

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 6:00 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 8 people in the audience.

Also participating: Shelly Blodgett, Shep Butler, Andy Hodgdon, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Chief Doug Robinson, Henry Scheier

May opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Real Estate (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(2), Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and to invite Steve Soares, Shep Butler and Chief Robinson to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 6:25 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Butler asked that when the drainage issue is addressed on Elm Street consideration be given to the water in his field. Hodgdon stated that this project is not scheduled to be done until fiscal year 2008. Blodgett, speaking on behalf of The Family Place, apologized for missing last week's Selectboard meeting and answered the questions posed by the Selectboard. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to put on the Town Warning without a petition the request to appropriate \$1,284 to The Family Place. **Motion passed.**

Kaufman once again reminded people of the April 15th deadline to file their **yearly** Declaration of Vermont Homestead (HS-131) with the Vermont Department of Taxes and offered the Listers help if anyone needed it. 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.**

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Soares stated that the Town Manager's Financial Policy has been forwarded to Frank Olmstead for review. The Town Manager's Assistant received VLCT training on the reporting of work-related injuries and illnesses for OSHA. Norwich Police Department union negotiations are continuing on a weekly basis. The Town Attorney is in the process of setting up a meeting with the principal party regarding Kendall Station Road. Soares is continuing discussions with Northeast Waste Services, utilizing the help of Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District. A VLCT Leadership Training Session with the Selectboard is scheduled for Friday, January 27th.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve Check Warrant Reports #06-43 and #06-44 in the amounts of \$2,150.04 and \$3,930.00, respectively, for the period from 1/19/2006 to 1/25/2006. **Motion passed.**

6. Final Public Hearing FY07 Budget (Discussion/Action). Scheier discussed some highlights of FY07 Budget increases including Designated Fund increases, the COLA change, rental fees for Marion Cross School use by the Recreation Department and Highway Department increases. May pointed out that health care costs had been reduced by approximately \$54,000 by the Town Manager.

Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the FY07 Budget as amended. **Motion passed.**

7. Town Warning of Annual Meeting (Discussion/Action). Article 27 was amended to read five years instead of ten in order to be consistent with Articles 23-25. Article 26 regarding use of the State Education Fund was discussed. Candon **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) not to include the proposed Article 26 on the Warning. **Motion Passed 3 to 1** (yes – Candon, Chapdelaine, Childs; no – May).

Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the Town Warning as amended, i.e., Articles 4-26. **Motion Passed.**

8. Personnel Policies – Staff Comments (Discussion). Department Head comments and changes are still being addressed.

9. Correspondence

- a) Windsor County Budget Letter. The system regarding setting the county budget was discussed. Candon expressed concern that Norwich's tax percent seemed high in comparison to other similar towns.

10. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 12/30/05 and 1/11/06 meetings. Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Labor Relations (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing labor relations and to invite Steve Soares and Chief Robinson to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 8:08 pm the Selectboard moved back into public session. The Chair announced that no action was taken.

Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 8, 2006.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – February 8, 2006 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Private Driveway Policy
- 3) Kendall Station Road Status
- 4) Review of Town Manager Job Description
- 5) Review of Assessor Job Description

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