

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Tuesday, November 24, 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 23 people in the audience.

Also participating: Gary Ames, Dennis Brown, Kris Clement, Phil Dechert, Pat & Dave Derrick, Bob Fiske, Andy Hodgdon, Mary Hutchins, David Hubbard, Marty Lyman, Creigh Moffatt, Bonnie Munday, Jill Kearney Niles, Doug Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Jennifer Roby, Demo Sofronas, Matt Swett, Harold Trombley, Carrie Vuyovich, Burt Weinberg, Richard Wright.

Cook opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). After discussion, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to postpone items #5 and #10 until the December 9th Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Afterwards, the Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda as amended.

2. Public Comments. No actions taken.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). No actions taken.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After several questions, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to approve Check Warrant Report #16-13 for General Fund in the amount of \$91,571.24 and for DPW Paving Fund in the amount of \$85,003.82 for the period from 11/24/15 to 11/24/15. **Motion passed.**

5. Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Postponed until December 9th.

6. Illsley Road (Discussion). Fulton said the Selectboard received a petition today to discontinue or reclassify a portion of Illsley Road in Norwich from two of the abutting property owners. Dechert gave background information and said that Illsley Road is a Class 4 road in Norwich. Many people spoke regarding the prior use of the bridge by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers. Fulton reviewed the options available which are: (1) keep as a Class 4 road, (2) make it a legal trail or (3) throw up the road. After discussion, interested parties were advised to work with the Town Manager on replacement of the bridge and the Selectboard will review the petition at their December 9th meeting.

7. Turnpike Road Speed Limits (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton reviewed the speed studies included in the packet. After discussion and public input, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) that the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to draft an ordinance changing the maximum speed limit to 30 mph beginning at the Upper Turnpike Road intersection and extending northerly to the intersection with Old Orchard Lane where the maximum speed limit will be 25 mph to the end of the Class 3 portion of Turnpike Road. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes - Ashley, Flanders, Goulet and Layton; no - Cook). It was noted that the proposed 25 mph speed limit was outside of the area where the speed studies were conducted.

8. Budget Follow Up (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton reviewed his proposed changes to the FY17 budget listed on the top half of his spreadsheet dated November 24, 2015. After

discussion, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to include the Town Manager recommended changes to VLCT Membership, GUVSWD, Health Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance, Fire Department Workers' Compensation and Property & Casualty Insurance in the Public Hearing budget. **Motion passed.** Next, Fulton reviewed proposed changes to the FY17 budget listed on the bottom half of his spreadsheet. Cook suggested using part of the \$60,000 in the Public Works budget for paving be put toward DPW building repairs. Fulton reviewed why the \$60,000 is needed. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to include the changes for a new membrane roof (cost \$40,500) and structural repairs at the Highway Garage (cost \$15,000), \$10,000 for the Sidewalk Reserve Fund and an increase in the 10 coupon card for the Transfer Station to \$35.00. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Layton; no – Cook and Goulet). Fulton suggested using \$19,040 from the Highway Garage Reserve Fund to offset the costs at the Highway Garage.

9. Town Manager's Terms of Employment (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Flanders reviewed his memo regarding the Town Manager Current Terms of Employment dated November 5, 2015. Afterwards, Ashley **moved** (2nd Flanders) to authorize the Selectboard Chair to hire Attorney John Klesch to give his legal opinion of pertinent Selectboard questions regarding the Norwich Town Manager's current employment status and to request counsel to identify any statements in Flanders' November 5, 2015 memo, 'Town Manager Current Terms of Employment,' that are incorrect. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ashley and Flanders; no – Cook, Goulet and Layton). After some discussion of how questions sent to Attorney Klesch were developed and public input, Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to forward Fulton's memo regarding Legal Questions dated November 20, 2015 to Attorney Klesch. **Motion failed 2 to 2** (yes – Ashley and Flanders; no – Goulet and Layton). Cook abstained from voting.

10. Alternative Projects for the FEMA Funds from the Dam Project (Discussion). Postponed until a future meeting.

11. 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) #11 a) and b). Email from Stephen Flanders Re: Requested Agenda Item and Memo from David and Patricia Derrick Re: Closing of Illsley Road/Griggs Mountain Road. Flanders **moved** (2nd Ashley) to receive an email from Stephen Flanders re: requested agenda item and a memo from David and Patricia Derrick re: closing of Illsley Road/Griggs Mountain Road. **Motion passed.**

12. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/4/15 and 11/10/15 Selectboard Meetings (Action Item). Cook asked to divide the motions. After some discussion, Ashley **moved** (2nd Flanders) to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2015 Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed.** Ashley **moved** (2nd Flanders) to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015, including amendments presented by Flanders, Selectboard meeting. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Ashley, Flanders and Layton; no – Cook and Goulet).
- b) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion, the December 2nd meeting was changed to Town Manager Evaluation (Executive Session may be Required) only. Items on the agenda for December 9th include: speed study and ordinance for portions of Turnpike Road, errors and omissions, Public Hearing on the F717 budget, Illsley Road petition, engineering costs for Pool area cleanup using FEMA

funds and possibly design/build costs for Public Works.

c) Town Manager Evaluation (Executive Session may be Required). Postponed.

Ashley **moved** (2nd Flanders) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on December 9, 2015.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Linda Cook
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – December 2, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – December 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH
SELECTBOARD.