

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 20, 2010 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 10 people in the audience.

Also participating: Van Chesnut, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Neil Fulton, Dennis Kaufman, Steve Lajoie, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Roberta Robinson, Demo Sofronas.

Nunan opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Appointment with Van Chesnut Re: New Bus Route and Proposed Changes in Norwich (Discussion). Chesnut handed out proposed Brown Route schedule adjustments. Chesnut went over the proposed changes. Brown Route passengers were asked to comment on the proposed changes. Advanced Transit received 17 positive comments and one negative response. The Advanced Transit Board will approve these changes next week and Chesnut will let the Selectboard know when these changes are being implemented. Sofronas thanked Chesnut for his efforts here in Norwich. Bus schedules are now at the bus stops.

2. Review Draft 2010 Town Meeting Warning (Excluding School Articles) (Discussion/Action Item). The Town Manager and Board briefly discussed the process for replacing Warren Thayer as moderator for Town Meeting since Thayer will be out of town.

Article 5 – Webster talked about how other towns handle poor relief. Lupien said she is looking for efficient, quiet help for people. There was discussion about keeping the Town Service Officer in the loop and whether the wording of the article needed changing. After further discussion, the Board agreed to go with the following wording: “Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich establish a special purpose fund within the general fund to remain available as long as there are monies in the fund for poor relief and citizen assistance under the direction and control of the Town Manager to receive grants and gifts for poor relief and citizen assistance and appropriate \$1,000 to the fund?”

Article 25 – The Selectboard talked about the Norwich Times not being a social service agency or a nonprofit. There was some discussion regarding putting it in the budget under a different category. After further discussion, the Board decided to drop Article 25 and to not fund the Norwich Times elsewhere in the budget. Webster was asked to notify Jen MacMillen.

Lupien read all the Town articles. The new Selectboard Financial Policy #3 that Fulton is working on was briefly discussed. This policy will clearly spell out how new funds are created and handled.

3. Second Public Hearing FY11 Budget (Discussion/Action Item). Cook questioned the Public Works Department budget. Cook was asking for an explanation of what she considered a \$10,000 difference. Webster explained that some items in Hodgdon's FY11 budget increased. Webster will meet with Cook and go over the changes line by line. Maintenance of Town highways was discussed. Some townspeople feel less sand and salt are being used this year and that the ditches are too big. Webster will discuss with Hodgdon and get an update for the Selectboard. Lindberg asked if the Board was going to consider the Norwich Business Council's (NBC) request of the Town taking over the expense of the holiday lighting. NBC will no longer be doing the lighting. After some discussion, it was decided the monies needed for this could come out of Public Works Street Lighting budget. It was pointed out that Town employees will get no COLA adjustment in pay in FY11. There was, once again, some discussion about the school budgets. Childs **moved** (2nd Blake) to close the public hearing. **Motion passed.**

Kramer was asked to warn a special Selectboard meeting for January 22nd at 3 pm for the Board to approve the Town Warning and budget. Fulton asked that some guidance be given at that time as to the use of the Undesignated Fund to reduce the tax rate.

Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 10, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan
Selectboard Chair

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

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