

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM, in order to maintain appropriate physical distance under COVID-19 precautions. Members present: Roger Arnold, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Claudette Brochu; Marcia Calloway; Robert Gere; Herb Durfee, Town Manager; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 12 people in the audience.

Also participating: Andy Scherer, Peter Orner, Linda Cook, Jack Cushman, Linda Gray, Norm Levy, Aaron Lamperti, Kate Barlow, Lynnwood Andrews, Neil Fulton, Jon Felde, Sharon Racusin, Liz Blum, Heidi Lockwood, Seth Robertson.

1. Approval of Agenda. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to approve the agenda with the addition of the Thad Goodwin Tree Warden appointment. **Motion approved unanimously.**
2. Public Comment. Andy Scherer spoke about his concerns regarding speeding cars on Beaver Meadow Road (BMR) and asked if it would be possible to place a mobile speed cart there to deter speeding. Peter Orner agreed with the placement of a speed cart and summarized the activities and process regarding the BMR traffic issues. Orner said he would like the SB and town to consider options for traffic calming. Linda Cook spoke to support the Police Department's green fleet purchase of a new hybrid cruiser, with a savings of \$20,000 on a 2020 model. Cook she would like the SB to revisit the question of the cruiser purchase. Jack Cushman gave a brief update about the Solid Waste Committee and said the committee recommended extending the Casella contract for one more year.
3. Consent Agenda. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to approve the consent agenda with the exception of memos from Flanders and Francis. **Motion approved unanimously.** Brochu and Calloway said they would like the SB to discuss the memos from Flanders and Francis at a future SB meeting. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to accept correspondence from Steve Flanders and Rod Francis.
4. Appointments to Committees. Arnold read aloud Eva Rosenbloom's application for the Article 36 Task Force, because her application in the packet was truncated and she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to appoint Eva Rosenbloom to the Article 36 Task Force. **Motion approved unanimously.** Jack Cushman spoke in support of his application for the Article 36 Task Force. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to appoint Jack Cushman to the Article 36 Task Force. **Motion approved unanimously.** Gere said that he would like to serve as the SB member of the Article 36 Task Force. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to appoint Rob Gere as the Selectboard member of the Article 36 Task Force. **Motion approved unanimously.** Linda Gray spoke in support of her application to the Energy Committee. Norman Levy spoke in support of his application to the Energy Committee. Aaron Lamperti spoke in support of his application to the Energy Committee. SB members discussed the possibility of limiting terms on town committees. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to appoint Linda Gray, Norman Levy, and Aaron Lamperti to the Energy Committee for three-year terms ending in March 2024. **Motion approved regarding Linda Gray and Norman Levy (4 yes; 1 abstain – Calloway). Motion approved unanimously regarding Aaron Lamperti.** Kate Barlow spoke in support of her application to serve as Town Service Officer. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to appoint Kate Barlow as Town Service Officer for a one-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion approved unanimously.** Lynnwood Andrews spoke in support of her application for Conservation Commission. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to appoint Lynnwood Andrews to the Conservation

Commission for a four-year term ending in March 2025. **Motion approved unanimously.** Neil Fulton spoke about the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, including what they do and his interest in continuing to serve as Norwich's representative to their governing body. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to appoint Neil Fulton as representative and Herb Durfee as alternate to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District for two-year terms ending in March 2023.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

5. Liquor Licenses. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to convene as the Norwich Liquor Commission. **Motion approved unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to approve liquor license applications for PLR Enterprises (Norwich Wine and Spirits), L'Elephant Vert (Carpenter & Main), Frasers General Store (Dan & Whit's), King Arthur Flour, and Green Visions (Norwich Inn). **Motion approved unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to close the Norwich Liquor Commission session and reconvene as the Selectboard meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.**

6. Monetary Gift for the Purchase of Car/Body Cameras for the Police Department. Arnold reviewed the history of the solicitation and receipt of a donation from the Byrne Foundation toward the purchase of police in-car and body cameras. SB members discussed the issue of funds from the Byrne Foundation and whether to accept the funds. Neil Fulton spoke about the history of police camera use. Linda Cook spoke about the value and use of police cameras and said that dash camera footage was valuable to her in a case. Jon Felde, Sharon Racusin, Liz Blum, and Heidi Lockwood all spoke against accepting the money from the Byrne Foundation. Linda Cook said that other town departments have received money from the Byrne Foundation. SB members agreed to discuss body cameras during future capital budget discussions and agreed to discuss the gift policy regarding philanthropy and what procedures should be in place. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to authorize the acceptance of a gift of funds for the purchase of in-car and body cameras for the Norwich Police Department. **Motion failed unanimously.** SB members agreed that Arnold will work with Durfee to write and send a diplomatic rejection letter to the Byrne Foundation.

7. Town Manager Report. Town Manager Herb Durfee said he sent confidential information to the SB previously, and introduced Seth Robertson, the town's temporary Finance Director, who talked to the SB about the information he had provided for the meeting packet. Robertson answered questions from SB members about the town's accounting. SB members agreed they will send their feedback to Durfee regarding the financial documents submitted to them.

8. Work plan for Amendments to Master Financial Policies. SB members discussed the work plan proposed by Arnold. SB members agreed to proceed. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to adopt the work plan on master financial policies. **Motion approved unanimously.**

9. Continued Discussion of '21-22 Work Plan & Goals. Arnold introduced to the SB his Trello work chart showing SB work. SB members agreed to proceed with using Trello and to post a link to it on the SB webpage.

10. Reaffirm Road and Bridge Standards. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to re-adopt the Road and Bridge Standards, as contained in the packet. **Motion approved unanimously.**

11. VTrans Grant Applications. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to adopt the annual financial plan, as included in the VTrans grant applications. **Motion approved unanimously.** Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to submit an FY 2022 Municipal Highway Grant Application for structures, as presented in the meeting packet. **Motion approved unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Brochu) to submit an FY 2022 Municipal Highway Grant Application for Class 2 Roadway Paving, as presented in the meeting packet. **Motion approved unanimously.**

12. Authorize an Extension to the Childcare Committee Charge. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to  
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authorize an extension to the Childcare Committee Charge to January 12, 2022 and to affirm said committee's proposed work plan. **Motion approved unanimously.**

13. Amendments to Rules for Conduct of Regular and Special Selectboard Meetings. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to amend the Rules for Conduct of Regular and Special Selectboard Meetings, as presented in the meeting packet. **Motion approved unanimously.**

14. Amendments to Procedure for Receipt of Correspondence. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to amend the Procedure for Receipt of Resident Correspondence, as presented in the meeting packet. **Motion approved unanimously.**

15. Adjourn. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on April 14, 2021

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Roger Arnold  
Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – March 31, 2021 – Meeting at 6:30

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