

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, November 9, 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 (joined meeting in progress), Vice Chair; Marcia Calloway; Robert Gere; Aaron Lamperti; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

Also participating: Cheryl Lindberg, Stuart Richards, Manu Tesone, Chris Kaufman (DPW Director), , Peter Orner, Katie Crouch, Linda Cook, John Vincent, Wade Cochran (Police Chief), Alka Dev (Health Officer), Alena Berube (Deputy Health Officer), Lily Trajman, Geoff Martin, Linda Gray, Charlotte Metcalf, Matt Swett, Cedar (CATV employee), Leslie Wells.

1. Meeting convened at 6:32 pm.
2. Calloway offered comments.
3. Agenda Review. Calloway moved (2nd Lamperti) to amend the agenda to add the three distinct parts of the consent agenda – A/P warrants, approval of minutes, and correspondence. Motion approved unanimously.
Lamperti moved (2nd Arnold) to move agenda items 6, 7, 15, and 17 into agenda item 18, to be considered as future agenda items. Motion approved (4- yes; Calloway- no).
Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to approve the agenda as amended. Motion approved (4- yes; Calloway- no).
4. Consent agenda. After discussion, Layton moved (2nd Lamperti) to approve the consent agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Public Participation. Stuart Richards suggested the SB use the Police Station meeting room. Richards said the town is not advertising enough for vacant positions. Richards wants to know why HR Happens is no longer working for Norwich. Manu Tesone said he is pleased with his meeting's agenda and the packet. Calloway said that Geoff Martin is resigning from the position of regional energy coordinator.
6. Discuss Possible Public Question & Answer Session. [moved to item 18]
7. Discuss Possible Future Hybrid Board Mtgs. [moved to item 18]
8. Authorization of Snowplowing Agreement. After some discussion, Arnold moved (2nd Layton) to approve the contract with Chase Site Services, Inc. to provide snow plowing services for an amount not to exceed \$78,560.00. Motion approved unanimously.
9. Town Topics Update. Chris Kaufman (DPW Director) spoke about DPW crew work in general and progress on the Moore Ln. Bridge; he fielded questions from members of the public. Wade Cochran (Police Chief) said that he is learning about the town and has been recruiting heavily. Cochran said he has received a warm welcome. Alka Dev (Health Officer) and Alena Berube (Deputy Health Officer) introduced themselves.

10. Appointment of Selectboard Member to Appraisal Review Panel. Arnold moved (2nd Lamperti) to appoint Rob Gere as the Selectboard member of the Appraisal Review Panel.

11. Request for Selectboard Liaison to Norwich School Board. Lily Trajman, School Board member, said the Norwich School Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Lamperti moved (2nd Layton) to appoint Aaron Lamperti as the Selectboard liaison to the Norwich School Board with Rob Gere as alternate. Motion approved unanimously.

12. Family Place Request for Waiver of Alcohol Ordinance. Layton moved (2nd Gere) to waive the Alcohol Ordinance in order to permit The Family Place to hire a licensed caterer to serve wine and beer at their fundraiser in Tracy Hall on December 2, 2022. Motion approved unanimously.

13. Boiler Function for the Winter Months. After discussion, Arnold moved (2nd Layton) to authorize the purchase of a replacement boiler and controls upgrade for Tracy Hall, per the bids submitted by ARC Mechanical and Alliance Controls, for a total cost of \$43,554.00 to be paid from reserve fund #13 "Tracy Hall Building". Motion failed (4- no; Layton- yes)

14. Interim & Future Town Manager Searches. After discussion, Arnold moved (2nd Lamperti) to direct Marcia Calloway to draft an advertisement for an Interim Town Manager, and to place the ad in the Valley News, the Town website, the Norwich listserve, Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and Municipal Resources, Inc. Motion approved unanimously.

15. Personnel Policies Planning. [moved into agenda item 18]

16. Budget Process Planning. SB members discussed ways to proceed with budget planning, including resurrecting the Finance Committee. SB members agreed they will meet every Wednesday in December to work on the budget.

17. Town Website Update. [moved into agenda item 18]

18. Future Agenda Items. SB members discussed possible format for question-and-answer session. SB members discussed options for future meetings, and agreed to start hybrid meeting on the second meeting in January 2023. SB members agreed to look at budgeting for a website update. SB members discussed how to manage workload and topics, possibly using a timeline. SB members Arnold and Lamperti also expressed concern about Norwich's toxic community problem.

19. Adjourn. Layton moved (2nd Gere) to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on November 22, 2022

Marcia Calloway, Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – November 22, 2022 – Meeting at 6:30

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