

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 6:00 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 17 people in the audience.

Also participating: Betty Barba, Judy Butler, Phil Dechert, Scooter Hardy, Nancy Hoggson, Curtis Johnson, Dennis Kaufman, Lynn McGrew, Chief Robinson, Henry Scheier, Demo Sofronas, Warren Thayer, Chuck Wise.

Childs opened the meeting at 6:07 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Corridor Project (Discussion/Action Item). Wise and Johnson led an informal discussion of the status of the Corridor Project from 5 pm to 6 pm. Wise spoke further on the Corridor Project stating that in his opinion the Town cannot afford to go forward with what ORW has designed, the Town is not going to get additional funding for the Project and the Town will probably have to pay back the funds already spent on the Project if it does not go forward with the Project. Johnson stated that the State is going to do 7½ miles of resurfacing between Hartford and Norwich in 2009. VTrans will charge pertinent items to the Town Grant if the Town decides to combine the projects and that any changes need to be made soon as the paving project is going out to bid soon. There was some discussion of bump-out placements and what they are for. Also, Johnson said maintenance of bump-outs (or bulb-outs) would be the Town's responsibility. It was decided that Wise, the Town Manager, Goodrich and Childs will further look into bump-outs. Lupien spoke about wishing that townspeople had more of a chance to weigh in on the decision. Childs said that it is important to move the Project forward.

After some further discussion, Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd May) to integrate the Norwich Enhancement Project STPEH98(21) with two VTrans paving projects, Hartford – Norwich STP2206(1)S and Norwich STP2602(1) S, thereby reducing the scope of work on the Norwich Enhancement Project STPEH98(21) in order to combine the aforementioned Projects and go to construction in 2009. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes – Childs, May, Candon and Chapdelaine; no – Lupien).

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Since this was the last regular Selectboard meeting of Candon's tenure, the Board acknowledged all the work he has done for the Town and presented him with a card. Lupien also brought some special treats for Candon and thanked him personally. Kaufman, Hardy and Sofronas also thanked him for his years of service and his free legal advice.

Kaufman reminded townspeople that the HS-122, 2008 (Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim) needs to be filed annually and is due April 15th. You may file online at www.vermont.gov where there is a link to click on at the bottom right of the home page.

Scheier spoke about "Town Eating Day". It is scheduled for Saturday, March 1st from 9:30 am until 3 pm (including scones and a free lunch) at the Marion Cross School gymnasium. Attendance is encouraged.

Thayer invited the Selectboard and the Town Manager to the Fire Department's annual dinner, Saturday March 15th at King Arthur Flour.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The date for the Selectboard Institute has been changed to April 26th. Soares thanked Phil Dechert for getting the installation of the new server for the Town offices underway. A candidate for Fire Chief has been selected. He should be on board sometime in mid-April.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Report #08-18 for the period from 2/14/2008 to 2/27/2008 in the amount of \$2,999,371.35; of which \$2,997,875.60 is General Fund and \$1,495.75 is Corridor Grant Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. Appeal Homestead and Non-Residential Grand List Values (Discussion/Action). Kaufman explained that he is asking the Selectboard to appeal due to a potential \$2,000,000 reduction in the Grand List. After a short discussion, May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) that because all three appeals to the Director from the 2005 decisions of the Norwich Board of Civil Authority affecting the Norwich 2007 Grand List were determined after December 31, 2007, because five of the six appeals to the Director from decisions made in 2007 of the Norwich Board of Civil Authority were decided after December 31, 2007 and because six appeals to the Windsor Superior Court from decisions made in 2007 of the Norwich Board of Civil Authority were decided after December 31, 2007; that the Town of Norwich appeal the Final Reconciliation of the April 1, 2007 Grand List to the Director of Property Valuation and Review and that the Chair is authorized to sign the letter of appeal. **Motion passed.**

7. Hartford/Norwich Dispatch Services Contract (Discussion/Action Item). The Town is still investigating options, should have a decision for the March 12th Selectboard meeting.

8. Reappoint Nancy LaRowe as Town Forest Fire Warden (Discussion/Action). Candon **moved** (2nd May) to appoint Nancy LaRowe as the Town Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Norwich for a term to commence on July 1, 2008 and terminate on June 30, 2013. **Motion passed.**

9. Revised Draft Zoning Regulations (Continuing Discussion). Dechert said that the February 21, 2008 draft contains the changes requested by the Board. This draft is available online at www.norwich.vt.us and at the Town Clerk's Office. The Selectboard will hold a Zoning Regulations Workshop on March 12th at 5:00 pm for public comments and questions.

10. Correspondence (Please go to www.norwich.vt.us, click on Town Offices bullet in left panel, scroll down to Norwich Selectboard section and click on Recent Selectboard Correspondence to view resident correspondence):

a) Nonresident –

1) TRORC 1/23/08 Minutes (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive correspondence 10 a. **Motion passed.**

11. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 2/13/08 Meeting (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd May) to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2008 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

Candon **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 12, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – March 5, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – March 12, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Farrell Farm Road Acceptance as Town Highway
- 2) Debt Management Policy
- 3) Financial Policies Review

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