

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, December 9, 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 26 people in the audience.

Also participating: Ed Childs, Pat & Dave Derrick, Andy Hodgdon, Cheryl Lindberg, Doug Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Gerry Tolman, Harold & Ruth Trombley, Carrie Vuyovich, Richard Wright.

Cook opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Review of Opinions from Attorney Klesch Re: Terms of Employment of Town Manager (Executive Session May be Required) (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Cook read an email from Attorney Klesch regarding the Town of Norwich – legal opinion re: employment matter. Legal opinion is not available for discussion tonight. After some discussion, Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) that the legal opinion from Attorney Klesch not be disclosed or discussed with any person other than a member of the Selectboard. **Motion passed 3 to 2** (yes – Cook, Goulet and Layton; no – Ashley and Flanders).
2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). The Selectboard, by consensus, approved the Agenda as amended.
3. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). Written report in packet and on the Town website. No actions taken.
5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). After questions, Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to approve Check Warrant Report #16-14 for General Fund in the amount of \$158,824.81, for Main Street Flags Fund in the amount of \$102.50, for Fire Station Fund in the amount of \$6,270.00 and for Town Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$2,253.02 for the period from 12/01/15 to 12/09/15. **Motion passed**. The \$6,270 was for a new furnace for the Fire Station.
6. Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Lindberg briefly reviewed the Report. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to receive the Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report. **Motion passed**.
7. Errors and Omissions (Discussion/Action Item). Lindberg presented saying most of the changes were related to current use. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Goulet) to revise values as detailed in the memo from the Norwich Board of Listers to the Norwich Selectboard dated November 30, 2015. **Motion passed**.
8. Public Hearing on Proposed FY17 Budget (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to open the public hearing on the FY17 budget. **Motion passed**. Fulton briefly reviewed the FY17 budget and the changes made at the last Selectboard meeting. The proposed budget shows an overall increase of 2.27% for the Town budget. The COLA being used for salary increases in the budget is 1.7%. After some discussion, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to close the

public hearing on the FY17 budget. **Motion passed.**

Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to recommend that Town Meeting approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$4,331,293. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ashley and Flanders; no – Cook, Goulet and Layton).

9. Petitions to Reclassify Illsley Road to a Legal Trail or to Discontinue (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Fulton said the Selectboard has received two petitions requesting a reclassification of Illsley Road to a Town Trail. Fulton stated that it is up to the Selectboard to decide. After some discussion, Ashley **moved** that the Selectboard accept the petitions to reclassify and begin the process to consider changing a portion to a trail. Motion was dropped due to lack of a second. Goulet **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to keep the road as a class 4 road. After further discussion, the motion was dropped. Ashley observed that this will mean the road will remain a Class 4 road. Fulton said he is working with a group that includes VAST and is waiting for a design for the bridge. A permit from ANR will not be needed but Fulton wants ANR to put that in writing.

10. Review Turnpike Road Speed Study (Discussion Item). Fulton reviewed the speed study and said the Selectboard's recommendation of 25 mph is within the parameters of the speed study.

11. Speed Limit Ordinance on Turnpike Road (Discussion/Possible Action Item). Childs spoke against decreasing the speed limit. Afterwards, pursuant to Title 24 VSA § 1971, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) for the Selectboard to adopt the Ordinance to Regulate Local Enforcement of Speed Limits on Town Highways in the Town of Norwich and authorize the Chair to sign. **Motion passed.**

12. Review Draft D & K Engineering Scope of Work for Restoration Project at Norwich Pool Location (Discussion Item). Fulton had asked that this discussion be taken off the agenda as the scope of services has changed. No actions were taken.

13. Review Rules for Conduct of Regular and Special Selectboard Meetings (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After discussion, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) that agenda items put forward by any member shall be considered and if put forward by two members will be added to the agenda. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ashley and Flanders; no – Cook, Goulet and Layton).

14. 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) #14 a), b), c), d), e), f) and g). Emails from Nancy Dean Re: Pool, Memo from Mary Layton Re: Pool Permit Application Follow Up, Memo from Stephen Flanders Re: Pool Application Follow-Up, Email from Jennifer Roby Re: Banners, Email from Stephen Flanders Re: Request for Material Cited at Last Night's Selectboard Meeting, Memo from Mary Layton Re: Legal Questions Process and Memo from Linda Cook Re: Legal Questions. Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to receive emails from Nancy Dean re: pool, a memo from Mary Layton re: pool permit application follow up, a memo from Stephen Flanders re: pool application follow-up, an email from Jennifer Roby re: banners, an email from Stephen Flanders re: request for material cited at last night's Selectboard meeting, a memo from Mary Layton re: legal questions process and a memo from Linda Cook re: legal questions. **Motion passed.** Ashley read his response to item #14 b) and said he would provide a copy to anyone who wanted it.

15. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 11/18/15 and 11/24/15 Selectboard Meetings (Action Item). After some discussion, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 and November 24, 2015, including amendments presented by Cook, Selectboard meetings. **Motion passed.**
- b) Review of Next Agendas (Discussion/Possible Action Item). The January 6<sup>th</sup> special meeting will be to discuss alternate projects for the Pool. Items on the agenda for January 13<sup>th</sup> will include: the Banner Policy, Favreau/Greene request, facilities questions and a design/build project for Public Works. Items on the agenda for the December 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting will be review of opinions from Attorney Klesch and Town Manager evaluation. Afterwards, Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley) that the Selectboard place all material received from Klesch in the Selectboard packet for December 16<sup>th</sup> except items clearly identified by Klesch that would put the Town at a significant disadvantage. **Motion failed 2 to 3** (yes – Ashley and Flanders; no – Cook, Goulet and Layton).
- c) Town Manager Evaluation (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), Flanders **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Town Manager evaluation. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:38 pm.

At 10:14 pm, Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to move into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Ashley **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Flanders) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 13, 2016.

By Nancy Kramer  
Assistant to the Town Manager

Linda Cook  
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 6, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 13, 2016 at 6:30 PM

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