

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 6:00 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 26 people in the audience.

Also participating: Clay Adams, John Currier, George Fraser, Fred Gundersen, Scooter Hardy, Andy Hodgdon, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Susan McCoy, Phil Phillips, Chief Robinson, Ken Smith, Geoffrey Vitt

May opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Litigation (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and to invite Steve Soares and Frank Olmstead to join the session. **Motion passed.** Candon recused himself from the Executive Session.

At 6:35 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to authorize the Town Manager to retain Frank Olmstead to represent the Town in the Linda and Richard White case before the Environmental Court. **Motion passed.** Candon abstained.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Ptashnik **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve with three additions to correspondence. **Motion passed.**

3. Public Comments (Discussion). None.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The Long-term Capital Budget Committee (CIP) met and agreed to use Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) standards of identifying needs, determining costs, prioritizing capital requests and developing financial strategies. John Lawe has agreed to chair an ad hoc committee regarding development of hazard plans, particularly pandemic flu outbreak plans. The Norwich Broadband Committee is off and running, researching options and alternatives for the community regarding high speed internet access. Steve met with the Norwich Business Council and discussed the "Welcome to Norwich" sign. The Department Heads and Town Manager are in the process of finalizing staff performance reviews. Soares is in the process of getting updated quotes for the exterior painting of Tracy Hall.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Norwich Playground is Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The Norwich Pool will be opening Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Summer Light Event for Norwich is Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:45 pm at the Norwich Transfer Station sponsored by the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, see <http://www.guvs wd.org/schedule#sle> for more information.

Reminders: There will be three vacancies on the Norwich Recreation Council as of July '06 and the Development Review Board (DRB) has 2 three-year seats, 1 two-year unexpired seat and 1 three-year alternate seat vacancies. Applications for the DRB vacancies are being accepted until June 22<sup>nd</sup>, interviews will occur at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Ptashnik **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve the General Fund Check Warrant Report #06-66 and the Recreation Facility Improvement Fund Check Warrant Report #06-67 in the amounts of \$39,396.03 and \$531.67, respectively, for the period from 5/25/2006 to 6/14/2006. **Motion passed.**

Childs asked the Town Manager for a FY06 budget status report. Soares indicated the Town was on track and that he hoped there might even be a small surplus.

6. Truck Weight Limits Ordinance (No Action will be taken at this Meeting on the Proposed Truck Ordinance). Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) that the Selectboard postpone any action on the Ordinance and that the moratorium on local overweight permits be continued until the June 28th Selectboard meeting, meanwhile enforcing only State permitting requirements. **Motion passed.**

There were several interested parties present in the audience. Some of the sentiments expressed were that: “Town officials have gone against the will of the people” in this process, “some trucks will no longer deliver if the ordinance goes through” and the Town of Norwich should just use State Statutes to regulate truck weights.

May stated that the Selectboard would continue with the ordinance process, including a public hearing, which consists of the Selectboard adopting the ordinance, posting of the ordinance in five public places, publishing the ordinance in the Valley News, and the ordinance becoming effective sixty days after adoption unless a petition is submitted under Title 24 VSA, Chapter 59, Section 1973.

7. Watershed Land Management Council Re: Finances and Trail Prohibitions (Discussion). Adams, speaking for the Land Management Council, explained the proposed prohibitions on Fire District trails. Horses, motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited on the Ballard Trail. Horses and motorized vehicles are prohibited on the Parcel 5, Brown Schoolhouse and Blue Ribbon/Gile Mountain Ridge Trails. These prohibitions will be clearly posted at the relevant trailhead. Prudential Committee approval is pending with the exceptions from the Fire District Administrator of allowing emergency services and individual approval, at the direction of the Land Management Council, for such things as grooming.

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ptashnik) to accept the trail prohibitions with the exceptions noted above. **Motion passed.**

In addition to the above prohibitions, trails will be posted during mud season each April. This will not be a prohibition, but a “request to preserve the condition of the trail”. Signs will also be posted during deer rifle season to advise hikers, bikers and walkers to exercise extreme caution and wear blaze orange.

Lindberg noted that the Land Management Council funds, currently in a CD, have been changed to the Town tax ID and that a designated fund should be set up for them.

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) that Clay be reimbursed \$100.04 from these funds. **Motion passed.**

8. Request to Expend Funds from Kids & Cops Designated Fund (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Candon) to approve the payment of \$1,179.98 to the Town of Hanover Kids and Cops Program Fund from the Kids & Cops Designated Fund. **Motion passed.** The new Kids & Cops Designated Fund balance will be \$808.80.

9. Norwich Recreation Playground Project Request to Expend Designated Funds (Action Item). Chapdelaine **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve the payment of \$1,302.46 to Justine Fahey from the Town Recreation Fund designated for the playground. **Motion passed.** The new Playground Designated Fund balance will be \$14,161.48.

10. Request to Expend Funds from Solid Waste Designated Fund (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$615.00 for the purchase of 9 cement blocks and 6 signs from the Solid Waste Designated Fund. **Motion passed.** The new Solid Waste Designated Fund balance will be \$8,348.89.

11. Petition from Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS) for Pole/Wire Location (Action Item). Ptashnik **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve CVPS's petition for pole/wire location within the Town's right-of-way. **Motion passed.**

12. Public Works Proposed Mutual Aid (Discussion). Hodgdon stated that the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) endorses this Mutual Aid Agreement and that 30 towns in Vermont are involved currently. After a brief discussion regarding possible language changes and whether or not the Fire District should be included, the Selectboard agreed to support the document conceptually.

13. VLCT Leader Program – Proposed Safety Policy (Discussion). Kramer discussed that this is a new VLCT program designed to “measure a municipality’s health promotion efforts against the VLCT Health Trust’s expectations”. The Town of Norwich has sent a letter of intent to participate in the program to VLCT, completed a benchmark 2006 Leader spreadsheet, selected a Wellness Coordinator (Kramer), started in-house tobacco cessation classes (six Town employees are attending), participated and won a prize in the VLCT 2006 Winter Olympics Pedometer Challenge and had a VLCT sponsored in-house and confidential health screening for employees covered under the Town’s health plan. Part of this program is the adoption of a Safety & Health Policy a draft of which was brought before the Selectboard. The Selectboard will consider adopting this policy when they adopt the new Personnel Policies. The Town, by participating in this program, is eligible to receive up to a 4% credit (subject to capping) on its health costs at the end of the year.

#### 14. Correspondence

- a) Invitation to TRORC’s Annual Dinner Meeting
- b) Amy Neuman Letter Re: “Bulb-a-Thon” Fundraiser
- c) List of Dogs and Wolf-hybrids not Licensed from the Town Clerk
- d) Visiting Nurse Association Invitation to Annual Meeting on 6/20
- e) County of Windsor, Vermont Internal Control and Financial Reports

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

15. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 5/24/06 meeting. Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Chapdelaine **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and to invite Steve Soares and Chief Robinson to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 9:00 pm the Selectboard moved back into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ptashnik) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 28, 2006.

By Nancy Kramer  
Administrative Assistant

Alison May  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – June 28, 2006 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Personnel Policies
- 3) Kendall Station Road
- 4) Truck Weight Limits Ordinance

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV VIDEO TAPES ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE TAPE. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.