

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 25 people in the audience.

Also participating: Clay Adams, Watt Alexander, Alan Berolzheimer, Terry Boone, Ames Byrd, Margaret Cheney, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, James Dwinell, Steve Flanders, Neil Fulton, Linda Gray, Ann Greenwald, Paul Harwood, Jamie Hess, Andy Hodgdon, David Hubbard, Jill Kearney, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, Lee Michaelides, Keith Moran, Bonnie Mundy, Scott Neuman, Frank Olmstead, Stuart Richards, Roberta Robinson, Clayton Simmers, Demo Sofronas, Brett Tofel.

Blake opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with one change.
2. Follow Up from Last Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). Blake said that the Norwich Public Library's Articles of Association state under Article IV "The governing body of the Library shall be a Board of Trustees of eleven members with staggered terms of three years. One such trustee shall be appointed triennially by the Norwich Selectboard." This is why the Board appointed a trustee at their March 10th meeting.
3. Public Comments (Discussion). Alexander has written a letter to the Selectboard that will be received in correspondence at their April 14th meeting regarding the Moderator's announcement at Town Meeting that no discussion of pending litigation would be permitted. Alexander believes this decision was incorrect and would like the Board to publicly disavow the announcement. Richards agrees with Alexander and repeated his preference for a Town-wide reappraisal. Boone upon further consideration also agrees with Alexander.
4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Webster shared with the Selectboard some photos of the new Quint. Fulton has put together a review of the status of recommendations made in the November 8, 2006 NORCAP Report. This review could be used as a starting point for discussion once the Town Manager has put the group together. The Congregational Church has made the decision to sell the Parsonage property adjacent to Tracy Hall. Webster is in favor of the Town taking a serious look at purchasing this property. Webster invited the Board to schedule a meeting with the church subcommittee to walk through the house either April 5th or 8th at 6:00 pm. The Town Manager continues to work on getting a wage study done. Requests for Proposals on the Communications Study are due in April 5th.
6. Request to Expend Designated Funds from Land Management Council Fund to have Paul Harwood do a Preliminary Review of the Fire District Land (Discussion/Action Item). Adams briefly discussed. After some discussion, Lupien **moved** (2nd Bagnato) to approve the use of up to \$1,200 to have Paul Harwood do a preliminary review of the entire Fire District Land from the Land Management Council Fund. **Motion passed.**

The new Land Management Council Fund balance will be approximately \$4,409.30.

7. **7:00 pm** - Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Action Item). Applicants present: Frank Olmstead, James Dwinell, Keith Moran, Bonnie Munday, Scott Neuman, Clayton Simmers, John Starosta, Linda Cook, Jamie Hess and David Hubbard were thanked for all they do and asked a few questions regarding their interest in their respective appointments.

Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to appoint Frank Olmstead as the Agent to Prosecute for a one-year term ending in March, 2011, Ann Shriver Sargent to the Finance Committee for a two-year term ending in March, 2012, Keith Moran and James Dwinell to the Finance Committee for three-year terms ending in March, 2013, Scott Neuman, Clayton Simmers and John Starosta to the Recreation Council for three-year terms ending in March, 2013, Linda Cook as the Town Service Officer for the period April 15, 2010 through April 14, 2011, Jamie Hess as the TRORC voting representative for a one-year term ending April, 2011 and David Hubbard to the Watershed Land Management Council for a three-year term ending March, 2013. **Motion passed.**

Bagnato **moved** (2nd Childs) to recommend to the State to appoint Bonnie Munday to be Deputy Health Officer for a three-year term ending in May, 2013. **Motion passed.**

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After discussion of one item, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-18 for the period from 3/11/2010 to 3/24/2010 in the amount of \$212,826.67; of which \$80,558.48 is General Fund, \$110,139 is Highway Equipment Fund, \$351.99 is Fire Apparatus Fund and \$21,777.20 is Solid Waste Fund. **Motion passed.**

8. Liquor Licenses (Renewals) (Action Item). Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Selectboard convene as the Norwich Liquor Commission. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2nd Bagnato) to approve the liquor license application for Norwich Inn (2), Dan & Whit's General Store and Carpenter and Main Restaurant. **Motion passed.**

Munday explained and then showed the Selectboard where to sign.

Racusin **moved** (2nd Lupien) to close the Norwich Liquor Commission session and reconvene as the Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**

9. Outside Auditor for FY10-12 (Discussion/Action Item). Webster explained that the Town received three bids from their Request for Proposals one each from Fothergill, Segale & Valley, CPAs, A.M. Peisch & Company LLP and Sullivan, Powers & Company, CPAs. Robinson reviewed the three proposals and recommends A.M. Peisch & Company.

After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to accept the bid of A.M. Peisch & Company LLP for outside auditor. **Motion passed.**

10. Class 1 Road Takeover from the State (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Blake said there has been some discussion on whether the Town should take over River Road because it is not part of the core of the village. Webster discussed the Town's taking over the segment that goes from the River Road/Route 5 intersection proceeding southward along Route 5 South (Church Street) to the intersection of Route 5/10A and the segment of Route 10A up to the Ledyard Bridge. Webster also spoke about the road being Town owned helping the Church Street sidewalk project. Cheney said that the Transportation Bill that this is a part of will be on the House floor Thursday. Sofronas has reviewed Selectboard minutes regarding Class 1 discussions and urges the Board to stick with its November, 2009 decision. Hodgdon spoke about culverts and street light costs. Cook is glad River Road is out of the discussion but is still concerned about the work load for Public Works.

After some further discussion, Racusin **moved** (2nd Bagnato) that the Town take over segments 1 and 3 as shown on the slide. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes – Childs, Racusin, Bagnato and Blake; no – Lupien).

11. Solar Project Presentation (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Berolzheimer went through a slide presentation that went over the history and what the Energy Committee would like to see happen going forward. Berolzheimer said the Committee members are not zealots they truly believe this Project would have both environmental and financial benefits for the Town of Norwich. The Committee would like to see construction take place this fall. There followed discussion regarding the Norwich Solar Project financials. Cheney indicated that a 0% increase in utility costs was very unlikely. Fulton gave a brief explanation of this type of sinking fund. The end of life of the solar panels was also discussed. Lupien and Childs both feel that a meeting with the Selectboard, Norwich Finance Committee and Norwich Energy Committee would be helpful. Munday suggested the possibility of piggybacking the bond vote with the May 5th Dresden budget revote.

12. 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) #12 a) and b). Memo from TRORC Re: TRORC TAC Representative Appointments and Memo from TRORC Re: TRORC Energy Audit Program. Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive a memo from TRORC re: TRORC TAC Representative appointments and a memo from TRORC re: TRORC Energy Audit Program. **Motion passed.** There was a brief discussion that an energy audit for Tracy Hall had been done not too long ago.

b) Resident –

1) #12 c), d), e) and f). Email from Steve Flanders Re: Thoughts for the Proposed Selectboard Retreat, Letter from Myra Jehlen Re: Penalty on 2010 Tax Payment, Memo from Phil Dechert Re: Adoption of Revised Norwich Town Plan – Schedule and Process and an Email from Dennis McCullough Re: Route 5 Acquisition. Lupien **moved** (2nd Childs) to receive an email from Steve Flanders re: thoughts for the proposed Selectboard Retreat, letter from Myra Jehlen re: penalty on 2010 tax payment, memo from Phil Dechert re: adoption of Revised Norwich Town Plan – schedule and process and an email from Dennis McCullough re: Route 5 acquisition. **Motion passed.** Both Childs and Lupien were present for one of the conversations with Jehlen and saw no rudeness. Dechert briefly went over the Town Plan process saying the complete package should be given to the Board early next week. The Planning Commission has a workshop scheduled for April 29th.

13. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 3/3/10 and 3/10/10 Meetings. Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2010 and March 10, 2010 Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**

b) Approval of Three-Year Union Contract. Webster said the changes to this contract had already been gone over with the Board in executive session. After a brief discussion, Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the three-year Agreement between the Town of Norwich and A.F.S.C.M.E. Council 93, Local 3797, AFL-CIO Chapter 6 representing all Police Officers and the Administrative Secretary in the Norwich Police Department, excluding the Chief of Police, and Public Works Equipment Operators. **Motion passed.**

- c) Retreat. Webster again briefly went over the Secretary of State's opinions and said he is working on the Woodstock location. Flanders discussed his "thoughts". Flanders was thanked for his efforts. After some discussion, the Selectboard agreed by consensus to set the date for the retreat as April 2nd in Woodstock and to later set up a separate date to meet with Flanders and discuss his letter. Webster asked the Board to get to him by Monday, March 29th their lists of interpersonal and procedural items they would like discussed at the retreat.
- d) Review Follow-Up Items.

Bagnato **moved** (2nd Childs) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on April 14, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Roger Blake
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – April 14, 2010 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 2) Municipal Enforcement of the VT Fire Prevention and Building Code
- 3) Code of Conduct for Town Officials/Employees
- 4) Listening Posts
- 5) Town Boundaries
- 6) Lister Roundtable
- 7) Ownership of Foley Park
- 8) Norwich Volunteer Network
- 9) Appropriation Roundtable

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.