

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 13, 2006 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 16 people in the audience.

Also participating: Terry Boone, Virginia Close, Jack Fraser, Neil Fulton, Mark Goodwin, Jack Harned, Dennis Kaufman, Don May, Brion McMullan, Bonnie Munday, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Henry Scheier

May opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments (Discussion). None.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Norwich Village Center has been recognized as a designated village center by the Downtown Development Board. Corridor enhancement revised plans have been sent to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Andy Hodgdon and the Town Manager have been working with Pat Wallace of Twin Pines Housing on improving Farrell Farm Road to a town highway state. Bob Merchant from MARCON Corporation, in conjunction with TRORC, has completed and presented to the Town a Transportation Capital Program for Norwich. Upon the retirement of Jack Fraser, effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, Neil Fulton will be appointed Fire Chief. There will be a recognition luncheon for Jack Fraser on January 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 am until 2 pm at Tracy Hall.
4. Piro Conservation Easement/Vermont Land Trust (Action Item). After a brief discussion, Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) that the Board approve the designation of the two "building envelopes" and addition of the "rural enterprises clauses" as an amendment to the conservation easement regarding the Piro property. **Motion passed.**
5. Second FY08 Budget Work Session – Finish Police Department – Fire/FAST Department In Depth (Discussion). May suggested that the Board may need to have a special meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to finish budget discussions prior to the first public hearing on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

After discussion of discontinuing the position of Sergeant; some line items in the budget; separate articles in the Town Warning for general funds, highway, fire and police; Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to use \$471,045 for the Police Department budget for FY08. **Motion failed 2 to 2** (yes – May, Chapdelaine; no – Candon, Childs). There was further debate regarding reduction of the police force versus reducing budget dollar amount and the use of separate articles. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Candon) to cut the Police Department budget by \$50,000 and reduce the police force by one person with a separate article asking voters to put the \$50,000 back in the budget if they want to keep the force as is. **Motion failed 2 to 2** (yes – Candon, Childs; no – May, Chapdelaine). Due to the failure of the Selectboard to arrive at a consensus, the Police Department budget discussions will continue at the Board's December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Soares stated that the current Fire/Fast Department budget has funds for a half-time salaried Fire Chief and a part-time (4 hours a week) Administrative Assistant. Fulton stated that he and Fraser put in approximately 40 hours a week to the Fire Department, not counting fire response, and listed other items that in his opinion suggest a part-time chief is not tenable. After considerable discussion regarding full-time versus part-time, at Roberta Robinson's suggestion, the Selectboard agreed to use \$215,000 for the Fire Department FY08 budget, which includes funding for a full-time Fire Chief.

The Selectboard reviewed and approved by consensus BCA/BOA (11.66% decrease), Statutory Meetings (4.06% increase), Town Clerk (5.04% decrease, partially due to GUVSWMD coupons & stickers being moved to Solid Waste), Audit/Finance Committee (level funded), Finance Department (3.37% increase; professional services reduced to \$500), General Administration (4.17% increase) and Lister Department (3.14% increase; office equipment reduced to \$1,000) budgets.

Planning and Recreation Department budgets will be discussed in depth at the Board's December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

6. Correspondence

- a) Thank You Note from Norwich Housing Corporation Re: Bus Shelter
- b) Letter from State of Vermont, Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs Re: Village Center Designation for Norwich
- c) Materials from VLCT Re: Leader Program Reward
- d) Copy of Letter from Scott McGee to Town of Hanover Re: Parking Violations

By consensus, the Selectboard received all correspondence.

16. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/21/06 meeting. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to approve. **Motion passed.**

Candon **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chapdelaine) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 10, 2007.

By Nancy Kramer  
Administrative Assistant

Alison May  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – December 20, 2006 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Public Hearings FY08 Budget

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.