

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 20, 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 13 people in the audience.

Also participating: Brooke Adler, Phil Dechert, Dorann Farrell, Neil Fulton, Mary Ann Hankel, Andy Hodgdon, Jill Kearney, Cheryl Lindberg, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Henry Scheier, Folger Tuggle

May opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with additions.
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Henry Scheier alerted the public that plans are continuing for "Get Off Our Duffs Day" scheduled for March 3rd from 10 am to 3:30 pm, lunch included.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Deferred.
4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the General Fund Check Warrant Report #07-34 in the amount of \$86,719.68 for the period from 12/7/2006 to 12/20/2006. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the Tracy Hall Fund Check Warrant Report #07-35 in the amount of \$7,000.00 for the period from 12/20/2006 to 12/20/2006. **Motion passed.**

- a) Request to Expend Funds from Police Special Equipment Designated Fund (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the payment of \$925.00 to Work Safe from the Police Special Equipment Designated Fund for 4 Pedestrian Crossing Signs. **Motion passed.**

The new Police Special Equipment Designated Fund balance will be \$341.76.

5. Farrell Farm Road Acceptance as Public Highway (Discussion/Action). Soares explained that Twin Pines Housing Trust, Starlake Homeowners Association and the remaining land owners and users of Farrell Farm Road have been working with Andy Hodgdon on plans to upgrade Farrell Farm Road to the point where the Selectboard will accept it as a Town highway. The criteria for accepting roads, including the necessary density index and surveys, were discussed. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to set January 10, 2007 at 6:45 pm as the first public hearing to discuss the acceptance of Farrell Farm Road and Starlake Lane as Town highways. **Motion passed.**

6. Lee Michaelides Letter Re: Truck Traffic/Related Matters (Discussion). After a brief discussion of the federal weight restrictions versus the Vermont state law, the Board asked the Town Manager to send letters to our State Representatives on behalf of the Selectboard urging discussion of lowering the State weight limit and/or raising the federal weight restrictions so that truckers could use Interstate 91 instead of Route 5.

7. Third FY08 Budget Work Session – Continue Police Department/Review Planning and Recreation Departments and Possibly Other Budgets (Discussion). Chief Robinson presented the Selectboard with a proposed plan that would reduce the total Police Department budget for FY08 by approximately \$49,000. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd May) to accept the proposed budget for the Police Department for FY08. **Motion failed 2 to 2** (yes – May, Chapdelaine; no – Candon, Childs). After considerable further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to accept the reduced Police Department budget with an advisory article on the warrant asking citizens their preference on a four or five person Police force.

After discussion regarding matching funds for Town Plan grants and possible implementation of MAPA costs, the Selectboard agreed by consensus to accept a 1.56% increase for the Planning budget and a 2.08% increase for the Development Review Board budget.

Kearney stated that she had worked hard to keep the budget down and had reduced her budget from FY07 by 7.55%. Items discussed were: recreation revenues versus expenses, the possibility of a drop in revenues for Circus Camp of \$25-30,000, Marion Cross School rental fees and recreation fees.

The Selectboard reviewed and approved by consensus Tracy Hall (8.88% increase, partially due to reallocation of custodial costs from 75% to 90%) and Tree Warden (level funded) budgets.

There was further discussion of how to deal with grant revenues and expenses in the budgeting process, after which the Board decided they would rely upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

8. Correspondence

- a) Letter from Geoffrey Vitt Re: December 6th Selectboard Meeting and Town Manager's response.
- b) Copy of Letter and Motion from Murphy Sullivan Kronk Re: Verizon Wireless and Gardner Lewis Trust

By consensus, the Selectboard received all correspondence.

9. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 12/6/06 meeting. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve. **Motion passed.**
- b) Resolution Re: Jack Fraser. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the resolution. **Motion passed.**
- c) Motion to Amend 2005-2006 Expenditure Budgets. Childs **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to amend the 2005-2006 expenditure budgets to reflect unanticipated grants received: for the Fire Department, the original budget was \$179,460 the unanticipated grant was \$10,950 which resulted in an amended budget of \$190,410; for the Police Department, the original budget was \$506,346 the unanticipated grant was \$5,919, amending the budget to \$512,265; for the Highway Department, the original budget was \$1,110,652 the unanticipated grants amounted to \$145,250 amending the budget to \$1,255,902. **Motion passed.**
- d) Litigation (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 litigation and to invite Steve Soares to join the Session. **Motion passed.**

At 10:05 pm the Selectboard moved back into public session. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) to hire Frank Olmstead to file a Notice of Appearance in Windsor Superior Court and file a responsive pleading to the petitioner's motion in Re: Vermont Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Gardner L. Lewis Trust v. Town of Norwich; Docket No. 580-10-06 Wrcv, Docket No. 581-10-06 Wrcv. **Motion passed.**

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

Approved by the Selectboard on January 10, 2007.

By Nancy Kramer
Administrative Assistant

Alison May
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 3, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 10, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Zoning Regulations Review
- 2) Public Hearings FY08 Budget
- 3) Municipal Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) Report

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