

## Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 5:30 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 21 people in the audience.

Also participating: Ames Byrd, Virginia Close, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Steve Flanders, Neil Fulton, Jim Gold, Linda Gray, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Jill Kearney, Steve Lajoie, Steve Leinoff, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Brion McMullan, Fred Moody, Stuart Richards, Roberta Robinson, Ann Sargent, Demo Sofronas, Tig Tillinghast, Dan Weintraub.

Nunan opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

1. 5:30 pm - Litigation (Executive Session May be Required). Kaufman gave the Selectboard an update on the new CLA, explained the appeal process and said Charles Merriman would like to review the Listers analysis prior to an appeal. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to authorize the Listers to hire Merriman for up to \$1,000 to investigate the situation. **Motion passed.** Racusin abstained from voting. Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and to invite Pete Webster, Richard Blacklow, Steve Wheelock and Dennis Kaufman to join the Session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 5:50 pm. At 6:05 pm the Selectboard moved into public session.
2. **6:30 pm** - Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.
3. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan discussed Child's comments regarding open meeting laws made at the December 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Nunan took Child's comments as a personal attack. Richards said he never spoke with three Selectboard members at the same time. Childs stated he meant his comments as a reminder about three members being a quorum and nothing else was intended. Lupien believes a cooperative attitude is needed.
4. Public Comments (Discussion). Kaufman 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.

Gold once again spoke about wanting signs removed now at the Union Village/Route 132 intersection. Webster said that a minimum of 10 signs have been identified for removal soon and he is waiting to hear from the State before removal.

Flanders is encouraging people to participate in the schools budget process. He has developed a poll which was passed along for those present to participate in. Lupien will help with getting the poll to as many townspeople as possible.

Blake briefly spoke about the ongoing process of determining Foley Park ownership.

Racusin asked Chief Robinson to follow up with the State on getting no right turn on red signs up by pedestrian crosswalks including River Road and the I-91 ramp.

Chief Robinson said that effective immediately trucks with a permit for up to 99,000 lbs can travel on Vermont State interstates. All Norwich Police Department personnel are wearing yellow ribbon pins

in honor of Chuck Rataj's deployment to Afghanistan.

Childs spoke about the Lions Club organizing a food collection to restock local food shelves that will culminate February 14<sup>th</sup>.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster has attended numerous meetings. Union contract negotiations are ongoing. Norwich Night was a success on every level and credit goes to Norm Miller and Lupien for their efforts. May suggested and the Selectboard agreed to send a letter to Rataj wishing him well.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of three items, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-13 for the period from 12/17/2009 to 1/13/2010 in the amount of \$319,709.70; of which \$319,609.70 is General Fund and \$100 is Land Management Council Fund. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to approve Warrant #10A Health Savings Accounts in the amount of \$9,075. **Motion passed.**

7. 7:00 pm – Appointment with Fred Moody and Steve Willbanks Re: Update on Possible Landfill in North Hartland (Discussion). Moody went over his PowerPoint presentation which discussed what the problem was, background of the project, landfill history, the current policy and project and analysis of alternatives. Tillinghast went over the statistical analysis. Also discussed were privatized options, scales of business, extension of the Act 250 July, 2010 deadline, tipping fees and a bond vote if necessary. Moody will come back to the Board in two to three months with more capital information.

8. Update on Proposed Municipal Solar Project (Discussion). Gray provided the Selectboard with an updated Norwich Community Solar Project timeline. The Energy Committee has developed a spreadsheet and is double-checking their numbers before submitting it to the Finance Committee for review. Paul Guiliani has recommended a special Town meeting in early April to approve the Solar Project and financing. Also discussed were an application to Green Mountain Power, bond issues, addressing public concerns and taxpayer impact. The Energy Committee would like the Board to decide on the special Town meeting date at their February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. After much discussion, it was agreed the Energy Committee would follow their proposed timeline up through February 16<sup>th</sup> and then come back to the Selectboard with an update.

9. Advertising for Historic Preservation Commission (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to approve the advertisement for the Historic Preservation Commission as presented. **Motion passed.**

10. Establishment of Citizen's Assistance Designated Fund (Discussion/Action Item). Lupien discussed the need for this fund. The main purposes of setting up this fund would be rolling over the funds from year-to-year and enabling tax free donations. There was some discussion about language for the article and who would approve use of these funds. This Fund will be further discussed at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

11. Review Draft 2010 Town Meeting Warning (Excluding School Articles) (Discussion/Action Item). This will be on the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

12. First Public Hearing FY11 Budget (Discussion). Webster went over the highlights of the budget saying there is a \$320,000 cut in spending from FY10. Town employees are receiving no raises and paying a percentage of their healthcare costs. Also merit pay has been eliminated. The overall expenditure budget represents a 7.62% cut. May thanked the Town Manager and staff for their

responsible budget. There ensued a lengthy discussion of the school budgets. Items discussed were pay cuts, no raises, a reduction in school days and withdrawing Marion Cross School from the SAU. On the Town budget, items discussed were the Fire Apparatus Designated Fund, healthcare costs, cutting back on the Youth-In-Action appropriation and going forward asking appropriation people to take the same cut as the Departments.

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) Nonresident –

- 1) #13 a) and b). Letter from Division of Property Valuation and Review Re: Certified Equalized Education Property Value and Memo from VLCT Re: VLCT 2010 Legislative Priorities. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to receive a letter from Division of Property Valuation and Review re: Certified Equalized Education Property Value and a memo from VLCT re: VLCT 2010 legislative priorities. **Motion passed.**

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 12/14/09 and 12/21/09 Meetings. Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 and December 21, 2009 Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**
- b) Review Follow-Up Items.

Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Blake) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 27, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan  
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 20, 2010 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 27, 2010 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
- 6) Town Boundaries
- 7) Lister Roundtable
- 8) 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.