

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 39 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jean Astley, Linda Cook, Nancy Dean, Joshua Durst, Chuck Egner, Jim Gold, Dianne Griggs, Scooter Hardy, Cheryl Lindberg, Carol Loveland, Norm Miller, Brooke Mohr, Keith Moran, Bonnie Munday, Harry Roberts, Arline Rotman, Dean Seibert, Demo Sofronas, Marianne Spalding, Warren Thayer, Irv Thomae.

Blake opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Third public forum re: possible parsonage purchase. Blake opened the third public forum asking the public to keep comments brief and no longer than three minutes. Fulton went over the history briefly saying there will be a Town vote on financing September 14th with the informational meeting set for September 9th. These are build America bonds that must be used for capital projects within three years. Fulton also went over the three bond options being presented while pointing out numbers could be changed. Available materials for the public include: the background paper, three ballot options, a budget and tax impact table and a one-page debt policy discussion provided by Webster.

There was discussion regarding selling the property and paying the bond off early. The Town can sell the property, once purchased, but it has an obligation to pay off the bonds. The bonds cannot be paid off early. Voters can change the use of the bonds with another Town vote. Mohr said the sale of the Parsonage does not effect the Norwich Nursery School. There is a building inspection scheduled for the Parsonage Friday at 1:30 pm.

Also discussed: tax implications, best use of property, costs, Undesignated Fund, committee to decide use, sale price versus appraisal values and location. Lindberg said the Finance Committee voted 3 to 2 to support paying \$545,000, Webster's Option 1, for the Parsonage. Most of the people who spoke supported the split ballot approach, Version 2.

2. Approve Resolution, Official Ballot and Warning for bond vote. After discussion, the Selectboard agreed to support Version 2.

Childs **moved** (2nd Bagnato) to adopt the Resolution Certificate as stated in Version 2. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2nd Lupien) to add a third article to the Official Ballot and Warning as follows: "Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$25,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the Long Term Facility Study Designated Fund?" to assist with planning for police and fire facilities. **Motion passed.**

Bagnato **moved** (2nd Racusin) to adopt the Official Ballot and Warning as stated in Version 2 with the addition of Article 3 as passed above. **Motion passed.**

A Town-wide mailing was discussed and the Board decided to make a decision on this at their August 18th meeting.

Mohr thanked the Selectboard and Town Manager for all they have done to bring this purchase decision to the public.

Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on September 7, 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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