

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Sarah Nunan, Chair; Ed Childs; Suzanne Lupien; Sharon Racusin; Roger Blake (after appointment and oath); Pete Webster, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 45 people in the audience.

Also participating: Clay Adams, Betty Barba, Jake Blum, Liz Blum, Justin Campfield, Ernie Ciccotelli, Nancy Dean, Phil Dechert, David Goodrich, Jamie Hess, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, John Lawe, Cheryl Lindberg, Brian Livingston, Alison May, Don McCabe, Norman Miller, Bonnie Munday, Harry Roberts, Roberta Robinson, Richard Stucker.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan passed around a draft letter to the National Trust for Board approval. The Town Manager has written a letter of thanks to Margaret Cheney. Nunan will follow up with Griggs on his list of emails not received. Cavin has been contacted by Webster.
3. Public Comments (Discussion). The Norwich Historical Society will be having an open house June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be a statewide rally on "Healthcare is a Human Right" at the Statehouse in Montpelier Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon. The Norwich Women's Club Spring Nearly New Sale starts next Friday and goes through the weekend. Dean read a letter of concern regarding Town government.
4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). In the final determination from the State for school property taxes for this year, Norwich is now a receiving Town and as such was overcharged approximately \$172,000. Webster, as Delinquent Tax Collector, will be pursuing collection of the approximately \$161,000 in outstanding taxes. Webster was asked to share the current Delinquent Tax Policy with the Selectboard. Along with others, the Town Manager did another CATV interview.
5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to approve Check Warrant Report #09-22 for the period from 4/9/2009 to 4/22/2009 in the amount of \$216,482.69; of which \$111,154.45 is General Fund, \$104,945 is Highway Equipment Fund and \$383.24 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**
6. Request to Expend Designated Funds from Land Management Council Fund for Ballard Trail Kiosk and Maps of Fire District Land (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) motion to approve the use of \$100 for a Ballard Trail Kiosk and up to \$350 for Maps of Fire District Land from the Land Management Council Designated Fund. **Motion passed.**

The new Land Management Council Designated Fund balance will be approximately \$5,534.

7. Colby Jantzen Eagle Scout Project (Discussion/Action Item). Adams explained that the log landing off Beaver Meadow Road where Jake Blum currently stores wood seemed to be the logical place to erect the timber drying shed. Blum has met with Jantzen and supports the project. Blum was thanked by the Board for his work on supplying wood to those in need. Both Selectboard and Prudential Committee approval is needed due to this being Fire District land. After some further discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) that the Board approve the project. **Motion passed.**

8. Credit Card Payments (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Robinson has been researching alternative tax payment methods in response to requests made by townspeople. Robinson is recommending the use of Official Payments Corporation. Their payment options include credit card and e-check, and they also offer a telephone response system. There is no cost to the Town of Norwich for this service. It is a nationwide company and is currently being used by 15 Vermont towns. After some discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to authorize Webster to sign the contract with Official Payments Corporation. **Motion passed.**

9. Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Action Item). Applicants present at this time: Nancy Dean, John Lawe, Don McCabe, Justin Campfield, Jamie Hess and John Currier came up together in their respective groups, were thanked and asked questions regarding their interest in the position and what they do.

Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to appoint Don McCabe as an alternate to the Development Review Board for a three-year term ending in April, 2012. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to reappoint Nancy Dean and John Lawe to the Development Review Board for three-year terms ending in April, 2012. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to appoint Ralph Hybels and Anne Silberfarb to the Planning Commission for four-year terms ending in April, 2013. **Motion passed.** Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to appoint Justin Campfield as the TRORC Representative for a one-year term ending in April, 2010. **Motion passed.** Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to appoint Jamie Hess as the TRORC Alternate for a one-year term ending in April, 2010. **Motion passed.** Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to reappoint John Currier to the Watershed Land Management Council for a three-year term ending in March, 2012. **Motion passed.**

10. Interviews/Appointment to Selectboard Seat (Discussion/Action Item). Ciccotelli (by phone), Roberts and Blake were interviewed by the Selectboard. Questions were asked by the Board, the Town Manager and townspeople. All candidates indicated they understand and are in favor of the Town Manager form of government. The Selectboard voted by ballot. Nunan, Racusin and Lupien voted for Blake. Childs voted for Ciccotelli.

Racusin **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to appoint Roger Blake to the Selectboard for a term that expires when the next election is had. **Motion passed.**

Blake was sworn in by Munday and joined the Board for the remainder of the meeting.

11. Norwich Open Meeting Policy (Discussion/Action Item). The Policy being discussed initiated with McGrew. Nunan said that she is hoping it will be called Lynn's Law once in place. Dechert stated he is looking to separate the various Town committees etc. into two groups: statutory boards and advisory boards. Dechert requested more time for input and finalization. The Selectboard asked for a revised Policy for their May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

12. Two Zoning amendments (Discussion/Action Item). Dechert went over the two proposed amendments to the Norwich Zoning Regulations. Revisions were made based on comments from a Public Hearing on March 26, 2009. By unanimous vote, the Planning Commission approved the amendments. After some discussion as to next steps, the Board decided to review the amendments further and asked that Planning Commission members be present at their May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to answer questions. Goodrich asked the Selectboard to move on approving these amendments as soon as possible.

13. 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 –

a) Email from Brian Livingston Re: Lister Visit. Racusin **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to receive an email from Brian Livingston re: Lister visit. **Motion passed.** Racusin summarized. Livingston spoke about “two parallel governments” and that the Board is here to set policy.

b) Email from Kelly Griggs Re: Fiscal Responsibility. Nunan asked that this correspondence be received at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

14. Selectboard

a) Outreach (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Racusin would like to be at the Transfer Station once a month to hand out information and listen to people. The importance of making sure that public understands this represents one Selectboard person and not the Board as a whole was discussed. Stucker stated that he did not believe this was sustainable. It was agreed that use of the Transfer Station bulletin board needs to be discussed with Hodgdon and Transfer Station employees. Racusin will continue to work on the concept. The content of the form was approved. Racusin **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Nunan) to post the Outreach Form on the Town website and discuss contact at a later date. **Motion passed.**

b) Establishing Agenda and Date for Lister Roundtable (Discussion/Action Item). Lupien wants agreed upon agenda before setting a new date. Childs objects to a roundtable discussion that does not include the Listers. After further discussion, the Selectboard agreed to establish an agenda at their next meeting. Miller applauds the idea but felt the Board should wait until after the litigation is settled. Miller suggests a roundtable on structure of Town government.

c) Thank People Leaving Office (Discussion/Action Item). Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to thank outgoing appointed people Liz Blum, Eric Friets, Jaye Pershing Johnson, Suzanne Lupien and Nancy Hoggson for all they did. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on May 13, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – May 13, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 2) Strategic Planning Committee Organization
- 3) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 4) Class 1 Road Designation
- 5) Norwich Open Meeting Policy (5/27/09)
- 6) Town Report FY09
- 7) Listening Posts
- 8) Outreach Document

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