

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 5:00 PM

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

There were 24 people in the audience.

Also participating: Betty Barba, Al Converse, Mike Cryans, Martha Drake, Dianne Griggs, Kelly Griggs, Elaine Guenet, Nancy Hoggson, Karen Kayen, Dennis Kaufman, Don McCabe, Lynne McGrew, Norm Miller, Harry Roberts, Roberta Robinson, Arline Rotman, Karen Ward.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 5:07 pm.

1. 5:00 pm - Litigation (Executive Session May be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), May **moved** (2nd Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation where premature public disclosure would negatively affect the Town and to invite Pete Webster, Charles Merriman, Listers and Assessor to join the Session. **Motion passed**. The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 5:08 pm.

At 6:33 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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

3. Public Comments (Discussion). Converse said the Finance Committee will review the appropriateness of their original 3% increase in the Town's budget recommendation at their meeting December 16th. Converse also spoke about the Marion Cross School and Dresden budgets. Childs reminded people that the Norwich Lions Club memory tree has been set up in front of Cheryl Herrmann's office.

4. Outside Agencies - Representatives from The Family Place, Headrest and Senior Action Council attended the meeting, explained what they do and in particular what they do for Norwich residents and answered questions. After a brief discussion, Nunan **moved** (2nd May) that the appropriation request from Headrest and the Senior Action Council be accepted. **Motion passed**. The Family Place is required to do a petition as they have requested an increase in funding from last year.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster has scheduled a staff meeting for Thursday to, among other things, discuss healthcare changes. He is fascinated by the dynamics of the Town and delighted to be here.

In response to a question from May relative to the status of the Bandstand, Webster said the Town of Strafford has no interest in the current bandstand. He is hoping to remove the roof soon and move it to behind the Marion Cross School with protection in preparation for the construction of the new bandstand. Construction of the new bandstand has not been put out to bid yet.

Lupien asked that demolition plans be reconsidered. Other items discussed were estimated costs for the new bandstand, moving forward, clearing the site, a memorandum of understanding with Marion Cross School and that the Historical Society does not have the funds or space nor a desire to take over the old bandstand.

After considerable further discussion, May **moved** (2nd Nunan) that the Board put a moratorium on withdrawing funds from the Bandstand Fund effective January 1, 2009 with appropriate advertising. **Motion passed.**

6. Listers Department Budget (Continued Discussion/Possible Action Item). The latest budget presented by the Listers shows a 3.02% increase. Items discussed were: tax mapping, grand list, designated fund – reappraisal, Lister wage cut of \$1,400 and neighborhood reappraisals.

Also discussed were level funding of the budget and using less than the full COLA for employee wage increases.

7. Ordinance to Change Winter No Parking Hours (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, Childs **moved** (2nd Nunan) for the Selectboard to adopt an ordinance to amend the Town of Norwich Parking Ordinance to change the winter no parking hours to between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am. **Motion passed.**

8. Budget Work Session (Discussion/Possible Action Item). The Cemetery Commission will be asked to further explain their budget at the December 17th Board meeting.

Webster spoke about asking employees to contribute 10% towards their health insurance, tapping the Undesignated Fund and high deductible health savings plans. The Town Manager is proposing keeping union and nonunion employees on parity. The Selectboard asked for statistics on what neighboring towns are doing, but supported Webster pursuing employee contributions and/or changing health plans.

Department Heads were asked to take another look at their budgets and see what they can cut.

9. 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) GUVSWD 10/2/08 Minutes, Letter from Windsor County Partners Re: Town Allocation, TRORC 10/22/08 Minutes, Warning for Windsor County Preliminary Budget Hearing. May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to receive GUVSWD 10/2/08 minutes, a letter from Windsor County Partners re: Town allocation, TRORC 10/22/08 minutes, and a warning for Windsor County preliminary budget hearing. **Motion passed.**

10. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/12/08, 11/19/08, 11/24/08 and 11/25/08 Meetings (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 (as revised), November 19, 2008, November 24, 2008 and November 25, 2008 Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**
- b) Community Communications Outreach (Discussion/Action Item). Will be further taken up in January, 2009.

Webster was asked by the Board to look into the advisability of a Town vote to eliminate elected auditors as neither Kayen nor Crawford are going to run.

May **moved** (2nd Nunan) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 14, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – December 17, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 14, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Community Communications Outreach (1/09)
- 2) Strategic Planning Committee Organization (3/09)
- 3) Class 1 Road Designation (2010)
- 4) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy (1/09)
- 5) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code (3/09)

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