

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM and in person in Tracy Hall, in order to comply with Open Meeting Law requirements while providing remote access for attendees. Members present: Roger Arnold, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Claudette Brochu; Marcia Calloway; Robert Gere; Rod Francis, Interim Town Manager; Miranda Harris Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

Also participating: Pam Smith, Cheryl Lindberg, Dennis Kaufman, Fielding Essensa, Jack Cushman.

1. Approval of Agenda. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to approve the agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**
2. Public Comment. Arnold said the Vermont governor signed an order allowing fully remote meetings. More instruction and information from the town will be forthcoming about this.
3. Warning for 2022 Town Meeting. Calloway pointed out some typographical errors and said she'd like to retain the purpose statements in the articles. Calloway also had various suggestions for substantive edits to warning articles. Rod Francis shared his computer screen to show draft article language. SB members discussed options for the warning. Francis discussed with the SB a diagram to illustrate the proposed structure for operating accounts in FY2023 and beyond. SB members discussed the article concerning Beaver Meadow Road. After some discussion, Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to approve the Town portion of the 2022 Town Meeting Warning as amended tonight and to include the school district article information, when provided to the Town Clerk's office. **Motion approved unanimously.**
4. Information Session for FY23 Budget. SB members agreed to hold 2 additional informational sessions to discuss the town portion of the town meeting warning. SB members discussed another set of typographical errors in the draft warning: the article numbers are out of order and need to be renumbered. Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to approve the Town Meeting Warning to correct the article numbering as discussed. **Motion approved unanimously.**
5. Board Response to Reappraisal RFP. Cheryl Lindberg said the Listers put out an RFP for reappraisal services last year. They received one response and the Listers would like to proceed with hiring the responding firm, KRT. Francis talked about the software aspect of the reappraisal and said that the software is used by other town departments in addition to the Listers. Francis suggested that the town could take a step back and ask various software suppliers to present demonstrations of their products, so the town staff and the Listers can evaluate the options. SB members discussed options for the reappraisal. Pam Smith said we have time to decide on the software; she said there are other VT towns looking for assessors, so there is competition. Dennis Kaufman talked about the history of the software. After some discussion, Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to approve entering into a contract with KRT Appraisal for the town-wide reappraisal. **Motion failed 2 to 3 (yes- Brochu, Calloway; no- Arnold, Gere, Layton).**
6. Capital Improvement Plan. Arnold introduced the topic of the proposed CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Fielding Essensa, Finance Director, answered questions from SB members. Brochu asked if the generator at the DPW garage is operable. Francis said that as it is, no it cannot be used there because it is a 3-phase generator and only single-phase power is available at the DPW garage. Pam Smith asked why the SB is talking about generators and not battery power walls.

Brochu said that having money in a CIP generator fund doesn't foreclose the possibility of considering power walls in the future. After further discussion, Brochu **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Layton) to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as proposed. **Motion approved unanimously.**

7. Discussion on ARPA Eligible Projects. SB members discussed whether to proceed with this agenda item, given the late hour, and agreed to proceed. Francis said that, following his memo to SB members regarding ARPA, has and town staff are concentrating on resiliency regarding power supply, the town webpage, and Tracy Hall and DPW garage building upgrades. Francis said that ARPA money is available for government services upgrades. In this light, Bonnie Munday, Town Clerk, has suggested digitizing all land records. Francis said the SB needs to identify possible projects and engage with community members engaged in work and then engage with the community at large. Arnold said we should develop a timeline/plan. SB members discussed how to structure the process of gathering input on how to use ARPA funds.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on January 26, 2022

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Roger Arnold, Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – January 26, 2022 – Meeting at 6:30

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