

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Members present: Gerard Chapdelaine, Chair; Alison May; Ed Childs (arrived at 9:20 pm); Suzanne Lupien; Sarah Nunan; Neil Fulton, Interim Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 40 people in the audience.

Also participating: Brooke Adler, Onita Connington, Nancy Dean, Phil Dechert, David Goodrich, Dianne Griggs, Kelly Griggs, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Ralph Hybels, Dennis Kaufman, Craig Layne, Don McCabe, Lynn McGrew, Norm Miller, Judy Powell, Sharon Racusin, Chuck Rataj, Miriam Richards, Stuart Richards, Chief Robinson, Demo Sofronas, Richard Stucker, Warren Thayer, Karen Ward.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. 6:00 pm - Second Public Hearing Zoning Regulations (Discussion/Action Item). Lupien **moved** (2nd Nunan) to open the Public Hearing for additional comments on the May 21, 2008 Draft of the Norwich Zoning Regulations. **Motion passed.**

Nunan **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive and make part of the Hearing record the following documents relative to the public hearing: Lynn McGrew 7/22/08, Rev. David Goodrich re: Norwich Zoning 9/16/08, Stuart Richards re: Zoning Regulations 9/16/08, Phil Dechert memo re: changes and adoption 9/16/08, Ed Childs re: response to Lynn McGrew's 7/22/08 letter 9/17/08 and Planning Commission comments on Stuart Richards' 9/16/08 letter 9/22/08. **Motion passed.**

Dechert reviewed the history behind the May 21st draft Zoning Regulations.

Rev. Goodrich spoke about the Full Gospel Voice Church property, its prior use history as nonresidential use and the restrictions of the current Zoning Regulations that do not allow this use. Dechert explained that a variance does not apply in this case due to the property's location in the Primary Aquifer Protection Zone. After considerable discussion, the Selectboard by consensus asked Dechert to have the Planning Commission review Candon's option #2 "to designate this portion of Route 5 North for limited commercial use".

Stucker read and went over the Planning Commission's response to Stuart Richards' letter.

There was once again discussion regarding wording changes from the August 23, 2007 version of the Zoning Regulations, specifically shalls being changed to shoulds. Also discussed were wildlife corridors and Inclusionary Zoning. Richards also went over certain parts of the survey responses stressing the importance of the number of people who responded.

After some further discussion, the Board by consensus asked that a motion to set a public hearing date for the revised Zoning Regulations and an amendment to that motion that includes changing shoulds to shalls and adding sections from the August 23rd version be prepared for the October 7th Selectboard meeting.

May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to close the Public Hearing. **Motion passed.**

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Hoggson said she likes the new Board sign stating date and time of meeting. Chief Robinson introduced his Administrative Assistant Judy Powell and Officer Chuck Rataj.

7. Errors & Omissions (Discussion/Action Item). Kaufman went over all three changes. Kaufman believes the Division of Property Valuation and Review may be willing to reconsider their value on parcel 11-107.000.

May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to accept the Listers' Errors and Omissions and increase the taxable assessment of Parcel 20-191.000 to \$1,072,122 which will result in an education fund increase of \$576.43 which will be offset by an increase in revenues of \$787.00. **Motion passed.**

Lupien **moved** (2nd May) to accept the Listers' Errors and Omissions for Parcel 11-107.000 and change the present assessment to \$332,400 from \$306,900. **Motion passed.**

May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to accept the Listers' Errors and Omissions for Parcel 03-036.000 and return the taxable assessed value to the full 2008 assessment of \$159,600, resulting in an increase of \$126.98 in Town revenues. **Motion passed.**

9. Bandstand – Update/Discussion. Fulton discussed costs for getting estimates from Trumbull Nelson, required set backs and that the DRB can do a waiver for handicapped access. After further research, it would appear that about 2/3 of the bandstand is on school property. Fulton has met with Dr. Kelley and Jonathan Brush and their priorities are protecting the playing area and that the access to the green remain the same due to the location of the leach fields. Fulton mentioned that a formal agreement with the school should be done at some point. Fulton also went over each of the new concepts.

McCabe once again gave a brief history of the Bandstand Committee.

Hoggson thanked Fulton for his help in “coalescing” the Committee. She supports the Egbert option XA, but is willing to work with XB.

Ward spoke about there being three options from her point of view and that she is against spending money on estimates.

Other factors discussed were: perpetual care, confusing terminology, opinions of donors and making it work with the funds already raised.

Fulton working with the Bandstand Committee was asked to bring a report to the next Board meeting summarizing and evaluating options.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Fulton discussed his School Debt Tax Rate memo to the Selectboard talking about actions being taken to reduce the impact of the Dartmouth contribution ending. Fulton showed the Board pictures of the new tennis court resurfacing on court one and how different it is now from the other courts. He also had pictures showing the pool dam deterioration. Fuel prices have been locked at the bottom of the market thanks in large part to the efforts of Roberta Robinson. Estimates are that the Town is under-budgeted for FY09 by approximately \$32,000.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of a couple of items on the warrant, May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve Check Warrant Report t #09-07 for the period from 9/11/2008 to 9/24/2008 in the amount of \$2,167,547.54; which is all General Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. Request to Spend Highway Equipment Designated Funds to Purchase a John Deere Tractor (Discussion/Action Item). Fulton provided the Selectboard with background information, including that this purchase was part of the Public Works Department FY09 budget and that he supports the purchase. Hodgdon answered Board questions. Nunan **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the payment of Purchase Order #7140994 in the amount of \$104,945 from the Highway Equipment Designated Fund for the purchase of a John Deere tractor and Tiger boom mower and mid-mount rotary mower mounted on our 1999 John Deere tractor from Tenco New England. **Motion passed.**

8. Charge for Norwich Ancient Roads Advisory Committee (Discussion). After a brief discussion regarding composition of the Committee and that research be done about what surrounding towns are doing, the Board asked that this Town Manager Committee go forward.

10. Request to Spend Bandstand Designated Funds for Design Fees and Prints (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, May **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve payment of \$515.00 to Charles D. Egbert from the Bandstand Designated Fund for design fees and prints. **Motion passed.** A grant of \$250 from the Preservation Trust has been received to offset this cost.

11. Ordinance to Eliminate Ledyard Bank Parking Space (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, May **moved** (2nd Lupien) for the Selectboard to adopt an ordinance to amend the Town of Norwich Parking Ordinance to prohibit parking on Main Street in front of the Ledyard Bank. **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) Nonresident –

1) Memo from TRORC Re: Clean Energy Development Fund Municipal Grants and Button-Up Vermont (Discussion Item)

2) TRORC 6/25/08 Meeting Minutes

May **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive a memo from TRORC re: Clean Energy Development Fund municipal grants and Button-Up Vermont and TRORC 6/25/08 meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

b) Resident –

- 1) Email from Carl Tracy Re: Advanced Transit Bus Stop at American Legion (Discussion Item). May **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive an email from Carl Tracy re: Advanced Transit bus stop at American Legion. **Motion passed.**

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 9/10/08 Meeting (Action Item). Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Selectboard Calendar Changes Budget Review Schedule (Discussion/Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the calendar.
- c) Set Date for Volunteer Supper (Discussion/Action Item). The date is set for October 24, 2008 at 6:00 pm.
- d) Town Manager Employment Agreement (Discussion/Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Town Manager Employment Agreement with Peter Webster effective September 25, 2008. **Motion passed.** It is expected that Mr. Webster will start on November 3rd.

May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on October 7, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – October 7, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Strategic Planning Committee Organization
- 2) Zoning Regulations Hearing (9/24/08)
- 3) Class 1 Road Designation
- 4) Communications Study
- 5) Department of Public Works Site Planning
- 6) Transportation Capital Program
- 7) Community Communications Outreach
- 8) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy

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