

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 23 people in the audience.

Also participating: Betty Barba, Alan Berolzheimer, Linda Gray, Kelly Griggs, Jamie Hess, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Cheryl Lindberg, Don McCabe, Phil Phillips, Demo Sofronas.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Kaufman again reminded people that the HS-122 (Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim) needs to be filed annually and is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. You may file online at [www.vermont.gov](http://www.vermont.gov) where there is a link to click on at the bottom of the page. The form should be mailed to: Vermont Department of Taxes, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401.

Phillips spoke about the Selectboard micromanaging the budget. He believes it affects Town services and how townspeople get along with the Town Manager and Department Heads.

Childs thanked Chapdelaine and May for their service to the Board.

Griggs questioned the Board's receipt of correspondence procedure, which will be on the agenda at next week's organizational meeting.

Lindberg let people know that the Norwich, Vermont 2009 Telephone Directory prepared by The Norwich Women's Club will be available March 2<sup>nd</sup> and that it is still priced at \$5.00.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster has locked in #2 heating oil prices for next year for the Town at \$1.85 a gallon. As a result of an application submitted by Dechert, the Town of Norwich has received a \$12,800 Municipal Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Planning Commission to complete the new Town Plan. Union negotiations are at the halfway point. Tax delinquencies are running slightly higher than last year, but still relatively small. The highway crew has had forty call outs so far this season.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of one item, May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to approve Check Warrant Report #09-18 for the period from 2/12/2009 to 2/25/2009 in the amount of \$3,066,733.35; of which \$3,066,211.55 is General Fund, \$425.80 is Police Station Fund and \$96.00 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

5. Energy Committee Re: Technical Assistance Grant (Discussion/Action Item). Berolzheimer said the Energy Committee has the concept of promoting a community renewable energy project that would be grid tied. This grant would be a municipal technical assistance grant from the Clean Energy Development Fund for a maximum of \$5,000. A 10% match by the Town is required. The Committee intends to submit via the Town Manager an application by March 5<sup>th</sup> and would like the Selectboard's support. After some discussion, Nunan **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to support the Energy Committee's efforts to apply for the grant. **Motion passed.**

Hess thanked the Board for their support.

6. Town Meeting Discussion. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Town Manager would go over the budget (Article 8) and taxes (Article 32), May would provide some explanation for the auditor/Finance Committee membership (Articles 8 and 9) and Nunan would explain the transfer of funds from the Fire Training Facility and Town Manager Vehicle Designated Funds to the Tracy Hall Designated Fund (Articles 11 and 12).

7. Bandstand (Discussion/Action Item). Hoggson discussed the National Trust for Historic Preservation Trust grant, said she is disappointed in the dismantlement plan and wants other interested towns asked again. Webster is working on preserving the roof. Griggs said he felt the Selectboard should step back and do this process the right way. McCabe spoke about looking forward to cooperation, civility and transparency with the building of the new bandstand.

After further discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> May) to authorize the Town Manager to initiate actions as necessary to remove the existing bandstand from the Green as the site is being prepared for construction of the newly designed structure as previously approved; and to store whatever components of the existing bandstand that are structurally sound for a subsequent future use to be determined. **Motion passed.**

May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to authorize the Town Manager to expend whatever monies are in the Bandstand Designated Fund for the construction of the previously approved bandstand project. **Motion passed.**

Webster discussed the thirteen bids received for building the new bandstand, stating that four were selected for further review. He recommends awarding the bid to a local firm G. R. Porter. Porter has said they could have the bandstand completed by Marion Cross School graduation. By consensus, the Board supports Webster's recommendation.

Webster thanked Dennis Kaufman and Neil Fulton for their assistance in the bid process. He noted that an attractive price has been negotiated with Richard Electric for electric service in the new bandstand.

8. Correspondence (Please go to [www.norwich.vt.us](http://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) Signed Revised Letter from Members of the Former Bandstand Committee Re: Bandstand Decision and Disposition of Old Bandstand. May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to receive a signed revised letter from members of the former Bandstand Committee re: bandstand decision and disposition of old bandstand. **Motion passed.**
  - 2) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: Removal of Existing Bandstand. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to receive an email from Kelly Griggs re: removal of existing bandstand. **Motion passed.**

9. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 2/11/09 Meeting (Action Item). May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

May **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 25, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine  
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – March 4, 2009 at 5:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – March 11, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

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

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