

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 10 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jack Fraser, Neil Fulton, Andy Hodgdon, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Stuart Richards, Chief Doug Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Henry Scheier, Irv Thomae, Paul Tierney

May opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Candon **moved** to approve (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs). **Motion passed.**

2. Public Comments (Discussion). None.

3. Highway Department Review (Discussion). Tierney provided the Selectboard with a detailed outline and tables regarding the Highway Department Study. Items addressed were purpose, project management, information outputs, project approach and timeline. Written comments from Candon and Chapdelaine were given to Thomae and Tierney. It was agreed that performance standards would be an integral part of the study. May asked that the Town of Hartford's Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg, be invited to speak about the accreditation process in Hartford, after the budget season, as part of this study.

8. Second FY07 Budget Work Session (Discussion). Soares gave an overview of the changes requested and made as a result of the first FY07 budget work session. The Selectboard started this session with the Police Department budget. Soares provided the Selectboard with an alternate budget from Chief Robinson eliminating one position. Robinson stated that approximately \$50,000 would be saved by this measure, but that coverage would have to be adjusted. Soares and Chapdelaine support the current level of staffing at the Police Department and are opposed to a reduction. Thomae expressed concern that only \$18 of a budgeted \$1,000 for FY06 has been spent on community relations. Childs and Candon felt that they owe it to the voters to thoroughly assess the level of service and affordability. May stated that she approves of the current budget with the hope that the percentage of change can become a negative amount. Fulton passed out a handout to the Selectboard on the Fire/FAST Department budget requests and gave a presentation on background information, standards and compromises the department makes in day-to-day operations. Both Fulton and Fraser indicated that the current \$60,000 figure for Designated Fund – Vehicles is inadequate due to the necessity of having to replace the Ladder truck. May asked the Town Manager to change this figure to \$95,000 for the next budget draft. Hodgdon was asked to get a quote for biodiesel fuel. The Selectboard removed the Donations budgeted amount of \$250 from the Conservation Commission. Roberta Robinson was asked to show total Town expenditures with and without Grant Expense in the next draft. May thanked the Department Heads who attended the meeting.

4. VLCT Leadership Training Workshop (Discussion). A VLCT-sponsored Leadership Training session for the Selectboard has been set up for January 27, 2006 in the Tracy Hall Multipurpose Room at 10:00 a.m.

5. Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP) Petition to Conduct Pole Work on Willey Hill Road (Action). Soares told the Selectboard he has viewed the site and recommends the Board approve the petition. Chapdelaine **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve GMP's petition to conduct pole work on Willey Hill Road. **Motion passed.**

7. Moving Piano on Gym Stage (Discussion). The Selectboard asked the Town Manager to look into this item further and get back to them.

6. Town of Norwich Private Driveway Guidelines (Discussion/Action). After a brief discussion regarding the necessity of these guidelines, the Board decided to send it back to the Planning Commission to look at once they are finished with the Zoning Regulations. Richards asked that it be sent to the Conservation Commission also.

9. 2005 Personnel Policies (Draft) (Discussion). This item was tabled until the next Selectboard meeting.

10. Correspondence

- a) Letter from George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. The Selectboard declined to contribute the \$100 that was requested.
- b) Green Mountain Economic Development Corp. The Selectboard declined to contribute the \$1,795.50 that was requested.

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

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/22/05 and 11/28/05 meetings. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Candon) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Real Estate and Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(2)(3), Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and 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 10:40 pm. Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to authorize the Town Manager to spend not more than \$500 to obtain an appraisal on a piece of real estate. **Motion passed.**

The Selectboard set compensation for elected officials other than Selectboard members. Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to increase the stipend for Town Treasurer to \$1,600. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Candon) to increase the Town Clerk's salary by 4% from FY06. **Motion passed.**

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 11, 2006.

By Nancy Kramer  
Administrative Assistant

Alison May  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – December 21, 2005 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Private Driveway policy

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