

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, October 12, 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: Stuart Richards, Kate White, Manu Tesone, Mary Gorman, Jaan Laaspere, Alena Berube, Bill Scavone, Peter Orner, Eva Rosenbloom, Garret Heaton, Cheryl Lindberg, Colleen Fox.

1. Convene Meeting. Meeting convened at 6:45 PM
2. Agenda Review. Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to approve the agenda. Motion approved (4-yes; Calloway- no).
3. Public participation. Stuart Richards read aloud an April email from Arnold to town employees. Richards said the SB should have an open question and answer period. Kate White expressed concern about the environmental and health impacts of the Moore Lane Bridge. Manu Tesone asked questions about funding for the police department. Jaan Laaspere expressed concern about the town's management. Alena Berube and Bill Scavone each expressed concern about cars parking on Turnpike Road blocking traffic and causing congestion. Peter Orner expressed concern about the environmental and health impacts of the Moore Lane Bridge.
4. Authorize Purchase of New Vehicle with Police Cruiser Reserve Funds. After some discussion, Layton moved (2nd Gere) to authorize the Town Manager to purchase from Alderman's Toyota of Rutland, Vermont a Toyota RAV4 hybrid for a price not to exceed \$28,594.00 to be paid with funds from the Police Department Cruiser reserve fund. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Eva Rosenbloom and Garret Heaton each spoke in support of their respective applications for the Energy Committee. Layton moved (2nd Gere) to appoint Eva Rosenbloom to the Energy Committee for a 3-year term ending on March 30, 2026. Motion approved unanimously. Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to appoint Garret Heaton to the Energy Committee for the remainder of an unexpired 3-year term ending on March 30, 2024. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Town Manager's Report. Francis introduced Wade Cochran, the newly appointed Chief of Police; he will start on October 25, 2022. Francis gave a spoken summary of his written report [as contained in the meeting packet]. Cheryl Lindberg spoke about her customary practices as Town Treasurer.
7. Approve Bid Moore Lane Bridge Hazardous Material Containment. Francis spoke about the history of the Moore Lane Bridge and said that the State of Vermont is compelling the Town to put into place a temporary measure to address the problems with the bridge. The Town hopes that the required temporary intervention will mitigate the conditions at the bridge and allow the Town the necessary time to effect a long-term solution. Peter Orner asked the SB to delay and not implement a temporary solution. Kate White asked the SB to delay implementing an intervention to the bridge. Stuart Richards echoed Orner's and White's suggestions. After discussion, Layton moved (2nd Gere) to authorize the Town Manager to accept the bid from Winterset to construct a temporary containment system to prevent hazardous materials from entering the stream at the Moore Lane bridge for an

amount not to exceed \$62,000.00 to be paid from the Bridge Reserve Fund. Motion passed (4-yes; Calloway- no). Mary Gorman and Colleen Fox each expressed disagreement with the SB's decision.

8. Appoint Zoning Administrator. Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to appoint Aaron DeNamur as Zoning Administrator effective October 13, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

9. Receive Update from Town Legal Counsel on Town's Position re: BCA Appeal and Ongoing Litigation in Katucki v. Town of Norwich. Layton moved (2nd Gere) 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 to discuss the pending BCA Appeal and Katucki v. Town of Norwich. Motion approved unanimously.

Layton moved (2nd Gere) 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 the Town Manager to discuss a pending BCA Appeal and to discuss Katucki v. Town of Norwich. Motion approved unanimously.

The SB entered executive session at 8:38 pm.

Layton moved (2nd Calloway) to enter public session. Motion approved unanimously. The SB entered public session at 9:41 pm.

10. Consent Agenda. After some discussion, Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to approve the consent agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

11. Future Agenda Items. SB members discussed possible future meeting agenda items, as listed on the meeting agenda.

12. Public Participation. Stuart Richards read aloud a portion of a letter from HR Happens addressed to SB members.

13. Adjourn. Layton moved (2nd Gere) to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on October 26, 2022

Marcia Calloway, Selectboard Chair

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

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