722.00 and \$17,554.75, respectively, for the period from 10/14/2005 to 10/26/2005. **Motion passed.**
5. Listers. Errors and Omissions (Discussion). Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> 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. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve a reduction to the 2005 Grand List of \$9,200, and a loss in municipal tax revenue of \$41.70, to correct the errors and omissions in the assessment of Parcel ID #10-168.110 owned by Carl Krieg. **Motion passed.** Candon abstained.

6. Norwich Objectionable Noise Ordinance (Discussion/Action Item). Soares said that Vermont Statutes do not have standards that specifically deal with the regulation of noise levels. Chief Robinson indicated that citizen complaints regarding engine braking noise were behind the origins of the ordinance. Robinson also stated that the ordinance was an attempt to regulate objectionable noises as a civil matter versus a criminal as covered by Vermont Statutes. Several townspeople spoke about their concerns with the ordinance. The consensus was that there are Vermont Statutes that sufficiently cover any actions that need to be taken in the Town of Norwich. Board members when polled were all opposed to the ordinance. When asked by the Chair, Soares stated that neither the Chief nor he had any affection for the ordinance and in fact brought it before the Selectboard to encourage discussion. May stated that the Selectboard would not be going forward with the ordinance.

7. Preliminary Draft FY07 Budget Information (Discussion). Soares said that the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Department Heads budget requests started at a 10.5% increase over FY06. In the second round of reviews, this was reduced to 3.8%. Increases in individual budgets were mainly due to: (1) Highway – cost of materials, (2) Solid Waste – transportation cost increases, (3) Fire Dept. – Designated Fund increases for equipment and local training facility, (4) Planning – 20 hours of staff help a week and (5) Taxes - \$15,000 addition for tax abatements and adjustments. Soares stated that outside agency requests came in at level funding. Projections for additional monetary articles included repair and painting of Tracy Hall, a new compacter at the Solid Waste facility and band stand repairs.

8. Highway Department Review (Discussion). Thomae said that the Finance Committee was looking to the Selectboard for specific direction on this review. Tierney said that, in his opinion, this was going to be a difficult study to do with reliable statistical conclusions. Tierney also noted the need for clerical support for this project. After discussion of what individual Selectboard members were looking for in this review, it was agreed that information would be sent to and compiled by the Town Manager's assistant for finalization at the November 9<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

9. Correspondence

- a) TRORC Minutes of the September 28, 2005 Meeting
- b) Letter from Neil Fulton Re: Agway Property as it Relates to the Fire Department
- c) Letter from William Hankel Re: Norwich Planning Commission

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

11. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 10/12/2005 meeting (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Announce DRB Vacancy due to Watt Alexander's Resignation. Position will be advertised.

c) Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Ptashnik **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and to invite Steve Soares to join the Session. **Motion passed.** Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to move out of executive session at 9:05 pm. As a result of the Selectboard's annual evaluation of the Town Manager, Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) that the Town Manager, per his Employment Agreement effective October 1, 2004, having achieved at least "Good/Competent" in all categories, is entitled to a salary increase to \$68,250, retroactive to October 1, 2005. **Motion passed.**

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ptashnik) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on November 9, 2005.

By Nancy Kramer  
Administrative Assistant

Alison May  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – November 9, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review

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