

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

Tropical Storm Irene destroyed the Norwich Pool Dam in August of 2011. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimated the cost of replacement on the structure at \$567,000, 95% of which would be paid with Federal and State Funds. The Town Manager and the Design Team were responsible for preparing a required Stream Alteration Permit application to be submitted to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). ANR denied the Stream Alteration Permit. After discussions between the Selectboard, the public and our attorney the Selectboard decided not to file an appeal on the Norwich Pool Dam permit denial.

The Selectboard followed the FEMA Alternate Project guide to redirect the Pool Dam funds to replace a Route 132 culvert, Pool Dam reconstruction clean up and construct an addition to the Department of Public Works building. Upon learning that the Route 132 culvert was not an eligible project, the board substituted a front end loader for Department of Public Works as an eligible alternative. We are waiting for notification from FEMA regarding the approval of the Pool Dam funds for these alternate Projects.

The Norwich Farms property on Turnpike road was gifted to Vermont Technical College (VTC) to be used as an agricultural education program for its students. (VTC) plans to establish a cheese and dairy processing plant operation. They hope to be up and running by the fall.

The Norwich Senior Action Council was established in the 1960s by providing programs that help our seniors. The Meals on Wheels program will be taken over by the Bugbee Senior Center. Council members Paula Harris, Dottie Cloud and Martha Drake have decided to retire after many years of service to our town. The town thanks them for their dedication and time assisting our seniors.

The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District (GUVSWD) board is working on a proposed 5mw photovoltaic array on the North Hartland Site. The expected completion date was December 2016. This has the potential to reduce our debt service payments to GUVSWD by about half.

The Capital Facilities Public Safety Facility Building for the Fire and Police Departments project moved forward after two bonds failed with a new Architect Jay White. He has incorporated Net Zero options, new furniture and Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards options in the new design. The Selectboard submitted a new reduced bond for the November 8, 2016 ballot.

With the letter of resignation from Town Manager Neil Fulton, Zoning Administrator Phil Dechert was asked to be the Acting Interim Town Manager while the Selectboard began the

process of hiring an Interim Town Manager. The board then hired Dave Ormiston as Interim Town Manager. Next, the board contracted with Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns to assist with the hiring of a new Town Manager. We appointed a Town Manager Search Committee comprised of community members, a department head and Norwich business owners to work with us on the hiring process.

The Norwich Selectboard thanks retirees Neil Fulton and Nancy Kramer for their long and dedicated periods of service to the town.

Linda Cook, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Christopher Ashley; Stephen Flanders; Dan Goulet