

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, February 26, 2014 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 2 people in the audience.

Also participating: Alan Berolzheimer, Linda Gray, Jonathan Teller-Elsberg.

Flanders opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). After agreeing to take items out of order until the 7:00 pm appointment with the NEC and dropping item #6, the Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments. None.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). In response to a question asked at the last Selectboard meeting in relation to a Town vote on selling land, Fulton said that the petition would need to be signed by 5% of the registered voters of the Town of Norwich. Fulton asked if there were any further questions regarding Daniel Clay and/or contracted services and received none. Fulton spoke about it being a rough winter for the Department of Public Works saying callouts have increased by 32% over last year at this time, plowing by 22% and pavement treating by 34%. Salt is in short supply but the Town received a delivery today and the shed is full. Sand is down to 700 yards from 7,000 yards and will be partially replenished in the next couple of weeks. There is concern that the mud season could be bad due to the frost being deep. This year's Town Report was mailed out February 20th. Thanks go out to Nancy Kramer, Bonnie Munday, Roberta Robinson, Pam Mullen, Judy Trussell and Ben Trussell for their help on that mailing. Fulton appreciates the team effort involved and thanked Jean Lawe and Doug Lufkin for their parts. The request for proposals for the codification of ordinances is almost complete. The two ordinance books have been made into PDFs. Sending out the request for proposals is being held up until Fulton has a better handle on what monies will be available in this year's budget.
4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Fulton pointed out that the General Fund Warrant includes a \$2,000,000 payment to the Norwich School District. Childs **moved** (2nd Ashley) to approve Check Warrant Report #14-20 for General Fund in the amount of \$2,095,490.22, for Highway Garage Fund in the amount of \$703.62, for Police Station Fund in the amount of \$703.62, for Fire Station Fund in the amount of \$703.63, for Long Term Facility Study Fund in the amount of \$589.13 and for Recreation Dam Fund in the amount of \$251.65 for the period from 2/6/14 to 2/26/14. **Motion passed.**
7. Selectboard
 - a) Approval of the Minutes of the 1/22/14 and 1/29/14 Meetings. After discussion of changes, Childs **moved** (2nd Ashley) to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014, as amended, Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Ashley **moved** (2nd Childs) to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2014, as amended, Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.**
 - b) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After agreeing to post the Tree Warden position and change the meeting time to 5:30 pm, the Selectboard approved the draft agenda for the Organizational Meeting as presented.

5. Strategic Planning with Norwich Energy Committee (NEC) – Define Goals for Energy Issues in Town (Discussion/Possible Action Item). NEC members present were Alan Berolzheimer, Linda Gray and Jonathan Teller-Elsberg. Fulton said an energy audit has been done for Tracy Hall, setback timers are being used and insulation has been improved. Setback timers are also in place at the Police Station and the insulation there has also been improved. Hot water at the Highway Garage is being provided by solar panels and the Highway trucks have automatic engine shut offs. Fulton then reviewed the pie chart on Vermont energy consumption by end-use sector saying that transportation is the largest area followed by residential. The State of Vermont has set energy standards. Fulton also reviewed Figure 2.0 Primary Energy Consumption by Source and Section nationwide. Flanders thanked the NEC members for coming and said the purpose of strategic planning was to build a bridge between where we are today and some desired goal. Berolzheimer said the NEC had gone through the Town Plan, highlighted the highest priority objectives and outlined what can be done publicly and privately regarding heating, electricity and transportation in the chart provided to the Selectboard. The NEC believes the Town needs to have a policy for life-cycle cost planning for Town purchasing that includes fuel and energy costs and carbon emissions. The NEC's goal is have 90% renewable energy use in the Town by 2050. Berolzheimer would like to see the Selectboard come out of the strategic planning process with policies that work towards that goal. Items discussed were: using regional solutions, the difference between goals and how to achieve them, making a list and prioritizing, raising Town awareness, the cost of private solar projects, the NEC and the Selectboard sponsoring public events to educate the public and what next steps should be. It was agreed the Selectboard and the NEC would work to define a strategic energy goal which would lead to a SWOT analysis as a tool to develop a strategic plan for energy at the next regular Selectboard meeting on March 12th. Berolzheimer said the Selectboard could count on the NEC to help with this process.

6. Request to Expend \$495 from the Police Special Equipment Designated Fund to Purchase Three GPS Units (Discussion/Action Item). Dropped.

Ashley **moved** (2nd Cook) to adjourn. **Motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 12, 2014.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Stephen N. Flanders
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – March 5, 2014 at 5:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – March 12, 2014 at 6:30 PM

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