

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Christopher Ashley, Chair; Linda Cook; Steve Flanders; Dan Goulet; Keith Moran; Neil Fulton, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 21 people in the audience.

Also participating: Doug Barba, Megan Brendel, Ernie Ciccotelli, Madeline Dalton, Phil Dechert, Bernard Haskell, Andy Hodgdon, Jill Kearney, John Lawe, Terry McDonnell, Neil Odell, Ellie Ray, Doug Robinson, Liz Russell, Barb Tolman.

Ashley opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). After some discussion, the Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The digital communications system for the Police Department is simulcast and has four transmitter sites that broadcast at the same time. Chief Robinson said the system is working better now, some discussion followed. The Safe Routes to School project should be getting a permit soon.
4. Animal Control Ordinance (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Ashley said all potential changes to the Ordinance will be discussed tonight. The Selectboard is looking for public input. The Norwich Police Officers act as animal control officers for the Town of Norwich. Lawe gets a copy of the Police report and files it with the Vermont Department of Health for informational purposes only. Lawe said there are approximately 6 to 7 incidents reported a year. Moran commented that in 5 years of Police reports only 2 occurred at Huntley Meadow. Selectboard comments included: parents needing to teach their children, supporting proper signage, educating the public and the difficulty of enforcing proper behavior. After some further discussion, the Selectboard asked Fulton to draft language for signs to be placed at trail heads and Huntley.
5. Report on Discussions with the Grange (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Ashley said that the Grange is not interested in selling at the present time, but would consider relocation if the Town paid for all expenses.
6. Facilities Studies (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton said the floor plans are on schedule to be discussed at the November 5th Selectboard meeting. He also commented that the fire bays shown on the plans were for the future. Goulet said the Selectboard should get what they asked for which is a modified 4B. Moran questioned the proposed spaces in the drawings in the packet saying he did not think this was what a majority of the Board asked for. After some further discussion, Fulton was asked to relay to Bread Loaf to keep the scale of the building down. Barba reminded the Board that it takes many reiterations to get to final designs.

7. Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Hearing (Discussion/Action Item). Ray, from Two Rivers, did a PowerPoint presentation explaining the process and details. The process was started in April, a committee was established which did an assessment of community vulnerability to specific hazards and came up with strategies. Fulton said a majority of the list is either underway or has been completed and that 3 to 6 months is the usual turnaround time to hear from the State once submitted. There was some discussion of fluvial erosion. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2nd Cook) to approve the submission of the Norwich Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA for review. **Motion passed.**

6. a) Financing of Capital Facilities. Flanders said his suggestion of using the Undesignated Fund is a way to smooth out payments. He then reviewed the graph showing the Town's current debt payment obligations. Flanders stated the survey indicated that 60% would pay \$10 more per \$100K of valuation which would equal an increase of \$0.010 in the tax rate. There are two approaches to repaying the bond debt, conventional and smoothed. Flanders reviewed an example of a \$3M bond repayment using each method.

8. Email from Kevin Dorn Re: Property Tax Resolution (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Ashley included Neil Odell's personal statement on the resolution in the packet and stated the Norwich School Board has not discussed as yet. Flanders briefly reviewed VLCT's position. Cook read the stats in the beginning of the resolution saying that she felt it was a good thing to put these numbers out to the public. After some discussion, Fulton was asked to put the VLCT version of the Resolution on the Town website.

9. Norwich Pool Dam Update (Discussion). Ashley said he had asked for this to be put on the agenda. Fulton stated that the status of the Pool has not changed. Flanders asked if the Selectboard should support the building of the Dam openly. Fulton replied that ANR knows that both the Town and Town personnel support rebuilding the Pool. McDonnell said he was willing to do a petition with drawings to present to ANR. Fulton reviewed what the Town has done so far pointing out that ANR did not define what constitutes a significant impact.

10. Request to Expend \$7,400 from the Building and Grounds Reserve Fund to Replace a Stand On Mower (Discussion/Action Item). Fulton reviewed his memo briefly saying that the Town is trading in the old mower. After some discussion, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to authorize the Town Manager to spend approximately \$7,400 from the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund. **Motion passed.**

11. Request to Expend \$2,867 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund to Replace Multigas Detectors (Discussion/Action Item). Fulton reviewed his memo to the Selectboard and talked about the use of the detectors. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2nd Cook) to authorize the Town Manager to spend approximately \$2,867.00 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund. **Motion passed.**

12. Correspondence (Please go to www.norwich.vt.us, click on Boards & Committees from the blue banner, click on Selectboard and click on Recent Selectboard Correspondence in the middle section to view resident correspondence):

a) Resident –

- 1) #12 a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k), l) and m). Email from Madeline Dalton Re: Revised Ordinance Regarding Dogs on Huntley Meadows, Email from Douglas Lufkin Re: Ordinance to Regulate Dogs on Huntley, Email from Deborah Nichols Re: Revised Ordinance Regarding Dogs on Huntley Meadows, Email from John Watanabe Re: Proposed Ordinance Change Banning Dogs from Huntley Meadows Sporting Events, Email from Susan McCoy Re: Proposal Regarding Revising Ordinance Limiting Dogs on Huntley Fields, Email from Alex Rimberg Re: Proposed Ordinance Change Banning Dogs from Huntley Meadows Sporting Events, Email from Jane Ackerman Re: Revising Ordinance on Huntley Meadows, Email from Mimi Simpson Re: Revised Ordinance at Huntley Meadows Re: Dogs, Email from Franny Eanet Re: Dogs at Huntley Meadow, Email from Brian Livingston Re: Ordinance for Limiting the Use of Huntley for Dog Owners, Email from Liz Flannery and Steve Garner Re: Ordinance for Limiting the Use of Huntley for Dog Owners, Email from Ann Marie Smith Re: Dog Policy, Email from Scott Genzer Re: Two Thoughts for the Town and Letter from President of Bread Loaf Re: Facilities Study and Prior Relationship with Town Manager. Flanders **moved** (2nd Goulet) to receive emails from Madeline Dalton re: revised Ordinance regarding dogs on Huntley Meadows, Douglas Lufkin re: Ordinance to regulate dogs on Huntley, Deborah Nichols re: revised Ordinance regarding dogs on Huntley Meadows, John Watanabe re: proposed Ordinance change banning dogs from Huntley Meadows sporting events, Susan McCoy re: proposal regarding revising Ordinance limiting dogs on Huntley Fields, Alex Rimberg re: proposed Ordinance change banning dogs from Huntley Meadows sporting events, Jane Ackerman re: revising Ordinance on Huntley Meadows, Mimi Simpson re: revised Ordinance at Huntley Meadows re: dogs, Franny Eanet re: dogs at Huntley Meadow, Brian Livingston re: Ordinance for limiting the use of Huntley for dog owners, Liz Flannery and Steve Garner re: Ordinance for limiting the use of Huntley for dog owners, Ann Marie Smith re: dog policy and Scott Genzer re: two thoughts for the Town. **Motion passed.** Flanders **moved** (2nd Moran) to receive a letter from the President of Bread Loaf Re: Facilities Study and Prior Relationship with the Town Manager. **Motion passed.**

13. Selectboard

- a) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). A discussion of the facilities will be the only topic for the November 5th Special Selectboard meeting. A budget overview will be the main topic on the November 12th agenda. Selectboard submission for the Town Report, capital facilities and a form for disclosure of relationship with banks, per the Investment Policy, will also be on the agenda for November 12th.
- b) Litigation (Executive Session May be Required) (Action Anticipated). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(E), Flanders **moved** (2nd Moran) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the litigation having found that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage and to invite Neil Fulton to join this Session and pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the annual performance review of the Town Manager. **Motion passed.**
- c) Personnel – Town Manager Review (Executive Session may be Required). The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:00 pm.

At 9:54 pm, Cook **moved** (2nd Goulet) to move into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Cook **moved** (2nd Moran) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 28, 2015.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Christopher Ashley
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – November 5, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – November 12, 2014 at 6:00 PM

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