

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Members present: John Pepper, Chair; Claudette Brochu, Vice Chair; Roger Arnold; John Langhus (via telephone); Mary Layton; Herb Durfee, Town Manager (via telephone); Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were approximately 6 people in the audience.

Also participating: Police Chief Jennifer Frank, Cheryl Lindberg, Doug Wilberding.

1. Approval of Agenda. Selectboard (SB) members agreed to proceed with the agenda as drafted.

2. Public Comment. Durfee said that the town continues to investigate, along with law enforcement. Durfee thanked the SB for being patient with the process as town officials continue their investigation. Pepper asked what the SB members are supposed to be doing. Durfee said the SB is doing what it should; acting as the face of Norwich and continuing to work on the Financial Policies, which was started earlier this summer. Also, Durfee said SB members should continue to ask questions and have regular update meetings. Chief Jennifer Frank said that she is working on keeping a balance between informing the public and not releasing information that could compromise the ongoing investigation. Frank said that she is actively working with FBI agents from Albany, NY the US Attorney General's office, and the local bank. Frank said they know that there were improper bank transaction made, and they are investigating to learn further details. Cheryl Lindberg said that she has been serving as the town's authorized link to the bank. Doug Wilberding asked if the town has notified its insurance carrier. Durfee and Lindberg said that yes, the insurance company has been contacted.

3. Town Finance Issues. Brochu **moved** (2nd Layton) that the Selectboard has made a specific finding that premature public knowledge of the matter being discussed would clearly place the Town of Norwich at a substantial disadvantage under 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E). **Motion approved unanimously.**

Brochu **moved** (2nd Arnold) to enter executive session to discuss a confidential town financial matter, and to possibly invite Susan Gilfillan, Herb Durfee, Jennifer Frank, and Cheryl Lindberg into the executive session. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The SB moved into executive session at 6:49 PM.

Brochu **moved** (2nd Layton) to enter public session. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The SB entered public session at 9:27 PM

Brochu **moved** (2nd Langhus) to authorize John Pepper to provide the Town Manager's assistant with a press release to be released to the listserv, media outlets, and Chris Katucki. **Motion approved unanimously.**

At 9:32 PM, Brochu **moved** (2nd Arnold) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on September 11, 2019

John Pepper
Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – September 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM

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