

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 27, 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 7 people in the audience.

Also participating: Neil Fulton, Jim Gold, Alma Gray, Dennis Kaufman, Dan Weintraub.

Nunan opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

1. 5:30 pm - Litigation (Executive Session May be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) 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 5:40 pm.

At 6:15 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

2. **6:30 pm** - Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with a couple of changes.

3. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). Nunan said to add to follow up the letter of support to Rataj. Nunan asked the Board about scheduling a roundtable to discuss the proposed landfill. It was decided by consensus to postpone this until updated numbers have been received. Blake asked if the Town Manager had followed up on his zero tolerance policy request from the July 27<sup>th</sup> roundtable. Webster said he will discuss with Department Heads and get back to the Selectboard. Childs asked about Two River's evaluation of NORCAP. Webster has received this and will send out to the Board tomorrow.

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to recommend a gross spending General Town Budget of \$3,667,130. **Motion passed.**

4. Public Comments (Discussion). Kaufman again 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. After February 12<sup>th</sup> when Town taxes are due, a sandwich board will be put up for the HS-122 due date.

Gray questioned some pending items. Weintraub spoke about the Vermont Unemployment Fund being insolvent and the national debt. Racusin, along with others, is working on a Norwich Volunteer Network website. This will be further discussed at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Childs spoke again about the Lions Club food collection to restock local food shelves that will culminate February 14<sup>th</sup>. Racusin reminded townspeople to continue support for a single payer health plan.

7. Union Village Signs (Discussion). Webster said 11 signs have been removed from the Union Village Road/Route 132 intersection. Gold thanked Webster and Hodgdon and said he would like to see more removed in the spring. Nunan thought the Selectboard had agreed to wait until August before taking any further action regarding the island, etc. It was agreed the public forum minutes would be reviewed. Kaufman asked if the cost to the Town was known yet and it has not been determined.

5. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). There have been a number of Finance Committee meetings. There was a mediation session with Mascoma Bank. Union negotiations are ongoing. The Fire Department has recently received two grants: one for a special door to enable firefighters to more realistically practice breaking down doors that was 95% covered and one from Vermont Homeland Security for 28 pagers that was 80% covered. There followed some discussion regarding ARC and the heating/cooling system at Tracy Hall. Webster will get dollar figures on the cost to revamp to the Selectboard.

6. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of two items, Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-14 for the period from 1/14/2010 to 1/27/2010 in the amount of \$107,237.70; of which \$105,387.70 is General Fund and \$1,850 is Bandstand Fund. **Motion passed.**

8. Town of Norwich/Upper Valley Land Trust/Fletcher & Mary Clare Cooper Boundary Line Adjustment (Discussion). Webster explained that this conveyance was previously approved by the Board in July, 2004. After a brief discussion, Kaufman asked to be kept in the loop on this.

9. Review Selectboard Financial Policy #1 (Discussion/Possible Action Item). This item was tabled until February 24.

10. 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) #10 a). 12/17/09 LEPC #12 Minutes. Racusin **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to receive the 12/17/09 LEPC #12 Minutes. **Motion passed.**

11. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 12/16/09 and 1/13/10 Meetings. After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 Selectboard meeting as amended. **Motion passed.** Childs said he has reviewed the 12/16 meeting tape and spoke about his thoughts. After some discussion and a failed motion, the Board agreed that Childs will share his comments with the Selectboard and Kramer will put a draft copy of the minutes on the Town website.

b) Review Follow-Up Items. Fulton spoke about the new Selectboard Financial Policy #3 and that the Finance Committee will review the document at their February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was a brief discussion of the Town Report status. Racusin would like an electronic copy of Kramer's tracking sheet.

Blake **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on February 10, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Sarah Nunan  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – February 10, 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.