

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at
6:30 PM

Members present: Stephen Flanders, Chair; Christopher Ashley; Ed Childs; Linda Cook; Keith Moran; Neil Fulton, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 23 people in the audience.

Also participating: Alan Berolzheimer, Len Brown, Van Chesnut, Meagan Culp, Jim Harlow, Melinda Hill-Walker, Russell Hirschler, Nancy Hoggson, Erin Jacobsen, Chris Lord, Kim Perez, Laura Rice, Robert Sabatelle, Harald Schmidtke, Jay Van Arman, Lucinda Walker.

Flanders opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Public Comments. The tower is now fully operational.

2. Selectboard Budget Work Session – Outside Agencies (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Flanders said that on Town Meeting day voters are presented with a list of agencies to vote on and that a majority of the voters say yes. The State has Statutes for grant appropriations to outside agencies and they state the appropriation should benefit Town residents. The Selectboard has received and reviewed their applications and appreciates that most were well filled out. Flanders requested that the agencies keep their verbal presentation to three minutes and then the Board would have a two minute question and answer period afterwards. Agencies will be taken in reverse alphabetical order this year. Representatives from Advance Transit, American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post #8, Cemetery Commission, Child Care Center in Norwich, Green Mountain RSVP, HIV/HCV, Norwich Historical Society (NHS), Norwich Lions Club, Norwich Public Library (NPL), SERG, SEVCA, Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA), VNA & Hospice of VT and NH, White River Council on Aging, Windsor County Partners (WCP), WISE and Youth-In-Action (YIA) attended the meeting, explained what they do and in particular what they do for Norwich residents and answered questions. Cook asked and received contact information for all agencies. Advance Transit, HIV/HCV and NPL were reminded they needed petitions for the additional funds they have requested. Both Advance Transit and NPL will be doing special petitions for their requests for additional funds.

Ashley **moved** (2nd Cook) to include Advance Transit, American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post #8, Cemetery Commission, Child Care Center in Norwich, Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center, HCRS, Headrest, Norwich Historical Society, Norwich Public Library, SERG, SEVCA, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, VNA & Hospice of VT and NH, White River Council on Aging, Windsor County Partners, WISE and Youth-in-Action as separate articles on the 2014 Town Meeting Warning. **Motion passed** (after motion below).

Ashley **moved** to divide the question and vote on the Norwich Lions Club and The Family Place separately.

Cook **moved** (2nd Childs) to include The Family Place as a separate article on the 2014 Town Meeting Warning. **Motion passed**. Ashley abstained.

Cook **moved** (2nd Moran) to include the Norwich Lions Club as a separate article on the 2014 Town Meeting Warning. **Motion passed**. Childs abstained.

3. Budget Follow-Up (Discussion/Action Item). The follow-up items from the last meeting were: adding a full-time or 32 hours per week patrol officer to the Police Department, adding pay for the third monthly drill for firefighters and centerline striping and their tax impacts. In Fulton's follow-up Part 2 he included excerpts from the Selectboard Financial Policy No. 2 to address Ashley's request. Fulton also included new information from VLCT regarding the Town's Property and Casualty and Workers' Compensation insurance rates. The increase for FY15 amounts to \$37,892. Identified as Version 2 of the budget, Fulton has provided a budget without the increases for paying for the third drill and the additional striping while showing the increase for the insurance rates.

Cook said that the Highway budget is over budget and that reductions could be made in sand, contract plowing and street lighting. Cook does not support the salary increases in the budget and believes \$15,000 could be saved there. Cook repeated that there was no Selectboard vote on the salary increases last year. She is looking for \$40,000 in cuts to the budget with \$34,000 coming from the Highway budget.

Moran said he has no memory of the two step process for the three Department Head raises and that 4 raises represent an extra \$18,990 in the budget.

Ashley would like to have the extra striping in the budget, the additional paid training, funding six months of an additional officer as a separate article and leaving the addition to the Sidewalk reserve fund in the budget.

The Selectboard then further discussed the salary increases in the budget and the grade and step program. Ashley, Childs and Flanders expressed support for Fulton's proposed salary structure. Afterwards, Ashley **moved** (2nd Childs) to accept the draft FY15 budget as amended for the Public Hearing on the budget to be held on December 11, 2013. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Childs and Flanders; no – Cook and Moran).

The Selectboard then discussed the additional road striping. Cook spoke about the striping being a safety issue and suggested reducing summer operations to make up the difference. The new Public Works Chart of Accounts was also discussed. Ashley **moved** (2nd Childs) to add additional funds to line striping to do the additional work. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes – Ashley, Childs, Moran and Flanders; no - Cook).

After very little discussion, Ashley **moved** (2nd Childs) to increase the fire drill line item to include payment for the third monthly drill. **Motion failed 2 to 2** (yes – Ashley and Childs; no – Moran and Flanders). Cook abstained.

Cook **moved** (2nd Ashley) to revisit the striping motion and fund half from the Public Works budget and to fund the third monthly drill. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ashley and Cook; no – Childs, Moran and Flanders).

Fulton thanked the Selectboard for a civil process.

At this point, Flanders asked permission from the Board to send out an email he had drafted to the Norwich Listserv regarding the Public Hearing. After discussion of some changes, the Selectboard approved the draft.

4. Review of Next Agenda (Discussion/Possible Action Item). The Public Hearing on the budget will be the main agenda item for December 11th. Cook asked that a discussion of the Town Woodlot policy also be on the agenda.

Cook **moved** (2nd Ashley) to adjourn. **Motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 22, 2014.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Stephen N. Flanders
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – December 11, 2013 at 6:30 PM

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