

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, April 12, 2006 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 35 people in the audience.

Also participating: Terry Boone, Jonathan Bouton, Al Converse, Ken Davis, Ray Dennis, Eamon Donovan, Tom Gray, Scooter Hardy, Dennis Kaufman, Bruce Limlaw, Cheryl Lindberg, Bernard Manning, Peg Merrens, Alison McRee, Robert Mitchell, Arthur Owen, Ernest Parker, Stuart Richards, Chief Robinson, Liz Russell, Henry Scheier, Andrew Sigler, Ken Smith, Richard Stucker, Warren Thayer, Irv Thomae, Geoffrey Vitt, Jim Wasser

May opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Candon) to approve with some additions and changes in order. **Motion passed.**
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Kaufman reminded people of the April 15th deadline to file their **yearly** Declaration of Vermont Homestead (HS-131) 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.

Scheier announced that the Norwich Fair sponsored by the Lions Club is scheduled for July 7th and 8th on the green. Scheier again invited the Selectboard to participate in taking turns on the dunk tank.

Ray Dennis asked the Selectboard for information on the process for lowering the speed limit on Chapel Hill Road South.

3. Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Action Item). One applicant was interviewed for Fence Viewer (Liz Russell). One applicant was interviewed for the Finance Committee (Al Converse). One applicant (Robert Mitchell) was interviewed for Grand Juror. Five applicants (Thomas Gray, Alison McRee, Stuart Richards, Richard Stucker and Jim Wasser) were interviewed for the one 1-year appointment and two 4-year appointments for the Planning Commission.

Appointments made were Frank Olmstead as the Agent to Prosecute for a one-year term ending in March, 2007; Lee Michaelides and Peter Silberfarb to the Conservation Commission for four-year terms ending in March, 2010; Watt Alexander and Liz Russell as Fence Viewers to serve until a successor is named; Al Converse to the Finance Committee for a term ending in March, 2007; Robert Mitchell as Grand Juror for a one-year term ending in March, 2007; John Lawe as Health Officer for a three-year term ending April, 2009; Alison McRee and Richard Stucker to the Planning Commission for four-year terms ending April 30, 2010; Tom Gray to the Planning Commission to fill the balance of Douglas Hoffman's term ending April 30, 2007; and Nancy Hoggson as the TRORC voting representative for a one-year term ending April, 2007.

4. Truck Permits: "Policy and Procedure" (Discussion). Candon opened the discussion by pointing out that the Town needs to know what we can do as well as discussing what we should do. Candon also stated that the law is complex. The State issues excess weight permits for state and class 1 town highways (Norwich has no class 1 highways) and municipalities issue permits for class 2, 3 and 4 town highways.

Approximately fourteen concerned townspeople and truckers spoke at the meeting. Issues raised were: concerns regarding the perceived "aggressive police campaign"; excessive penalties (i.e., a ticket for \$11,550); state permits vs. town; signage; Town being labeled as trucker/business unfriendly; why the scales are necessary; "no fairness or equity" and that the penalty should fit the offence.

Soares reminded people that the Norwich Police Department is acting within the scope and authority of the Statutes. Town permits are available for \$5 per individual truck or \$10 for a fleet. Soares also stated that, as he understands this matter, excess weight on trucks does damage Norwich roads.

After further discussion, it was determined that the Selectboard needs time to gather more information and work on the problem, Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Selectboard impose a moratorium on local overweight permits (mud season permits will continue to be enforced) until the May 10th Selectboard meeting, meanwhile enforcing only state permitting requirements.

5. Request to Expend Norwich Conservation Commission Designated Fund (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the release of \$3,400 from the Norwich Conservation Commission Designated Fund for the Upper Valley Land Trust to help cover expenses connected with the conservation of approximately 80 acres in Norwich. **Motion passed.** The new Conservation Commission Designated Fund balance will be \$3,083.37.

6. Town Clerk Request to Expend Designated Funds for Copier Replacement (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Candon) to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$8,799.00 for the purchase of a Savin Copier. **Motion passed.** The new fund balance will be \$2,190.84.

7. Norwich Recreation Playground Project Request to Expend Designated Funds (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the payment of \$945.52 to Oakes and \$2,877.00 to Kompan from the Town Recreation Fund designated for the playground. **Motion passed.** The new Playground Designated Fund balance will be \$5,879.48.

8. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the General Fund Check Warrant Report #06-53 in the amount of \$72,721.81 for the period from 3/23/2006 to 4/12/2006. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the Solid Waste Fund Check Warrant Report #06-54 in the amount of \$1,264.89 for the period from 3/23/2006 to 4/12/2006. **Motion passed.**

9. Correspondence

- a) Homeland Security Training Announcement
- b) Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Events Schedule
- c) White River Partnership Tree Planting Announcement

d) George D. Aiken RC&D “Helping to Make Things Happen” Brochure

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

10. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 3/22/06 meeting. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**

b) Letter in Support of Safe Routes to School. The Board authorized the Town Manager and Selectboard Chair to sign such a letter.

c) Personnel and Labor Relations (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(3), Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and labor relations and to invite Steve Soares, Peter Gregory and Chief Robinson to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 11:00 pm the Selectboard moved back into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 11:02 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on April 26, 2006.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – April 26, 2006 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Kendall Station Road Status
- 3) Personnel Policies

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