

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of
Monday, November 29, 2021 at 5:30 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.

1. Approval of Agenda. Layton **moved** (2nd Calloway) to approve the agenda with the addition of an A/P warrant. **Motion approved unanimously.**

1.5 Additional Item – Approval of A/P Warrant. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to authorize Roger Arnold to sign A/P Warrant #22-12 in the amount of \$1,200. **Motion approved unanimously.**

2. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

3. Update of Tracy Hall, Covid-19, and Public Meetings. Interim Town Manager (ITM) Rod Francis spoke about the background of the current Covid-19 protocols at Tracy Hall (TH). On November 12, 2021, Francis issued a revised plan restricting access to TH except by appointment. 2 meetings were impacted by this change. In order to ensure safety, while complying with OML, we have a dedicated public access computer terminal in the multipurpose room and one member of the meeting body will run the Zoom meeting on a separate device in the TH conference room. This will provide social distancing. Layton said this system worked very well with Zoom. Calloway asked if this set-up complies with OML. Francis said that the town's attorney reviewed the plan and found it to be compliant. Arnold said the town has expanded its Zoom account capability to allow for concurrent meetings. Layton said she thinks this is a good workable solution. Arnold asked what other SB members are thinking about instituting a local mask mandate. Layton said she'd like to know how a mandate would affect Dan & Whit's, for example. Brochu said she is in favor of masking, but isn't sure about enforceability. Calloway said she is in favor of a mask mandate. Gere said a mask mandate could act as encouragement. SB members agreed to consider a mask mandate and proposed ordinance at a future meeting. Layton **moved** (2nd Calloway) to authorize the Interim Town Manager to draft a proposed mask ordinance. **Motion approved unanimously.**

3.5 A/P Warrant for Water Bill from Fire District. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve check warrant #22-10 in the amount of \$444.01 payable to the Norwich Fire District. **Motion approved unanimously.**

4. Report from the TM Screening Committee, Interview Questions. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to enter executive session under 1 VSA §313 (a)(3) to discuss Town Manager candidate interview questions and hear an update from the Town Manager Screening Committee. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The Selectboard moved into executive session at 6:03 pm.

Layton moved (2nd Calloway) to enter public session. Motion approved unanimously. The Selectboard moved into public session at 7:09 pm.

5. Appoint Representatives to Interview Candidates. After some discussion, the Board agreed to invite Nathan Margolis, Matt Swett, and Fielding Essensa to the Town Manager Interview Committee, with Emily Scherer, Demo Sofronas and Brie Swenson as alternates. The Board agreed to have Mary Layton, Marcia Calloway, Richard Stucker, and Marisa Lorenzo of the Screening Committee take part in the interview committee.

6. Adjourn. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.**
Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on December 8, 2021

Roger Arnold, Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – December 8, 2021 – Meeting at 6:30

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