

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 6:00 PM

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

There were about 17 people in the audience.

Also participating: Gerard Chapdelaine, Margaret Cheney, Phil Dechert, Steve Flanders, Jim Gold, Andy Hodgdon, Dennis Kaufman, Steve Lajoie, Steve Leinoff, Cheryl Lindberg, Jim Masland, Dennis McCullough, Pamela McCullough, Lee Michaelides, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Demo Sofronas, Irv Thomae, Dan Weintraub, Steve Wheelock.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
2. Follow Up from Last Meeting – Route 132 and Union Village Intersection (Discussion/Action Item). Webster gave the Board a brief update. After some discussion, the Selectboard chose December 14th at 6:30 pm in the Tracy Hall multipurpose room as the date and time for a public forum on the Route 132 and Union Village intersection.
3. Public Comments (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Thomae gave an update on ECFiber. They have sent in an application for federal stimulus funds and expect to have more information on this in early December. ECFiber is forming a LLC owned by ECFiber in order to take loans. It will be made up of three entities but only the original 22 towns have voting rights. Weintraub, as requested, delivered a haiku on the state of the economy. Racusin questioned Susan Boutwell's numbers used in her Valley News article on the Gateway decision. After some discussion, Nunan said she would draft a letter, with Kaufman's help, to the Valley News questioning the accuracy of their numbers.
4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The "Norwich" seasonal sign has been returned to its owners by a third party. The Welcome to Norwich sign has been returned to the Police Department. They are pursuing leads and have two persons of interest. There was some discussion of putting a tracking chip on the sign. Webster continues refining budget numbers as they come in. The Town Manager sat in on a status conference for the Bragg Hill case. Webster met with the Energy Committee to discuss the possibility of Norwich being involved in a Clean Energy Assessment District and the proposed solar project at the Public Works Department. GUVSWD continues to pursue the District having a landfill in North Hartland. There will be an update on this project at the Selectboard's December 9th meeting. Webster clarified his earlier comments on King Arthur Flour and a sewer extension stating that if a decision is made to go forward with the project it would be privately funded by King Arthur Flour.

The Board asked the Town Manager to start thinking about updates for the Tracy Hall heating and cooling systems. This will be an agenda item for the December 16th Selectboard meeting.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Nunan questioned the Tri-State Curb payment of \$5,510, saying she would vote against the approval of the warrant because of her belief that the Board should have been consulted prior to this work being done. Webster said the changes made were based on comments made at the Selectboard meeting the VTrans people attended. After some discussion, Blake **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-10 for the period from 11/14/2009 to 11/27/2009 in the amount of \$501,790.44; of which \$501,084.49 is General Fund, \$644.05 is Corridor Grant Fund and \$61.90 is Land Management Council Fund. **Motion passed 3 to 1** (yes – Racusin, Lupien and Blake; no – Nunan).

6. Class 1 Road Designation (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Webster said the State has not supplied any updated numbers to the Town. Amy Gamble's latest letter regarding the speed limit on Church Street recommends keeping the changed higher speed limit. Gamble also stated that this topic will be on the agenda of the next Traffic Committee meeting on December 8th. Nunan has reviewed the data provided by Chief Robinson and believes the Town will still need to do the traffic study, but can emphasize factors other than the "85th percentile speeds". On question 1 from the Church Street residents, Nunan agrees that safety is the number 1 issue. On question 4, the differences are that this is a State road and a trucking route. Nunan supports reclassification if all other options have been exhausted. Nunan also spoke about the possibility of having school safety zones like Colchester. Cheney said that school safety zones only work for short distances. Cheney also reminded the Selectboard that data collected for the Safe Routes to School application can be used for speed limits. Masland said he does not see any down side to reclassification. Michaelides and McCullough both spoke about getting the speed limit lowered and problems with the State. Racusin spoke about the Board committing to getting the speed limit reduced. After further discussion, Racusin **moved** (2nd Nunan) that the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to work with our representatives to go forward with reclassifying River Road, the portion of Route 10A to Church Street and Church Street to a Class 1 Town road. **Motion passed.**

7. 2nd Budget Work Session with Department Heads (Discussion/Action Item).

Police Station – Chief Robinson has come in with a budget of 1.17% and 1.43%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. The only item that changed is electricity.

Police Department - Chief Robinson has come in with a budget of -1.65% and 1.88%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were part-time officer wage, police recruiting, dispatch services, designated fund – cruiser, crossing guards, community relations, speed carts and fleet policy.

Solid Waste - Hodgdon has come in with a budget of 1.75% and 1.99%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were coupon revenue, OSHA mandated items, reduction of hours on Wednesdays and possibility of opening up electronics recycling to the district.

Fire Department/Fire Station - Leinoff has come in with a budget of -14.90% and -14.60%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were a reduction in the number of incidents, the Chief's salary reduction, ladder truck, leaky roof and designated funds.

Emergency Management - Leinoff has come in with a budget of -65.55% for both budgets. Items discussed were emergency generator installation, communications study and a designated fund for generators.

Planning Department - Dechert has come in with a budget of -5.70% and -0.58%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were reduced office hours for his assistant, professional services, mapping, mileage, office equipment and no funds for Historic Preservation Committee.

DRB - Dechert has come in with a budget of -6.25% and -0.00%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were office supplies and meetings.

Lister Department – The Listers have come in with a budget of -2.19% and 1.74%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were office assistant wage, tax mapping, software maintenance/update, advertising, printing, office supplies, office equipment, dues/meetings/education and Town-wide reappraisal.

Recreation Department - Kearney has come in with a budget of -4.92% and 1.08%, respectively, for the 5% reduction and level services. Items discussed were summer program wage, Marion Cross School rental fees, designated funds, Huntley line/mowing and the reorganization of the Recreation Department budget.

8. 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) Resident –

1) #8 a). Email from Brooke Adler Re: Selectboard Meetings. Lupien **moved** (2nd Blake) to receive an email from Brooke Adler re: Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.** Nunan summarized.

9. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/10/09 Meeting. Blake **moved** (2nd Racusin) to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant. Dechert explained that this is purely an update of what was done in October of 2008. After a brief discussion, Blake **moved** (2nd Lupien) that the Selectboard adopt a new "Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant" for MPG-09 appointing Peter Webster as the Authorizing Official and Phil Dechert as the Grant Administrator. **Motion passed.**
- c) Finance Committee Makeup. Lajoie explained that the Finance Committee passed a motion at their November 17th meeting recommending to the Selectboard that the Committee have seven members, six elected members and the elected Treasurer. Lajoie understands that the Committee is not statutorily governed. After some discussion, Nunan **moved** (2nd Racusin) that going forward all membership, except the Treasurer, to the Finance Committee will be by appointment. **Motion passed.**
- d) Rescheduling Designated/Undesignated Funds Policy Roundtable. The Roundtable has been rescheduled to January 11, 2010 at 6:30 pm.
- e) Review Follow-Up Items. Details for Norwich night will follow. Setting up a fund for Norwich people in need will be further discussed at the December 9th meeting.

Blake **moved** (2nd Lupien) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on December 16, 2009.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – December 2, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – December 9, 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) Town Boundaries
- 7) Lister Roundtable
- 8) Ownership of Foley Park
- 9) Open Meeting Policy

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