

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, August 4, 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 42 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jean Astley, Betty Barba, Judy Butler, Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, John Erickson, Steve Flanders, Neil Fulton, Kelly Griggs, Mary Ann Hankel, Scooter Hardy, Nancy Hoggson, Elizabeth Howard, Tom Johnson, Steve Leinoff, Norm Miller, Creigh Moffatt, Brooke Mohr, Arthur Owen, Beth Perry, Miriam Richards, Harry Roberts, Chief Robinson, Irv Thomae, Candace Vandouris, Fran Walz.

Blake opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Second public forum re: possible parsonage purchase. Blake asked for civility and requested condensing comments so everyone would have the opportunity to speak who wished to do so. The Selectboard was asked to state their opinions at this time. Childs read his comments and is in full support of the Parsonage property purchase. Bagnato asked for costs to renovate current Police Station site and would like to take additional time to determine use of Parsonage. Blake believes it is a rare business opportunity and that it makes sense to him to purchase. Lupien appreciates public comments, would like a community committee to decide use of Parsonage and how much to spend and wants needs separated from wants. Racusin stated it is a unique opportunity and wants one more meeting before the Board makes a decision on the bond warning. Webster discussed the attractiveness of Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds that have a 45% federal subsidy of interest costs and the flexibility of the bonding process. The last date to apply for these bonds is September 15<sup>th</sup>. The warning for the Town vote has to be posted 30-40 days before the meeting. The floor plan of the current Police Station was gone over.

At this point the meeting was opened up to public comment. Approximately 22 townspeople spoke. Items discussed were: cost to renovate current Police Station, affordable housing opportunities, home inspection of Parsonage, borrowing sufficient funds, current economic conditions, resistance to Police Station on Main Street, condition of current Police Station, borrowing from the Undesignated Fund, taxes and long-term planning.

2. Approve Resolution, Official Ballot and Warning for bond vote. Webster had previously read the current suggested language for the article which included bonding the purchase price plus renovations for a total of \$950,000. The Purchase and Sales Agreement with the Norwich Congregational Church, approved by the Selectboard at a special meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, was discussed. The Agreement commits the Town to a bond vote. After discussion regarding capital planning, having two articles and projects in the pipeline, the Board decided to have a third public forum from 6:30-8 pm August 11<sup>th</sup> after which they will discuss and vote on the resolution, ballot and warning for the bond vote.

Bagnato **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on August 18, 2010.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Roger Blake  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – August 18, 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 Discussion (8/18/10)

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