

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 22 people in the audience.

Also participating: Nan Carroll, Carolyn Frye, Linda Gray, Mary Layton, Steve Leinoff, Norman Levy, Sue Pitiger, Demo Sofronas, Amy Somerstein, Irv Thomae, Steve Thoms, Reeve Williams.

Ashley opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). Ashley recognized the passing of Nancy Hoggson saying our Town will not be the same without her and sending condolences to her family. Fulton and Cook served on the Selectboard with Hoggson and commended her for her service. The memorial service for Hoggson will be January 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm in the Norwich Congregational Church. Afterwards, the Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments. No actions taken.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). No actions taken.
4. Waiver under Section 6 of the Alcohol Ordinance for the Spring Gala from the Norwich Women's Club (Discussion/Action Item). Pitiger spoke for the Norwich Women's Club. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Moran) to approve a waiver in accordance with Section 6 of "An Ordinance to Regulate the Possession and Consumption of Alcohol on Town of Norwich Property" (Ordinance) to allow the possession and consumption of alcohol in accordance with the Ordinance at the Spring Gala sponsored by the Norwich Women's Club to be held on March 20, 2015 in Tracy Hall. **Motion passed.**
5. Transfer Station Variable Rate Pricing System (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After considerable discussion and public input, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Moran) to increase the Transfer Station sticker fee from \$15 to \$20 and to keep the other fees the same. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes – Ashley, Flanders, Goulet and Moran; no – Cook). Fulton responded to a question from Cook that this would mean an increase in taxes because the FY16 budget assumed a bag price increase. Fulton commented that his understanding is that the sticker decision also means the possible use of purple bags would be dropped.
6. Facilities Studies (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion and public input, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to recommend to the Town Manager that he come back to the Selectboard with bonding language for the two story Bread Loaf option for a Fire/Police administration building; for the Spates addition to the existing Highway Garage, including repair of the existing roof; and the Spates 60 by 150 pre-engineered steel cold storage building for Public Works. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Moran; no – Cook and Goulet). After discussion of bonding, Cook **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) to instruct the Town Manager to generate an RFP for getting a bid price for the Bread Loaf option for the Fire/Police administration building for the Selectboard's first meeting in February. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Cook and Goulet; no – Ashley, Flanders and Moran). Fulton pointed out that he would need at least \$100,000 to accomplish this task.

a) PV at Public Works. Gray reviewed the proposed option for a roof mounted PV system which would involve no risk or cost to the Town and a contribution to the construction of the cold storage building.

8. Norwich Energy Committee (NEC) Membership (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After some discussion of the candidates, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Moran) to appoint Norman Levy and Sarah Drew Reeves to the Norwich Energy Committee. **Motion passed.** Afterwards, it was agreed by consensus that open positions for the NEC would be advertised and that Flanders would work on developing a charge for the Committee.

7. Norwich Pool Dam Replacement.

a) Report from Ashley Re: Conversations with Deb Markowitz (Discussion). After discussion, Moran **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to put the \$25,000 line item for Professional Services – Dam Litigation back in the FY16 budget under Town Administration. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Moran; no – Cook and Goulet).

b) Advisory Committee (Discussion/Possible Action Item). The Selectboard agreed by consensus to not have an advisory committee at this time.

9. Meeting with Irv Thomae to Discuss ECFiber Proposal for Article on Town Meeting Warning (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Thomae spoke about the change improving financing options for ECFiber and said at least two towns need to vote in favor of the change by Australian ballot at the Town Meeting vote.

10. Review of Draft Town Meeting Warning (Discussion/Action Item). Article 8 was dropped. Article 9 was approved. Article 11 was approved and Good Beginnings will be contacted. After discussion, reference to the appropriate Statute for outside agencies being added to the Warning was dropped. Advisory articles were discussed and none were added.

a) Town Meeting Warning Bond Language (Discussion/Action Item). Fulton will handle, as per the earlier vote.

11. Discussion of Presentation on Budget at Town Meeting (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion, the Selectboard agreed to further discuss at their next meeting.

12. Correspondence (Please go to [www.norwich.vt.us](http://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) and d). Email from Margaret Cheney Re: Trash and the Law, Email from Mary Layton Re: Public Safety Discussion, Email from Amy Stringer Re: Trash and Email from Lizann Peyton Re: Trash Bag Input. Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) to receive emails from Margaret Cheney re: trash and the law, Mary Layton re: public safety discussion, Amy Stringer re: trash and Lizann Peyton re: trash bag input. **Motion passed.**

13. Selectboard

a) Approval of the Minutes of the 10/22/14 and 12/17/14 Meetings (Action Item). After some discussion, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to approve the minutes of the December 17,

2014 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Moran **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Cook) to postpone approval of the October 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes until January 28<sup>th</sup>. **Motion passed.**

- b) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion, the Board agreed to add an agenda item to their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the Norwich Finance Committee selection process as requested by Lindberg. Other items on the agenda for January 28<sup>th</sup> will be: the NEC charge, Town Meeting Warning, Selectboard budget presentation, the outside audit and Town Manager review.
- c) Personnel – Town Manager Review (Executive Session may be Required). After some discussion, this item was dropped.

Goulet **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Moran) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on March 25, 2015.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Christopher Ashley  
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – January 28, 2015 at 6:30 PM

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