

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Members present: Sarah Nunan, Chair; Ed Childs; Suzanne Lupien; Sharon Racusin; Pete Webster, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager. Absent: Lynn McGrew.

There were about 50 people in the audience.

Also participating: Lisa Adams, Lars Blackmore, Liz Bower, Kristin Brown, Bob Chamberlin, Margaret Cheney, Ernie Ciccotelli, Phil Dechert, Greg DeFrancis, Neil Fulton, Lucy Gibson, Alma Gray, Linda Gray, Kelly Griggs, Jamie Hess, Dennis Kaufman, Jill Kearney, Steve Lajoie, Craig Layne, Cheryl Lindberg, Mathieu Lupien, Don McCabe, Peg Merrens, Keith Moran, Bonnie Munday, Scott Neuman, Frank Olmstead, John Phipps, Ann Sargent, John Stephens, Kris Strohbehm, Ben Sutcliffe-Swanson, Tom Villars, Dan Weintraub, Alice Worth.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. 6:00 pm - Litigation (Executive Session May be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing labor relations and to invite Pete Webster to join the Session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 6:11 pm.

At 6:34 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.

3. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). Hodgdon has answered in writing issues/questions brought up by Hardy at the March 11th Board meeting. Copies are available at the Town Manager's Office for any interested parties. By consensus, the Selectboard asked Webster to have Hodgdon use a smaller posted roads ad next year. There were 126 taxpayers who failed to file their HS-122 on a timely basis. It would cost \$2.70 per resident to send a certified letter. Nunan has sent an email to Griggs asking him to forward copies of the missing correspondence. Lupien asked if a notice regarding due date of HS-122 could be put out on a sandwich board.

4. 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 15th. You may file online at 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.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The Class 1 road bill is being pulled from this year's T-Bill. Union contract negotiations are winding down. Webster's third monthly Thursdays at the Norwich Inn is tomorrow night. The new bandstand should be under construction in the next couple of weeks. Painting of the new bandstand was discussed and the Town Manager was asked to get a cost analysis for completion of all aspects of the bandstand in writing.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After Lindberg explained the difference between the dummy warrant the Selectboard had in their packets and the actual warrant, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve Check Warrant Report #09-20 for the period from 3/12/2009 to 3/25/2009 in the amount of \$87,855.14; of which \$85,580.14 is General Fund and \$2,275 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.** Robinson will be asked to make sure the warrant matches the dummy going forward.

7. Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Action Item). Applicants present: Frank Olmstead, Craig Layne, Mathieu Lupien (for Genevieve Morinville), Don McCabe, Keith Moran, Dan Weintraub, Lisa Adams, Lars Blackmore, Kristin Brown, Scott Neuman and Kris Strohbahn were thanked for all they do and asked a few questions regarding their interest in their respective appointments. Conservation Commission appointments were done by ballot and were unanimous.

Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to appoint Frank Olmstead as the Agent to Prosecute for a one-year term ending in March, 2010; Frank Olmstead, Craig Layne and Genevieve Morinville to the Conservation Commission for four-year terms ending in March, 2013; Keith Moran and Ann Shriver Sargent to the Finance Committee for one-year terms ending in March, 2010; Dan Weintraub to the Finance Committee for a two-year term ending in March, 2011; Brion McMullan and Pete Webster to serve as Representative and Alternate, respectively, to the Board of Supervisors of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District for two-year terms ending in March, 2011; recommend to the state to appoint John Lawe to be Health Officer for a three-year term ending in March, 2012; Lisa Adams/Lars Blackmore, Kris Strohbahn and Kristin Brown/Stuart Close to the Recreation Council for three-year terms ending March, 2012; Scott Neuman to fill an interim position for one year to the Recreation Council to replace Bill Miles who is moving to Africa; and David Hubbard to fill the position of Surveyor of Wood and Lumber. **Motion passed.**

Development Review Board, Finance Committee (3 year seat), Grand Juror, Planning Commission, Town Service Officer, TRORC, UV River Subcommittee of CRJC and Watershed Land Management Council open positions will be reposted. Interviews for these positions will take place at the April 22nd Selectboard meeting.

10. Listers (Decision on the Appeal of the EEPV and COD (Discussion/Action Item). Kaufman went over briefly, stating that the appeal has not moved off advisory status.

9. Liquor Licenses (Renewals) (Action Item). The Selectboard convened as the Norwich Liquor Commission. Munday explained and passed the licenses around for the Board to sign after approval. Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve the liquor license application for Norwich Wines & Spirits, Dan & Whit's General Store and Carpenter and Main Restaurant. **Motion passed.** The Board closed the Norwich Liquor Commission session and reconvened as the Selectboard meeting.

8. 7:45 pm - Lane Closure Simulation (Discussion). Dechert gave a brief history of what is now the State controlled Main Street Sidewalk and Paving Project. Dechert said it is not the natural inclination of the State to eliminate lanes. Sutcliffe-Swanson went over and then showed the four different simulation traffic models. Fulton spoke about the next step which is to convince VTrans to forgo the expensive lane closure experiment based upon the simulations. Cheney said that she needs a clear indication from the Town on what is wanted and she and Masland will work hard to get this project moving forward. Racusin pointed out that the lack of a clearly defined bike lane is a safety issue. Many people spoke about the need for a bike lane and wanting to move forward with this project.

After considerable discussion and a break to work on the language for the motion, Racusin **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Norwich Selectboard, based on a review of Option 3 of the RSG traffic model, request that VTrans reconfigure VT Route 10A between the Ledyard Bridge and the I-91 northbound ramps as follows: from Ledyard Bridge to a point 150' east of the McKenna Road/Montshire Road intersection the VT Route 10A westbound cross-section will consist of 1-11' vehicle travel lane and one bicycle lane with a minimum width of 5'; from a point 150' east of the McKenna Road/Montshire Road intersection the VT Route 10A westbound cross-section will consist of 1-11' vehicle left turn lane, 1-11' vehicle through travel lane and 1-4' bicycle lane; and from the McKenna Road/Montshire Road intersection to the I-91 northbound ramps the VT Route 10A westbound cross-section will consist of 1-11' westbound vehicle through lane, 1-11' westbound vehicle through and right turn lane and the remainder to be a bicycle lane. **Motion passed (3 to 0).**

Cheney gave an update on the Church Street speed limit change. She is working on getting the State to change the speed limit that was increased arguing that it is part of the Safe Routes To School.

11. 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) Minutes of TRORC February 25, 2009 Meeting and Letter from HCRS Re: Town Vote for Appropriation. Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive the minutes of TRORC February 25, 2009 meeting and a letter from HCRS re: Town vote for appropriation. **Motion passed.** Racusin reviewed the TRORC minutes and read the letter from HCRS.

b) Resident –

a) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: Concerns About Previous Selectboard. Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive an email from Kelly Griggs re: concerns about previous Selectboard. **Motion passed.** Griggs said email was meant as encouragement for current Selectboard.

- b) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: Bandstand Construction. Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to receive an email from Kelly Griggs re: bandstand construction. **Motion passed.** Griggs is looking for itemized costs.

12. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 2/25/09, 3/4/09 and 3/11/09 Meetings (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Racusin abstained. Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Outreach (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Tabled until next meeting.

Racusin **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on April 15, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – April 15, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning (4/15/09)
- 2) Strategic Planning Committee Organization (4/15/09)
- 3) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 4) Class 1 Road Designation
- 5) Norwich Open Meeting Policy
- 6) Town Report FY09
- 7) Listening Posts

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.