

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM

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

There were 8 people in the audience.

Also participating: Linda Cook, Phil Dechert, Neil Fulton, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Karen Ward.

Blake opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Appointment with Nancy Hoggson Re: 250th Celebration (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Hoggson spoke about the planned events so far with the kick-off event being a concert on July 1st sponsored by the Norwich Women's Club. Olde Home Day will be folded into the Norwich Fair with a parade. The Norwich Historical Society will have a special exhibit, walking tours and, of course, their regular events. Hoggson also spoke about publicity and working with whatever events are already going on. Possible expenses were also discussed. Hoggson volunteered the Norwich Historical Society as facilitator/coordinator of the celebration. Cook said she would coordinate Olde Home Day events with the Lions Club starting in January. Cook also discussed previous Olde Home Day expenses. Also discussed were: funding, using volunteers, having a group discussion of this at Town Eating Day, producing a calendar of events for the Town Report, coming up with a budget and getting young people involved. The next meeting of the Norwich 250th Anniversary group will be in early January. Hoggson would like the Town to provide some funding for the planned events.
2. Adopt Amendment to the Town of Norwich Flexible Benefit Plan (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, Racusin **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve and adopt the amendments to the Town of Norwich Flexible Benefit Plan and authorize the Town Manager to sign the documents. **Motion passed.**
3. Review November 8, 2006 Capital Budget Plan and Report (NORCAP) (Discussion). Childs said the Selectboard should review the NORCAP Report, identify items that have been completed, drop items the Board is no longer interested in and build a charge for the Capital Facilities Planning and Budgeting Committee from there. Fulton has a NORCAP Status Report which he will update and provide for the Board. After considerable discussion, the Selectboard decided to hold only one Public Hearing on the FY12 budget on January 12th and to devote the special Selectboard meeting on January 19th to work on the charge for the Capital Facilities Planning and Budgeting Committee.
4. Selectboard 5th Budget Work Session (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Webster asked the Board to focus on the level services budget. Leinoff has asked that an increase in Firefighters and EMS wages be included in the FY12 budget. After a brief discussion of the projected tax rate and use of Undesignated funds, it was agreed that the Selectboard will review their Financial Policy #2 at the January 12th meeting. Stipends for the Lister Department were once again discussed. At this point, Webster asked the Board to give their opinions of the draft FY12 budget. Lupien does not want to see services hurt. She would still like to see budget cuts in Public Works, Police and Recreation Departments. She wants equitability for nonunion employees and would still like to see some adjustments made for appropriations to some outside agencies. Racusin is happy with the level services budget noting that healthcare costs are a problem. Blake discussed expenses we

have no control over and preserving our assets, the employees. He too would like to see equity for all employees. Childs totally supports the 4% salary increase and approves of the budget in general. This was followed by a discussion of doing a Public Works and Lister Departments review and how to best use the Finance Committee. Childs said he will craft a document for the Selectboard to discuss at their January 12th meeting which will outline how to proceed. Lupien will set up a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss employee inequities and review department vehicle acquisition policies. Cook asked that an up-to-date draft FY12 budget be kept on the Town website.

At this point Childs asked the Board to revisit funding for the 250th celebration. Cook said she is willing to work on fund raising. After some further discussion, Lupien **moved** (2nd Racusin) to add \$1,500 to the Norwich Special Events line item for the 250th celebration. **Motion passed.**

Childs **moved** (2nd Racusin) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 12, 2011.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Roger Blake
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – January 12, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Vehicle Acquisition and Replacement Policy/NORCAP Report/Strategic Planning
- 2) Code of Conduct Policy for Town Manager and Selectboard
- 3) Charge for Committee Reviewing Junk Policies
- 4) 250th Celebration Plans
- 5) Town Eating Day Participation
- 6) Town Boundaries

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