

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 14 people in the audience.

Also participating: Terry Boone, Rob Edson, Neil Fulton, John Gormley, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Jill Kearney, Cheryl Lindberg, Dan Morrison, Chief Doug Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Mary Sachsse, Henry Scheier, Irv Thomae

May opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** to approve with one additional item (2nd Childs). **Motion passed.**
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Thomae thanked the Listers for their careful reexamination of properties that has resulted in the common level of appraisal going up. Kaufman reminded people of the April 15th deadline to file their **yearly** Declaration of Vermont Homestead (H131) with the Vermont Department of Taxes. A 1% penalty of the education tax is assessed for a late filing. **It can also be filed on-line through www.vermont.gov. The link to this form is found on the home page.**
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Soares stated that, after review by the Town's Attorney, the Kendall Station Road status is one of awaiting a response from 39 Kendall Station Road. Soares is meeting with Karolina Kawiaka, a professor of Architecture at Dartmouth, on Monday to consider a student project of looking at the space needs for Tracy Hall staff. Approximately 40 labor hours remain to complete the Planning Commission's Town Survey data input. Soares attended a January 5th GUVSWD meeting at which the access road to the proposed landfill in North Hartland was the main topic. Signs describing winter parking regulations and voluntary nonuse of engine retarding devices will be placed at entrances to the Town soon.
4. Listers – Interview Candidates for Vacant Lister Position. No applications have been received to date, position will remain open.
5. Development Review Board (DRB) Interview/Appointment (Action Item). No applications have been received to date, position will remain open.
6. Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP) Petition to Install Poles (Electric) on Joshua Road Ext. (Action). Soares said that the Highway Administrator has looked at the site and is in agreement with the pole placements. Dr. and Mrs. Laird Myers, who were unable to attend, sent a letter to the Selectboard urging the Town to deny the petition by GMP. Gormley, representing all the neighbors, stated that he opposes the overhead lines due mostly to scenic considerations. Morrison spoke about putting the 240 ft. from the last new pole to the cabin underground which would leave only the lines between the old and new poles overhead.

The Selectboard decided to table the petition until the January 18th meeting and Board members have individually viewed the site.

7. Police Department FY06 Budget Adjustment Request (Discussion/Action). After a brief discussion, the Selectboard approved the transfer of \$2,235.99 in expenditures from the Cruiser Maintenance line item to the Designated Police Cruiser Fund.

8. 7:00 pm First Public Hearing FY07 Budget. Soares went through the FY07 Expenditures budget draft #7 department by department. The main topic of discussion was an addition of \$12,000 to the Recreation Department for Marion Cross School Rental Fees. Sachsse and Edson both talked about the decision to apply the school rental policy appropriately and consistently. Thomae stated that the Finance Committee commends this decision in that the School should not subsidize the Town. The Selectboard stated that the Recreation Department would not be expected to absorb this cost. Sachsse commented that the School Board hoped the additional cost would not be passed on to the public in fee increases. Also discussed was the addition of \$3,000 to the Highway Department Gas & Oil line item for the purchase and use of biodiesel fuel. (This money came from a reduction in the Property & Casualty Insurance line item.) Soares asked the Selectboard to consider reinstating the \$1,000 Norwich Olde Home Days Committee appropriation. The Selectboard decided to table this decision until more information could be presented on what the money was spent on last year.

- a) Selectboard Budget Discussion – Revenues and Undesignated Fund Balance. Fulton discussed prior Town history of the Undesignated Fund and the GFOA recommendations. Further discussion was postponed until after the July tax setting meeting. Members of the Finance Committee and Fulton will draft a Selectboard Financial Policy #2 regarding undesignated funds for the Board to consider.

9. Personnel Policies (Discussion/Action). After a brief review, the Selectboard asked that the Policies be forwarded to Department Heads for their comments and come back before the Board at their January 25th meeting.

10. Financial Policy – First Reading by Selectboard (Discussion). May questioned the signing of Worker's Compensation waivers policy. After some corrections have been made, the Financial Policy will be forwarded to the Town Attorney for his review.

11. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 12/14/05 and 12/21/05 meetings. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Approval of designated fund expenditure. The Selectboard approved \$6,407 to be used from the Corridor Enhancement Designated Fund for professional services in connection with the Norwich Corridor Project.
- c) Personnel and Real Estate (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(2)(3), Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and real estate and to invite Steve Soares and Dennis Kaufman to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 10:00 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 25, 2006.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – January 18, 2006 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Private Driveway policy
- 3) Kendall Station Road Status

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