

Part IV
Norwich Fire District

Norwich Fire District

Prudential Committee	Term Expires
Jonathan Vincent, <i>Chair</i>	2008
Robert Chamberlin	2009
Melvin Biggs	2010

Administration

Cheryl Lindberg, <i>Treasurer</i>	2008
Anne French, <i>Clerk</i>	2008
Auditor (<i>To be appointed by Prudential Committee</i>)	2008
John C. Candon, <i>Moderator</i>	2008
Brion McMullan, <i>District Administrator</i>	
Sam Eaton and Bob Edmands, <i>Staff</i>	

Office Hours

The office is located at 316 Main Street and is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. To ensure that someone is in the office, please call 649-3474 in advance for an appointment. The office is not handicapped accessible; if you have any special needs, please call and we will make suitable arrangements.

Norwich Fire District 2007 Annual Meeting Warning

The Annual Meeting of the Norwich Fire District will be held in Tracy Memorial Hall, Multi-Purpose Room on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1.** To approve the 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes.
- Article 2.** To hear and act upon the reports of the Officers of the District.
- Article 3.** To see if the Fire District will raise and appropriate the amount set forth in the budget proposed by the Prudential Committee for necessary expenses.
- Article 4.** To authorize the Treasurer to collect District taxes and assess statutory penalties and interest for delinquent taxes.
- Article 5.** To elect all Fire District officers as may be required by law.
- Article 6.** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Persons residing within the limits of the Fire District who are voters in Town Meeting shall be voters in the Fire District Meeting. Title 20 VSA, Pt 7, Ch. 171, § 2484.

It is the policy of the Norwich Fire District to make public meetings accessible to all. If you have any special needs, please make them known to the Norwich Fire District at 649-3474 at least 24 hours before the meeting.

If the number of voters attending the Annual Meeting exceeds the capacity of the Tracy Hall Multi-Purpose Room the meeting will be moved to the Multi-purpose Room at Marion Cross School.

Anne French, Clerk

Annual Report of the Prudential Committee of the Norwich Fire District

During the past year the Fire District has successfully concluded the replacement of 1922 cast iron pipe on Elm Street and Jones Circle. The project included engineering for all the remaining 1922 pipe, and has received permit approval. This means that, depending upon the town's schedule for road replacement and the cost of construction, we are in a position to bid out and do the remaining sections.

The proposed budget includes a 5% increase in the water rate, helping us to achieve a nearly balanced budget. During the past 5 years the District has done its best to keep costs down, but with the new debt service on the recent replacements and the ongoing cost of having sufficient personnel to maintain twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week coverage, we have had to have slight increases. At the same time, we feel it is very important to keep putting money into a reserve to pay for any accidental damage and needed maintenance of the system.

The State of Vermont continues to add requirements to local water systems. The Norwich Fire District is in compliance, but to remain so we will need to add a sampling station at the intersection of Butternut Road and Route Five North. It is an unfortunate fact of life that these new rules and regulations will continue, and add costs to the system without providing any help to pay for them.

We have added three new connections in the past year, and replaced one iron water service dating back to the 1930s. Between 1922 and about 1940, 1-in. iron water services were installed in a number of houses in the District. If your water service has 1-in. threaded iron pipe where it comes through the wall or out of the ground, it should be replaced with copper to prevent the possibility of failure. The best time to do this is when adding a backflow preventer to your system. This is a safety measure that helps protect the entire system by preventing water flowing back out the house into the mains. District personnel will inspect your system and provide a free estimate for the cost of replacement, although you may use a private plumber if you wish. About 200 houses in the system do not yet have this device in place.

The Land Management Council manages and maintains the Fire District land along Beaver Meadow Road. In 2006 they completed work on the trail system on the parcel opposite Charles Brown School House Road. Plans are now in the works for cutting on a parcel located off Kate Wallace Road. By thinning the woods of old or dying trees, the forest's vitality is maintained and wildlife and other species can flourish. The District applauds the Council for their on-going efforts to manage and maintain the Fire District lands.

Jonathan Vincent, Chair

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund of the Norwich Fire District ended the year 12/31/06 with a deficit of \$12,750 against a budgeted deficit of \$18,468. The deficit is a result of the District's one-time General Fund contribution of \$15,000 to the renovation of the Fire District's Beaver Meadow building. With the anticipation of the building serving as future office space, the contribution was consistent with the long-range plan. The 2006 tax rate for the Fire District was up 2.35% from \$0.047 to \$0.481. For 2007, there is a proposed increase in tax revenue of \$3,400. It is anticipated that increases in the grand list will account for most of the additional revenue.

The Water Fund of the Norwich Fire District ended 2006 with a surplus of \$7,381 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$1,325. Water revenues were \$6,600 lower than budget, while the three expenditure categories combined for about a \$10,000 savings against budget. Knowing that revenues were not meeting budget, expenditures were carefully monitored throughout the year. The 2007 proposed budget reflects a \$7,087 deficit, with water revenues increasing by approximately \$11,000 over 2006 revenues. A water rate increase of 5% will add about \$5,500 of new revenues, based on gallons sold in 2006. In order to continue to provide for the costs of running a water system, this rate increase is necessary. With the addition of health insurance coverage for the full-time employee in 2006, a COLA was not included. The proposed COLA for 2007 is 4%, offset by a slight reduction in the health insurance expense for the District due to the employees accepting a higher co-pay and deductible.

The 2005 water project on Elm Street and Jones Circle resulted in the borrowing of \$187,446 at 3%, which begins repayment in October 2007. The Sidewalk Reserve Fund did not expend any funds during 2006.

Cheryl A. Lindberg, Treasurer

Delinquent Tax Report – December 31, 2006

	Tax Amount	Pen/Interest	Total
Nancy B. Hoggson	\$217.60	\$23.95	\$241.55 <i>pd Jan '07</i>
Matthew Huntington	\$9.25	\$0.92	\$10.17 <i>pd</i>
Janet M. Olsen	\$68.25	\$7.50	\$75.75 <i>pd Jan '07</i>

Norwich Fire District – Revenue, Expenditure and Budget Reports

All Funds – December 31, 2006

	GENERAL FUND			WATER FUND		
	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2007 PROPOSED	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2007 PROPOSED
REVENUES						
Taxes	\$ 74,500	\$ 74,400	\$ 77,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Watershed Land	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Fees	-	-	-	131,640	125,046	136,200
Fire Protection Assessment	-	-	-	43,955	43,955	47,598
Interest/Penalty	1,000	1,429	1,000	275	321	400
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	500	3,188	500
OTHER FINANCING						
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues & Financing	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,829	\$ 78,800	\$ 176,370	\$ 172,510	\$ 184,698
EXPENDITURES						
Administrative	33,435	27,438	33,768	61,299	56,972	63,508
Operations	35,000	36,108	38,350	75,630	76,276	76,726
Maintenance	500	-	500	8,600	8,365	12,600
Debt Principal/Interest	4,033	4,033	4,033	14,516	14,516	26,951
Reserve Fund Transfer	21,000	21,000	3,000	15,000	9,000	12,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 93,968	\$ 88,579	\$ 79,651	\$ 175,045	\$ 165,129	\$ 191,785
Surplus/(Deficit)	(18,468)	(12,750)	(851)	1,325	7,381	(7,087)
Revolving Loan	989	989	-	7,802	13,380	-
Dep in transit at 12/31/05- 12/06	1,114	1,114	-	-	(16)	16
Beginning Cash	53,411	53,411	42,764	28,016	28,014	48,759
Ending Cash	\$ 37,046	\$ 42,764	\$ 41,913	\$ 37,143	\$ 48,759	\$ 41,688

Norwich Fire District – Revenue, Expenditure and Budget Reports

All Funds – December 31, 2006

	WATER RESERVE FUND		SIDEWALK RESERVE FUND	
	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2006 BUDGET	2007 PROPOSED
REVENUES				
New Water Connection(s)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	1,500	3,668	-	321
OTHER FINANCING				
Revolving Loan Funds	30,851	20,116	-	600
Interfund Transfer	30,000	24,000	6,000	-
Total Revenues & Financing	\$ 62,351	\$ 48,784	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
EXPENDITURES				
Due to General Fund	-	-	-	-
Due to Water Fund	990	989	-	-
Capital Project-Bvr Mdw Bldg	7,802	7,802	-	-
Elm St/Jones Circle Project	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,473	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Surplus/(Deficit)	45,086	39,993	6,000	3,600
Beginning Cash	91,986	91,986	15,459	21,780
Ending Cash	\$ 137,072	\$ 131,979	\$ 21,459	\$ 25,380