



Town Report of Norwich, Vermont

Fiscal Year 2006

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006



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Fire Chief Howard D. (Jack) Fraser

After 51 years as a member of the Norwich Fire Department, Chief Jack Fraser retired on December 31, 2006. Jack joined the department in 1955 and has served as a firefighter, was elected assistant chief in 1975 and was appointed fire chief in March 1995. When he joined the department in 1955, the fire department was housed in a wooden garage at the site of the existing fire station, which was built in 1980. The primary piece of fire apparatus in 1955 was a 1938 Ford pumper.

During the period that Jack served as Fire Chief, he has overseen the modernization of fire department apparatus. The department now has 2 modern pumpers including a rescue/pumper, a new tanker, a new forestry truck as well as a 1979 aerial ladder truck (which is scheduled for replacement in 2009) and a mini-pumper.

When Jack joined the department, there were six fire department drills a year. As Jack supervised the upgrading of training, the number of drills per year increased from six to 36. In 2002 Jack oversaw the formation of an EMS division of the fire department. This division has been very active in providing emergency medical care to the community with the support of the Hanover Fire Department who provides paramedic and transport services to Norwich.

In addition to replacement and upgrading of almost all of the fire department apparatus, Jack has been involved with significant upgrades in the tools and equipment used for providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services. The firefighters of 2006 have modern and efficient equipment and protective gear to make their jobs more effective and safer.

During Jack's tenure as Chief, the Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office also improved from a 5 in the hydrant district and 9 in the rural district to a 4 in all areas within 5 road miles of the Norwich fire station. The Insurance Services Office rates fire protection on a scale of 1-10, with the poorest rating being 10. Norwich now has one of the best Public Protection Classifications in the state. This has resulted in significant savings in insurance costs to Norwich property owners.

In addition to his duties as a member of the fire department, Jack also served the Town as a member of the Planning Commission, Deputy Emergency Management Director, Emergency Management Coordinator, Deputy Fire Warden, Acting Town Manager, and in many other quiet and effective ways.

Jack also served his country by spending two tours as a Ranger in Vietnam, taught ROTC at the University of Vermont and retired from the Army as a Colonel in 1990.

Jack has been a loyal and dedicated servant to Norwich, and he still is. He will be missed as his official service to the town ends but he will still be at his desk in the back of Dan & Whit's answering questions and providing advice, as he has done for so many years.

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Town of Norwich, Vermont And
Norwich Town School District
Warning of Annual Meeting, March 6, 2007

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont, and the Norwich Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet in Tracy Memorial Hall, Norwich, Vermont, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2007, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 6, 2007, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

Article 1. Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

Article 2. Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2007.

Article 3. Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

Article 4. Authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District appropriate \$4,656,346, necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008?

Article 7. Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School Board.

Article 8. Approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$3,785,194 plus unanticipated state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

Article 9. Pursuant to 32 VSA § 3845, shall the voters of the Town of Norwich exempt from taxation that portion of a property's assessment which is devoted to qualifying alternative energy generation?

Article 10. (ADVISORY ONLY) Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich advise the Selectboard to consider a reduction of the Norwich Police Department from five officers to four officers recognizing that such a reduction will likely result in a reduction in the level of services and hours of coverage provided by that Department?

Article 11. Pursuant to 32 VSA § 3802, shall the Town of Norwich raise the veteran's tax exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000 of assessed value?

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich authorize the transfer of \$4,938 (plus interest) remaining in the Highway - VT Route 132 Bridge Designated Fund to the General Fund budget?

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich instruct the Selectboard to present separate articles for the budgets of the Police, Fire/Fast, Public Works and General Administration for voting at Town meeting?

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$457,453 for the operating expenses of the Police Department?

Article 15. (ADVISORY ONLY) Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich advise the Selectboard to appoint a committee to consider the appropriate form of government for the Town of Norwich?

- Article 16.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$500 to the Senior Action Council?
- Article 17.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,250 to the Norwich American Legion?
- Article 18.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$141,000 for the operating expenses of the Norwich Public Library Association?
- Article 19.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to ACORN (A Community Resource Network)?
- Article 20.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$9,082 to Advance Transit?
- Article 21.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,284 to The Family Place?
- Article 22.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest?
- Article 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,750 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action)?
- Article 24.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging?
- Article 25.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Partners?
- Article 26.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service)?
- Article 27.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$6,000 to Youth-In-Action?
- Article 28.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$15,000 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA § 5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries?
- Article 29.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance?
- Article 30.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,906 to Windsor County Court Diversion Program?
- Article 31.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$8,000 to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to assist with general operations?
- Article 32.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$13,070 to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH in support of various programs?
- Article 33.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,093 to the Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeast Vermont in support of community services provided to Norwich?
- Article 34.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,344 to The Child Care Center for a one-year income-sensitive scholarship?
- Article 35.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$500 to the Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community through volunteer service?
- Article 36.** Require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before

4:30 p.m. August 17, 2007, and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. February 15, 2008. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% per month for the first three months and 1 1/2% per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 15, 2008. All taxes, interest and collection fees will be paid into the Town Treasury.

Article 37. Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.

Norwich Selectboard
Alison M. May
John Candon
Gerard Chapdelaine
Edwin Childs

Norwich School Board
Linda Gray
Mary Sachsse
Geoffrey Vitt
Stanton Williams

Candidates for Office • March 6, 2007

Moderator (1 year)Warren Thayer
 Dresden-Norwich School Director (3 years) . . .Andrew Carey Callaghan
 Lister (3 years)Richard Blacklow
 Selectman (3 years)Brooke Adler
Suzanne Lupien
 Selectman (2 years)Gerard Chapdelaine
 Finance Committee (2 Year Unexpired Term)Alvin Converse
 Cemetery Commissioner (5 years)Fred Spaulding
 Cemetery Commissioner (1 year unexpired term)Fred Smith, Jr
 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)Cheryl A. Lindberg

Voter Information

Registration: To be eligible to vote in this election, people must register to vote and applications to the checklist must be received by the Town Clerk by noon on Monday, February 26, 2007.

Absentee Ballots: All requests for absentee voter ballots must be made prior to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2007. There are three ways you may vote by absentee ballot:

1. Voters may vote in person in the Town Clerk’s Office. 17 VSA §2537.
2. Ballots may be delivered by teams of Justices of the Peace to voters who are absent due to illness or physical disability. The Town Clerk must receive notice no later than three days in advance. 17 VSA §2538.
3. Ballots may be mailed to absent voters if a valid application has been filed with the Town Clerk. 17 VSA §2539.

Curbside Voting: Election Officials are permitted “to carry a ballot to a handicapped or elderly person in order to permit that person to mark his ballot while in a motor vehicle adjacent to the polling place.” 17 VSA, §2502(b).

Tracy Hall is handicapped accessible. Any person needing additional assistance should contact the Town Clerk at least four days before Town Meeting.