

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 40 people in the audience.

Also participating: April Andrews, Terry Boone, Judy Butler, Deborah Carter, Margaret Cheney, Phil Dechert, Peter French, Jeff Goodrich, Tom Gray, Mary Ann Hankel, Nancy Hoggson, Thomas Hoyt, Dennis Kaufman, Karen Kayen, Cheryl Lindberg, Paul Manganiello, Don McCabe, Lynn McGrew, Bob Pitiger, Roberta Robinson, Barry Rotman, Phil Phillips, Robert Sabatelle, Ann Marie Smith, Demo Sofronas, Irv Thomaes, Elaine Waterman.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 6:28 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with some changes.

2. Public Comments (Discussion). Chapdelaine read Soares' resignation letter giving notice that he will not seek a successor employment agreement as the Norwich Town Manager upon the expiration of his contract which is scheduled to end September 30, 2008. May **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Board accept his resignation with deep regrets, wish him success and thank him for his services to the Town. **Motion passed.**

Kaufman said that one of the Listers may be resigning in the near future. After a brief discussion, May **moved** (2nd Childs) to authorize the Town Manager to advertise the position in the event the resignation happens. **Motion passed.** Kaufman also asked for volunteers to look over the homestead declaration list once the Listers have it from the State. Change of appraisal letters will be going out June 4th. Grievances will be held from June 19th through June 25th.

Hoggson asked salary, process and choice of consulting firm questions regarding the Fire Chief search.

Phillips asked the Town to look into contracting fire services from the Town of Hanover.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Kendall Station Road – Soares has again contacted Larry Donna regarding Kendall Station Road. Donna informed him that Mr. Bergeron of Kendall Station Road has asked for a meeting with our Director of Public Works. Hodgdon met with Mr. Bergeron on Friday May 9th. Mr. Bergeron has since agreed to sign off on the agreement. Donna has been advised. Soares is cautiously optimistic that Donna will proceed to move ahead with the project. Thomaes asked the Board to consider using eminent domain if this project does not move forward shortly due to the hardship to some residents on Kendall Station Road.

The Farrell Farm/Starlake Road public highway deeds have been completed and recorded with the Town Clerk. This process has taken more than a year with legal costs of \$2,100 due to the number of property owners.

Soares has begun annual employee evaluations and will complete the process prior to June.

The Car Store has donated a 1999 Ford Expedition to the Town. The vehicle will be painted and graphics applied – auxiliary equipment (lights, sirens, phone and radio) will be purchased and this will become the Norwich Fire Chief’s vehicle. Our Department of Public Works has inspected the vehicle inside and out with a very positive report. We will have this vehicle on line (fully equipped) for less than the money the Town has budgeted. The Town Manager was asked to send a letter of thanks to The Car Store.

“Touch-A-Truck” Day is May 31st 10 am – noon. Families, children, grandparents are welcome. Some refreshments will be served compliment of Alléchante and McDonalds.

4. Bandstand ADA Compliance Update (Discussion/Action Item). French said that he had tweaked the Reconstruction Option to make it ADA compliant and that Landon Wheeler has signed off on the revised plans. French also stated that he has not done final construction plans yet. He believes the ceiling could be preserved and retained in the Reconstruction Option.

McCabe thanked French, Soares and Lupien for all their efforts on the Committee. He then read a prepared statement saying the Committee has done what the Selectboard asked of them and asked the Board to vote on a design tonight.

There followed a discussion of the Bandstand Committee’s role going forward. Nunan and Lupien felt the Committee should be disbanded and the Selectboard should take the process forward. Childs said he feels the Board should continue to utilize the expertise of Committee members if they are willing.

At this time, Nunan gave a brief synopsis of Selectboard correspondence pertinent to the bandstand.

Once again, several townspeople got up to speak about the bandstand. Items discussed were electrical problems with the bandstand, reconstruction, space needs for Marion Cross School use, inclusiveness and accessibility.

Childs **moved** (2nd May) that the Selectboard support the Reconstruction Option. **Motion failed 3 to 2** (yes – Childs and May; no – Chapdelaine, Lupien, Nunan). The Board then discussed next moves. Nunan and Lupien support a Town vote. Chapdelaine suggested an informal ballot survey using the checklist and the BCA. Several people spoke on the subject. Comments made ranged from the “Board is wimping out” to the importance of getting public opinion.

After further discussion, May **moved** (2nd Nunan) that the Chairman be authorized to put in motion negotiations with the Town Clerk for a straw poll. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Chapdelaine, Nunan, Lupien; no – Childs and May). Chapdelaine will bring a process to the May 21st special Selectboard meeting.

5. Appointment with State Representative Margaret Cheney Re: Tax Reimbursement Resolution (Discussion/Action Item). Cheney told the Board that it has come to the attention of the legislature that property values used to determine the tax loss on certain flood-control properties in Norwich and other Vermont towns had been “frozen” in 1982. Representatives Rick Hube and Cheney initiated Resolution H.R. 36 to have the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission review this matter. Cheney will report back to the Selectboard when she

has further information on the matter. Kaufman commented that it will take a title search to determine what parcels in Norwich this might pertain to.

6. Cooperative Agreement Re: NORWICH STP SRIN(14) Project (Discussion/Action Item). The Town Manager explained that this Project is the Church Street sidewalk project. No matching funds are required.

7. Receipt of Black River Report (Discussion). Moved to March 21st Selectboard meeting.

8. Kendall Station Road (Discussion). Done under Town Manager's report.

9. Norwich Banking Services (Discussion/Action Item). Banking proposals received were from the Ledyard Bank, Mascoma Savings Bank and Citizens Bank. Robinson prepared a chart for the Board comparing the banking proposals. She also stated that Mascoma Savings Bank has served the Town well. Hoyt spoke on behalf of Mascoma Savings Bank stating that Mascoma gives immediate balance credit on all domestic checks and that they do not charge for returned checks. Lindberg was asked and responded with her thoughts also.

After a brief discussion on yield and services, Childs asked to postpone the decision until the Board's May 28th meeting. Childs wants more information before making a decision.

10. Revised Draft Zoning Regulations (Discussion/Action Item). Dechert went over the latest changes with the Selectboard stating that the Planning Commission had voted unanimously to endorse the changes. Dechert said the next step is to warn a public hearing and the new Zoning Regulations would take effect for up to 150 days. After a brief discussion, pursuant to V.S.A. 24 Section 4442, Childs **moved** (2nd May) that the Selectboard hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 6:00 pm to hear comments on the proposed zoning regulations dated May 7, 2008. Public notice for this hearing shall be published on May 21, 2008. **Motion passed.** Lupien abstained from voting. The Board also decided to set a second public hearing for September 24th.

McGrew and Goodrich both spoke on delaying the new Zoning Regulations for pending items and smart growth features.

11. Debt Management Policy (Discussion/Action Item). Robinson said that the original bonded debt limit per capita ratio of \$700 is one of the ratios used by the State of Vermont. Robinson urged the Board to establish a threshold using the "original" ratios as suggested in the first draft of the Debt Management Policy to be reviewed on an annual basis. After a brief discussion, May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to readopt the Policy using the original ratios. **Motion passed.**

12. 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) Resident –

- 1) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: 4/9 Selectboard Meeting (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive an email from Kelly Griggs re: 4/9 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- 2) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: Bandstand (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive an email from Kelly Griggs re: bandstand. **Motion passed.**

- 3) Email from Sarah Reeves Re: Bandstand Restoration (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive an email from Sarah Reeves re: bandstand restoration. **Motion passed.**
- 4) Email from Fran Nye Re: Bandstand (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive an email from Fran Nye re: bandstand. **Motion passed.**
- 5) Letter from Nancy Osgood Re: Bandstand Preservation (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive a letter from Nancy Osgood re: bandstand preservation. **Motion passed.**
- 6) Email from Ralph Hybels Re: Bandstand (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive an email from Ralph Hybels re: bandstand. **Motion passed.**

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 4/9/08, 4/23/08 and 4/30/08 Meetings (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2008, April 23, 2008 and the April 30, 2008 Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:28 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on May 28, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – May 21, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – May 28, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Process for Polling Townspeople on Bandstand Choice (5/21/08)
- 2) Process for Hiring a New Town Manager (5/21/08))
- 3) Norwich Banking Services (5/28/08)
- 4) Tracy Hall Rental Policy Review (5/28/08)
- 5) Personnel Policies Updates (5/28/08)
- 6) Revisit the Policy for Treatment of Special Articles on the Town Meeting Warning (6/11/08)
- 7) Zoning Regulations Hearings (7/9/08 & 9/24/08)
- 8) Ancient Roads (9/10/08)
- 9) Class 1 Road Designation (9/24/08)

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE DVD. DVDs ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER AIRING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.