

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Ed Childs, Chair; Alison May; Jack Candon; Gerard Chapdelaine; Suzanne Lupien; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 16 people in the audience.

Also participating: Terry Boone, Al Converse, Scooter Hardy, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Karen Kayen, Cheryl Lindberg, Lynn McGrew, Sarah Nunan, Sharon Racusin, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Henry Scheier.

Childs opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

1. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Report #08-15 for the period from 1/3/2008 to 1/16/2008 in the amount of \$614,658.14; of which \$609,052.39 is General Fund, \$5,405.00 is Highway Garage Designated Fund and \$200.75 is Corridor Grant Fund. **Motion passed.**
2. Review Draft 2008 Town Meeting Warning (Excluding School Articles) (Discussion). Article 5 – language was checked – it has been reviewed and approved by Paul Giuliani. Article 6 – language was revised. Article 7 – May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) that the cost of providing a vehicle exhaust system for the Highway Garage be taken out of the Highway Garage Designated Fund. **Motion passed.** May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) that \$72,266 be added to the Fire Department budget for the purpose of purchasing an exhaust system for the Fire Department building. **Motion failed 1 to 4** (yes - May; no – Candon, Childs, Lupien and Chapdelaine). There was a lot of discussion prior to the vote regarding the importance of the Board's position being known, one-time capital expenditure items not being rolled into operating budgets and that, unlike the Highway Department, there are no designated funds available to use. After further discussion, May **moved** (2nd Candon) that the Selectboard go on the record as supporting the purchase and installation of a vehicle exhaust system for the Fire Department. **Motion passed.** Article 7 will be amended to reflect only the Fire Station system at \$72,266. Article 8 – some language changes discussed – final wording of article is still being worked on. Article 29 – add in “property tax adjustments from the State of Vermont will be applied in order”.
3. Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Norwich and A.F.S.C.M.E. Council 93, Local 3797, AFL-CIO Chapter 6 (Discussion/Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the Agreement Between the Town of Norwich and A.F.S.C.M.E. Council 93, Local 3797, AFL-CIO Chapter 6 representing the Norwich Department of Public Works for the period from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009, contingent on ratification by the Union and that said contract be kept confidential until approved. **Motion passed.** The document for Selectboard signature will be available at the next meeting.
4. Second Public Hearing FY09 Budget (Discussion). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to open the Public Hearing. The budget is now at a 2.5% increase (excluding appropriations). Soares stated that the Communication Study is now at \$15,000, Cruiser Fund is at \$25,000 and the Sidewalk Fund has been reduced to \$14,000. The Communication Study was once again discussed. It was agreed that a better title would be “Communication Design”. The Town Manager will continue to look at other ways to do, including at least some volunteer work. Lupien has spoken with the towns of Thetford, Strafford and Mt. Holly. Reducing the Sidewalk Fund was also discussed. It was pointed out that this reduction does not effect operations or personnel and that the Town may be able to get more funds from SR2S. Hardy suggested elimination of the Buildings & Ground position. There was some discussion of this and it was tabled until the next meeting due to Hodgdon not being present.

The Lister Department budget was further discussed. After review, the budget was left as revised at \$121,152.00 or a decrease of .37% from FY08.

5. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 1/2/08 meeting (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

Candon **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 13, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 22, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 23, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 25, 2008 at 4:00 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Public Budget Session

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