

# Norwich Finance Committee

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

## Committee Members Present:

- Libby Chamberlin, Secretary
- Linda Cook
- Cheryl Lindberg, Treasurer
- Pam Smith, Vice-Chair
- Emmanuel Tesone, Chair
- Omer Trajman

Item	discussion	action	timing
1. Call to order and roll call			Roll was called at 8:12, meeting to order
2. Review and approve meeting agenda	<p>Questions from Lindberg: her understanding of open meeting law is that items need to be added at the outset, e.g. 5c needs to be identified at this time, item 6 (public comment) should be moved to the beginning of the meeting,</p> <p>-Proposes moving Public comment item to position 3 in the agenda.</p> <p>-5c should be defined and added to agenda</p> <p>Moves to approve agenda as amended moving 6 to 3 Delete 5c</p> <p>Chamberlin moves to add a land acknowledgement to committee meeting opening, Trajman second</p> <p>-Chair recommends Chamberlin provide more background to the committee in preparation for consideration next</p> <p>Chamberlin withdraws motion</p> <p>Agenda approved with amendments</p>		8:30
3. Public comments	none		8:32



<p>d. Discussion of Town fund accounting</p> <p>e. Discussion of Dresden Finance Committee</p>	<p>to interview members of a Finance Committee that would weigh in on town and district budgets. Previously was an elected committee, then SB made it an appointed position because there is no statutory authorization to have an election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cook: one of the reasons that was done was to include Hanover?</li> <li>- Lindberg: the Interstate Compact states that the Norwich town FC and hanover FC comprise the Dresden FC</li> </ul> <p>d) Chamberlin, Cook, Tesone had a call on Friday to get coordinated in terms of what we wanted to review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We agreed that we need to get a better understanding of reason, history of designated funds. This requires us to go back and do research trying to recreate or track down logic behind appropriations.</li> <li>- In the capital plan, each fund receives \$, but not clear how those numbers are decided.</li> <li>- This is part of the motivation behind accessing NEMRC</li> <li>- Smith has been looking at year-end balances, would like to look at where we are currently and what we've been setting aside in each fund annually and address the question: is that meeting the goals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We already have indications that we are falling short. <i>Do the annual appropriations actually fund the goals of the capital plan?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Smith: budget is annual, capital plan has not been updated in many years.</li> <li>- Tesone: concern is that reality we're facing right now is one of underfunding, will source the information in question from Herb and share</li> </ul> <p>e) MOU between Norwich SB and Norwich School Board re: Norwich and Dresden Finance Committee, purpose as drafted is for Norwich FC provided independent advice to Norwich SB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hanover wants us to rejoin the Dresden FC, haven't been able to properly issue an opinion bc Norwich hasn't been party</li> <li>- Trajman: we issued an opinion on town budget for FY2020, at 2019 town meeting</li> </ul> <p>Question from the Chair: If we wanted to reconstitute the</p>		
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	<p>Dresden FC, would the SB accept?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smith: MOU stated it would be a joint approval, right now only SB approves FC members</li> </ul> <p>Documents: Tesone has the MOU, document of agreement on the interstate compact, which discusses the board of school directors, other positions. Item 5  <i>(5) There is hereby established the Dresden Finance Committee which shall consist of the members of the Hanover Finance Committee and the Norwich Finance Committee. The Dresden Finance Committee shall have the same duties and responsibilities with respect to the budget of the Dresden School District as the Hanover and Norwich Finance Committees have with respect to the budgets of their respective towns and school districts.</i></p> <p>Chair suggests further conversation outside of this meeting to better collect understanding, information</p> <p>Question from Cook: who will do the research going forward to identify the information we need in order to make the decision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tesone plans to catch up with Claudette -- as FC it's important that we have an opinion about the town budget.</li> <li>- Also recognize that we represent the town, aware that a lot of residents of the town are interested in understanding the school budget -- we just need to understand that as the FC how we can best add value in that process</li> <li>- Bottom line: seems that there is a gap between what SB wants us to do, what chair of school board wants us to do and what we think we can do/add as a committee.</li> </ul> <p>Cook: focus should be on getting FC on the same page with same information  Lindberg: would be beneficial to look at articles of agreement, MOU, see what dresden fc used to do,</p> <p>Chair suggests working group to collect and distill historical documents on our involvement with Dresden FC;</p>	<p>Lindberg will draft one-pager on historical involvement of FC with school budget</p>	
<p>5. New business</p>	<p>Chair moves to table new business, considering the time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Can we issue a summary on how the finances of</li> </ul>		<p>9:45</p>

<p>a. Discussion of FC public communications</p> <p>b. Review FC 2020-2021 calendar / key dates</p> <p>c. <del>New items, if any</del></p>	<p>the town?</p> <p>i) Brief discussion, agreement to move to an item in next agenda</p> <p>b) In finances for yankees, found a helpful calendar we could start populating, create a committee roadmap of sorts</p> <p>i) Agree to leave until next meeting</p>		
<p>7. Set next meeting date and preliminary agenda</p>	<p>Chamberlin will send draft agenda in the next few days</p>	<p>Next meeting will be at 8/31/2020 at 7pm EST</p>	
<p>8. Adjourn</p>	<p>Lindberg motion to adjourn, Smith second</p>		<p>Adjourned 10:02pm</p>

Minutes: Libby Chamberlin, Secretary