

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of  
Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 6:30 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM according to Open Meeting Law requirements. Members present: Roger Arnold, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Marcia Calloway; Robert Gere; Aaron Lamperti, Rod Francis, Town Manager; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

Also participating: Omer Trajman, Jaan Laaspere, Police Officer Anna Ingraham, Leslie Wells, Fielding Essensa.

1. Meeting convened at 6:30 pm.
2. Agenda Review. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to approve the agenda. **Motion approved unanimously (4 yes; 0 no – Calloway absent).**
3. Public Participation. Omer Trajman expressed concern about speeding cars and traffic, SB transparency, and employee retention. Jaan Laaspere expressed concern about SB transparency and employee retention. Police Officer Ingraham said she is working diligently to address all calls that came in while she was on vacation recently.
4. Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lamperti) to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage in the negotiation of labor relations or agreements with employees. For example, revealing bargaining strategy and the town's disposition with regard to current economic conditions. **Motion approved unanimously (4 yes; 0 no – Calloway absent).** Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(B), for the purposes of considering the impact of inflation on personnel retention and recruitment and to invite the Town Manager and Finance Director. **Motion approved unanimously (4 yes; 0 no – Calloway absent).** The Selectboard went into executive session at 6:42 pm. Calloway entered the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm, during executive session. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to enter public session. **Motion approved unanimously.** The Selectboard moved into public session at 7:26 pm.
5. Attorney-Client Communications and Advice. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to find that premature general public knowledge of attorney-client communications between the Selectboard and Town Attorney as to matters for which legal advice is sought would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing privileged communications and waiving attorney-client privilege. **Motion approved unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway) to enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(F), for the purposes of considering confidential attorney-client advice, and to invite the town's attorney and Kerin Stackpole. **Motion approved unanimously.** The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:28 pm. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to enter public session. **Motion approved unanimously.** The Selectboard moved into public session at 9:03 pm. The SB took no further action on this matter.
6. End of Year Financial Update. Fielding Essensa reported that we anticipate a surplus to end the year at 96% of budget. Essensa recommended using the surplus operational funds to absorb those expenditures made this FY from reserve funds into the operating budget. SB members discussed whether to use operational budget money to replenish reserve funds. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lamperti) to authorize the Town Manager and Finance Director to allocate charges previously booked

to reserve funds to their appropriate operating budget line items not to exceed the surplus amount as of August 15, 2022. **Motion approved unanimously.**

7. Town Manager's Report. Francis spoke about his written Town Manager report, as included in the SB packet. Anna Ingraham offered to read her report aloud; Arnold asked her to re-submit her report in a corrected format so it can be shared with the SB.

8. Approval to Purchase 3 Sourcewell Radar Speed Signs. After some discussion, Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Gere) to authorize the Town Manager to purchase three 15-inch solar powered TrafficLogix™ signs from Sourcewell, including a three-year warranty, poles and necessary hardware for a total price not to exceed \$12,000 to be paid out of the Public Safety Facility Fund. **Motion approved unanimously.**

9. Update on Board, Commission, and Committee workplans. Arnold said he sent to the town's boards and committees the three questions the SB said they would like them to answer. He has heard back that they are glad the SB is taking interest in their work.

10. Consent Agenda. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lamperti) to approve the consent agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**

11. Adjourn. Layton **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Calloway ) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 10:07.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on September 14, 2022

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Marcia Calloway, Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – August 24, 2022 – Meeting at 6:30

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