

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 6:30 PM

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

There were about 17 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jaci Allen, Kris Clement, Linda Gray, David Hubbard, Suzanne Lupien, Charlotte Metcalf, Doug Robinson, Anne Silberfarb, Peter Silberfarb, Demo Sofronas, Matt Swett, Fran Walz.

Cook opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). The Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda.
2. Public Comments. Lupien read a letter to the Selectboard that will be received under correspondence at the April 22, 2015 meeting. No actions taken.
3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). No actions taken.
4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to approve Check Warrant Report #15-24 for General Fund in the amount of \$202,785.67 and for Recreation Scholarships Fund in the amount of \$160.00 for the period from 03/26/15 to 04/08/15. **Motion passed.**
5. Recommendation for Town Health Officer (Discussion/Action Item). Lawe has expressed his willingness to continue as Health Officer. Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to recommend to the state to reappoint John Lawe to be Health Officer for a three-year term ending in April, 2018. **Motion passed.**
6. Interview/Appoint Meaghan Wilson to the Norwich Energy Committee (NEC) (Discussion/Action Item). Gray said that Wilson had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting; however the NEC supports her appointment to the Committee. Gray said the NEC also supports the recommended term lengths in the motion before the Selectboard. After some discussion, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to appoint Meaghan Wilson to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March, 2016 and to adjust the three-year term for Robert Sydney's term to end March, 2017. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes – Ashley, Flanders, Goulet and Layton; no – Cook).
7. Recommendation from Conservation Commission regarding Conservation Easement on Rieser Property on Hobson Road (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Hubbard, speaking as Chair of the Norwich Conservation Commission (NCC), addressed and reviewed why the NCC supports the easement. Goulet spoke in favor of the easement. After some questions, Goulet **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to approve the use of \$5,000 from the Conservation Commission Reserve Fund to support the Upper Valley Land Trust effort to raise monies to secure a conservation easement on the Rieser property located on Hopson Road. **Motion passed.**

8. Capital Facilities (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion of the programs and some minor adjustments, Goulet **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to approved the public safety programs as reviewed on April 1<sup>st</sup> and amended April 8<sup>th</sup> with a goal of 4,805 sq. ft. **Motion passed**. Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to support a program for Public Works as discussed at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Selectboard meeting that provides for remodeling of the current Public Works building and an addition to the current building for unheated equipment storage. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Layton; no – Cook and Goulet). Cook **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) to remove Phase 2 references from the programs. **Motion passed**. Flanders had prepared and distributed possible motions for a bond vote. Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) that a Special Town Meeting be warned for May 12, 2015 to consider the following articles: **Article 1**. Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Norwich in an amount not to exceed \$695,000, subject to reduction from available grants-in-aid, be issued to finance the cost of public works buildings improvements, the aggregated estimated cost of such improvements being \$695,000?; **Article 2**. If Article 1 shall be approved, shall the general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Norwich approved in Article 1 be increased by \$2,110,000 to finance the cost of public safety buildings improvements, the aggregated estimated cost of such improvements being \$2,110,000?; **Article 3**. If Articles 1 and 2 shall be approved, shall the general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Norwich approved in Articles 1 and 2 be increased by \$211,000 to finance the cost of improving the energy efficiency of the public safety buildings improvements with a goal that the energy uses of the buildings would be from renewable resources, the aggregated estimated cost of such improvements being \$211,000? This motion was withdrawn after discussion. Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) that a Special Town Meeting be warned for May 12, 2015 to consider the following articles: **Article 1**. Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Norwich in an amount not to exceed \$2,805,000, subject to reduction from available grants-in-aid, be issued to finance the cost of public safety buildings with an estimated cost of \$2,110,000 and public works buildings improvements with an estimated cost of \$695,000, subject to approval of the bond counsel, the aggregated estimated cost of such improvements being \$2,805,000?; **Article 2**. If Article 1 shall be approved, shall the general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Norwich approved in Article 1 be increased by \$211,000 to finance the cost of improving the energy efficiency of the new public safety buildings with a goal that the energy uses of the buildings would be from renewable resources, the aggregated estimated cost of such improvements being \$211,000? **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Layton; no – Cook and Goulet). After discussion, the Selectboard agreed that the informational meeting for the vote would be held May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board also agreed to add a special meeting for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm to discuss the adopted programs, costs, public forums and presentations.

9. Ordinance to Regulate Alarm Systems in the Town of Norwich (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Postponed until the May 13, 2015 Selectboard meeting.

10. Ordinance to Regulate Local Enforcement of Speed Limits on State Highways in the Town of Norwich (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Postponed until the May 13, 2015 Selectboard meeting.

11. 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) #11 a), b) and c). Email from Carolyn Frye Re: Roundtable Discussion of Facilities, Memo from Jean Astley Re: Slow Down, Think, Do Not be in a Rush for a Bond and Email from Anne & Pete Silberfarb Re: April 1<sup>st</sup> Facilities Planning Meeting. Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to receive an email from Carolyn Frye re: roundtable discussion of facilities, a memo from Jean Astley re: slow down, think, do not be in a rush for a bond and an email from Anne & Pete Silberfarb re: April 1<sup>st</sup> facilities planning meeting. **Motion passed.**

12. Selectboard

- a) Selectboard Packets (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Postponed until the April 22, 2015 Selectboard meeting.
- b) Approval of the Minutes of the 3/11/15 and 3/25/15 Meetings (Action Item). Postponed until the April 22, 2015 Selectboard meeting.
- c) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Open positions and capital facilities will be agenda items for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard meeting.
- d) Litigation (Executive Session May be Required) (Action Anticipated). Postponed until the May 13, 2015 Selectboard meeting.

Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on April 22, 2015.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Linda Cook  
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – April 15, 2015 at 5:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – April 22, 2015 at 6:30 PM

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