

## Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, May 26, 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 33 people in the audience.

Also participating: Liz Blum, Jack Candon, Tom Carlson, Nan Carroll, John Caulo, Ernie Ciccotelli, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Steve Flanders, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Rebecca Leake, Cheryl Lindberg, Alison May, James Mackall, Suzanne McDowell, Stephen Miller, Harry Roberts, Chief Robinson, Ann Sargent, David Sargent, Henry Scheier, Dean Seibert, Demo Sofronas, Jonathan Vincent, Dan Weintraub.

Blake opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda.

2. Public Comments (Discussion). Weintraub believes the financial crisis is growing. He would like the Board to create a biweekly meeting schedule to have a Town-wide discussion of issues of the day. Hoggson invited townspeople to the Opening Reception for "The Artists of Norwich" photographs by Chad Finer at the Lewis House 5:30-7:30 pm Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Lupien reminded people of the Memorial Day parade and cookout this weekend and asked for donations to the American Legion to support this event. Bagnato asked about the PV&R CLA appeal. Kaufman said the State's Reply Memorandum was negative, but that the Town is still awaiting the opinion from Judy Henkin of the PV&R.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The truck scales have been sold for \$6,000. Webster attended the Norwich Fire District luncheon at the Norwich Inn and thanked the Fire District for their hospitality. We now have revised Conceptual Plans for the SRTS project. Costs have gone up significantly since the grant was awarded in May, 2008. Webster's Leadership Upper Valley class has ended and he recommends this for others in leadership positions. A letter of intent to submit an application for funding under the FY11 Vermont Transportation Enhancements program to do a crosswalk across Route 10A, a pedestrian signal and a sidewalk along Route 10A and Montshire Road to the Museum entrance has gone out. The parsonage sale was briefly discussed. The need to have a detailed plan and move at a slow pace was emphasized. An update of the NORCAP Report is in the works with the first group meeting set for June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. Payment plans on delinquent taxes continue to be filed with the Finance Office.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Lupien questioned the purchase of a F350 Ford pickup for \$19,000 by Public Works on the warrant. Webster replied that Hodgdon was using excess funds in his current budget and that this was intended to reduce future contracted services. There followed a discussion as to why reserve funds were not being used for this purchase and the need to develop a vehicle acquisition policy. After further discussion the truck was dropped from the warrant after which Lupien **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Bagnato) to approve Check Warrant Report #10-22 for the period from 5/13/2010 to 5/26/2010 in the amount of \$100,599.21; of which \$99,654.21 is General Fund and \$945.00 is Land Management Council Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. **7:00 pm** - Town of Norwich Open Positions Interviews/Appointments (Discussion/Action Item). Mackall, Ciccotelli and Vincent were interviewed. Candidates spoke about why they wanted to serve, their experience and working with time constraints. The Selectboard used a ballot to pick the Lister candidate. Vincent was chosen by a 3 to 2 vote.

Bagnato **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Childs) to appoint James Mackall to the Finance Committee to fill an unexpired term ending in March, 2011. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Bagnato) to appoint Jonathan Vincent to the Listers through Town Meeting 2011. **Motion passed.**

7. **7:30 pm** – King Arthur Flour (KAF) Sewage Proposal (Discussion). Candon, McDowell, Carlson and Caulo were present representing KAF. Candon said they were there to offer background on the proposal. KAF intends to expand, their business is growing and they are planning for growth. The Norwich site is limited for growth. The application needs to be in by midsummer for the Act 250 year end approval. KAF is looking for a cross field private connection at Olcott Drive. The Route 5 corridor is not part of their request. Specific decisions for expansion have not been made. Seibert spoke about the Sewer Committee Report, serving development of Route 5 and regulations for such development. Dechert talked briefly about the Town Plan and how it relates. Childs wants to support KAF and understands the difficulty of getting full public support for Route 5 sewerage. The Board thanked KAF for keeping them informed and wished them well on their endeavors.

5. Request to Expend \$10,000 from Conservation Commission Special Purpose Fund (Discussion/Action Item). May said that Norwich residents have talked about having Town-owned access to the river and that with the 37 Campbell Flats Road property being auctioned on June 23<sup>rd</sup> there is an opportunity to purchase such a property. The intent is to purchase and improve the property with private donations and then to give it to the Town. The 4 acre property is on the Ompompanoosuc River and is a bird migration route with land that can be used for picnicking, small boats and perhaps swimming. Hodgdon has estimated that approximately \$50,000 will be needed to improve the property. The Conservation Commission and Recreation Council both support the purchase. The Town would lose approximately \$2,472 in taxes going by the current assessment of \$530,900. May has four motions she would like the Selectboard to make. Webster has spoken with VLCT and no additional insurance costs would ensue. After this several residents of the property area who were present spoke against the Town acquiring the property. Issues cited were noise, costs for the Town and lack of need. After discussion, the Board concluded that more information was needed for them to make a decision. May asked the Selectboard to email their questions to her. Scheier asked the Board to keep in mind that if they concluded to not keep the property the Town could always sell it. This will be an agenda item for the June 9<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

11. Junkyard Ordinance (Discussion). David Sargent said residents want the issue addressed and would like an ordinance. Bagnato spoke about the Board rejecting the ordinance previously developed based upon a VLCT model. He would like to see a more common sense approach taken and Childs agreed. Racusin wants to see any environmental hazards corrected. Racusin suggested using an ordinance she found from Middlebury as a guide. Carroll said she believes there are health and safety issues involved. After further discussion, the Selectboard asked Webster to review other ordinances and have a new ordinance drafted for their review prior to their July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting where it will be an agenda item.

8. Code of Ethics Policy (Discussion/Action Item). After discussion of changes suggested by Lindberg, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lupien) to adopt the Town of Norwich, Vermont Code of Ethics Policy as revised. **Motion passed.**

9. Programmatic Budget Presentations (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Childs and the Town Manager asked if this item could be deferred to another meeting. Flanders asked to speak briefly and said the purpose of this type of a presentation was to allow Department Heads to tell their story. Chief Robinson and Dechert both indicated they felt that they already provided this information with their budgets. After some discussion, it was agreed that Webster would speak with Flanders and get more information for the Selectboard's next meeting.

10. Selectboard Policy Regarding Town Email List (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Racusin would like to see the last two sentences of the Policy removed. Lupien felt that this was insulting the discretion of the Town Manager. Childs made a motion to leave the Policy as is which was not seconded. Hoggson suggested allowing no items go out on the list involving politics or religion. Bagnato discussed eliminating the use of the List for personal items. Blake spoke about historical use of the List and what was allowed or not as the case may be. After further discussion, Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to add the sentence "The Town Email should not be used by individuals for personal reasons." to the end of the Policy. **Motion passed 4 to 0.**

12. 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) #12 a) and b). TRORC 4/28/10 Minutes and TRORC RPC TAC 5/6/10 Minutes. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Bagnato) to receive TRORC 4/28/10 minutes and TRORC RPC TAC 5/6/10 minutes. **Motion passed.** Blake reviewed.

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 5/12/10 Meeting. Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Template for Analysis of Project/Proposal (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Racusin had handed out a hard copy version that combined her template and Flanders suggestions. This new Project/Acquisition Analysis will be on the June 9<sup>th</sup> agenda.
- c) Goal Setting and Setting Dates for Pending Items (Discussion/Action Item). Due to the late hour, this item will be addressed under follow up at the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There followed discussion regarding losing track of time during this meeting and time given to public comments. The Board agreed to keep better track of time spent on each item going forward.

Childs **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Bagnato) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on June 9, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Roger Blake  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – June 9, 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
- 4) Listening Posts
- 5) Town Boundaries
- 6) Lister Roundtable
- 7) Ownership of Foley Park
- 8) Norwich Volunteer Network
- 9) Appropriation Roundtable

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