

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 50 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jake Blum, Liz Blum, Susan Blum, Phil Brunelle, Charlie Buell, Ames Byrd, Kelly Griggs, Pam Harrison, Matt Herbert, Phyllis Higgerson, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Vicky Kreider, Steve Leinoff, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Don McCabe, Dennis McCullough, Lee Michaelides, Judy Miller, Norm Miller, Miriam Richards, Stuart Richards, Harry Roberts, Chief Robinson, Jonathan Teller, Brian Tompkins, Dan Weintraub.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. There was a moment of silence in memory of Dan Fraser.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Follow Up from Last Meeting. Traffic data for the Route 132 and Union Village intersection was briefly discussed. Webster said he expects the data and comments from the State this Friday. It will be an agenda item for the November 24th meeting.
3. Public Comments (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Weintraub spoke about his continued support for a 5% budget cut. McCabe invited all residents to a post Selectboard meeting gathering from 8-10 pm in the Norwich Inn parlor. Miriam Richards questioned whether minutes were being sent out electronically five days after a meeting. After some discussion, the Board asked that a review of the Open Meeting Policy be on the agenda for their November 10th meeting. Griggs asked if there was a formal policy on reviewing the Town Manager and was told there was not. Griggs also inquired as to legitimate reasons for litigation executive sessions. They include "contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the State."
4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Budget sessions have been going well and Webster expects to have the budget binders to the Selectboard by next week. The Solar Project has received an allocation of authority to issue \$1,371,756 in New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds under section 54C of the Internal Revenue Code. The Mascoma case against the Town is going to mediation. Racusin asked why she had not heard back from Webster about the inaccuracy in a letter regarding a hearing of the BCA on October 21st on the Gateway property. Webster said there was a hearing but not a BCA hearing. Webster spoke about the home invasion in Norwich on Monday and thanked the officers involved for the successful outcome. The resident involved with the unauthorized plantings on Bragg Hill has been asked to remove such plantings and reflectors. Hodgdon and his crew were thanked for the new fencing on the Green. Webster has also discussed illuminating the skating rink on the Green with a resident, Kearney and Dechert. Kelly and Brush have also been consulted regarding this.
5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Childs **moved** (2nd Blake) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-08 for the period from 10/15/2009 to 10/29/2009 in the amount of \$206,694.61; of which \$202,885.84 is General Fund, \$508.77 is Corridor Grant Fund and \$3,300 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. Fire Department Capital Purchase/Ladder Truck (Discussion/Action Item). Leinoff went over the details of the Quint while Brunelle showed slides of the various features. The vehicle is a 1996 Quint from the Cambria Fire Department. The asking price is \$245,000. The pods hold three people and provide a safe and level platform for firefighters working on the aerial ladder. The Quint is well maintained and has low mileage. The main use for the truck would be for chimney fires. Lupien questioned the urgency. Safety for our fire fighters will be greatly improved with this truck. The truck can be used as a pumper also. Nunan said she would like an itemized estimate of costs. May urged the Board to defer the purchase. Several Fire Department members present asked the Selectboard to trust the judgment of the Chief. All Fire Department members present support the purchase. Racusin is concerned about the details.

After some further discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Blake) to approve the use of up to \$250,000 to purchase and fully equip a 1996 Quint from the Fire Apparatus Designated Fund. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Childs, Lupien and Blake; no – Nunan and Racusin).

The new Fire Apparatus Designated Fund balance will be approximately \$16,461.

7. **7:00 pm** - Solar Hot Water Supply for Town Highway Garage (Discussion/Action Item). Byrd asked if the Selectboard had any further questions and said the decision had been made to change from evacuated tubes to flat panels. After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the use of \$16,290 to install a solar hot water supply for the Town Highway Garage from the Highway Garage Designated Fund. **Motion passed.**

The new Highway Garage Designated Fund balance will be approximately \$54,364.

8. **7:15 pm** – “Aging in Place” (Discussion). Kreider, the Co-Chair of Aging in Place, said the organization is brand new and has extensive interest in Town as well as across the nation. Kreider read the Aging in Place in Norwich Mission Statement: “Aging in Place in Norwich is a grass-roots, neighbor-to-neighbor volunteer organization intended to support Norwich residents and their families as they remain in their homes, independent, primarily as they age by providing information, discussion groups, workshops, volunteer support and referral to reliable service providers.” McCabe, Buell, Judy Miller and Norm Miller spoke about the various committees and activities of the organization. There will be a pot luck dinner before Christmas all are welcome and further information will be forthcoming.

9. **7:45 pm** – Class 1 Road Designation (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Webster spoke briefly about the history. Racusin said she is looking for clarification regarding Town control, especially in regard to setting speed limits. Chief Robinson said there is a specific process you have to go through to set the speed limit. Many Church Street residents and other townspeople present spoke about speeding on Church Street, truck traffic and the general lack of safety when walking or biking on Church Street. Chief Robinson briefly discussed speeding in general and the use of speed carts. Chief Robinson reminded townspeople that the Police Committee’s Report asked the Police Department to issue more warnings and fewer tickets for speeding. Roberts is concerned with the costs involved with the Town taking over Church Street and feels the Finance Committee should review the numbers. Racusin said she understands how Church Street residents feel and wishes the Board could do more. After some discussion, it was agreed that Church Street residents would come up with a list of questions for follow up at the November 10th Selectboard meeting.

10. 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) #10 a), b), c), d) and e). Letter from UVLSRPC Re: Intermodal Transportation Facility Second Public Meeting, Invitation from East Central Vermont CEDS Committee to Fall Workshop, TRORC 9/23/09 Minutes, LEPC #12 10/15/09 Minutes and Memo from TRORC Re: Economic Development District Resolution. Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to receive a letter from UVLSRPC re: Intermodal Transportation Facility second public meeting, an invitation from East Central Vermont CEDS Committee to Fall Workshop, TRORC 9/23/09 minutes, LEPC #12 10/15/09 minutes and a memo from TRORC re: Economic Development District Resolution. **Motion passed.** Nunan summarized all but e).

11. Selectboard

- a) Resolution in Support of the Formation of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District. Childs summarized. After a brief discussion, Blake **moved** (2nd Racusin) to support the formation of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District. **Motion passed.**
- b) Approval of the Minutes of the 10/14/09 Meeting. Childs **moved** (2nd Blake) to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- c) Designated/Undesignated Funds Policy Roundtable. After a brief discussion, the Selectboard set the date for the roundtable as November 16th at 6:00 pm. Kramer will provide copies of the policies for the Board.
- d) Review Follow-Up Items. Questions for Class 1 takeover and Open Meeting Policy will be on the agenda for the November 10th meeting.

Blake **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on November 10, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – November 10, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Town Report FY09
- 2) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 3) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 4) Code of Conduct for Town Officials/Employees
- 5) Listening Posts/ Bulletin Board at Transfer Station for Outreach
- 6) Class 1 Road Designation (11/24/09)
- 7) Town Boundaries
- 8) Lister Roundtable
- 9) Ownership of Foley Park

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.