

## **Minutes of the Norwich Selectboard Meeting of Saturday, January 20, 2024**

This special meeting was held in hybrid format in Tracy Hall meeting room with by Zoom and Jam broadcasting by You-Tube.

Members of the public body in attendance<sup>1</sup>:

- At Tracy Hall: Marcia Calloway, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Pamela Smith; and Priscilla Vincent.
- Roger Arnold was not present.

Town Manager Brennan Duffy attended via Zoom.

Other active participants in the meeting<sup>2</sup>:

- Members of the public present in Tracy Hall:
  - From Norwich: Matt Swett, Peter Orner
- Members of the public appearing on Zoom: Barrie Rosalinda, Emily Scherer, Jaan Laaspere, Bob Pape

**Welcome.** Meeting was called to order by Calloway at 2:02 p.m.. Calloway reminded everyone that full names are required for admission to the Zoom platform to eliminate “Zoom bomb” interruptions and delays in the meetings; and, people trying to get admitted to meetings may contact Selectboard members to be identified for admission. Calloway reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the voting public of Norwich as to how we should use surplus monies which were budgeted but not spent.

**1. Agenda.** Motion to approve the agenda by Layton; seconded by Smith. Layton, Smith, Vincent, Calloway: Yes. **Motion Passed.**

**Public Comments for items not on the agenda:** Matt Swett noted that, at the January 17, 2024 public meeting regarding the surplus, Cheryl Lindberg stated there was \$600,000 in the Fire Department account. Swett clarified that the actual figure is closer to \$203,000 currently but will be drawn down to \$175,000 or \$180,000 by the end of the fiscal year due to approved spending. Finance Director Barrie Rosalinda confirmed that Swett was correct and offered that Lindberg may have been quoting the audit figures.

Vincent offered information she received from Suzanne Stofflet, that Stofflet is in favor of monies for Hemlock Road.

Layton had information from speaking with Jeannie Kornfeld, to be offered during the discussion of surplus spending.

**Listening Session to Present Information, Gather Public In-put, Answer Questions regarding Use of Surplus Funds:** Calloway referred to the five sheets of paper posted on the board and explained the genesis of the surplus funds under discussion, specifically:

- \$1,800,000.00 previously budgets monies which were not spent
- - 100,000.00 previously budgeted for police equipment which is not yet received/paid for
- \$1, 700,000.00 uncommitted surplus
- - 700,000.00 voted by Selectboard as part of the next budget to buy down the amount of tax to be collected
- **\$1,000,000.00 surplus under discussion**

The other four sheets of paper identified ideas the Selectboard had discussed as possible uses for the surplus. Specifically, Tracy Hall Fund #13, Fire Apparatus Fund #6, Highway Garage Fund #8, Generator Fund #46.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1)(A)

<sup>2</sup> 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1)(B)

As to sidewalks in general versus the proposed pedestrian corridor. Question about sidewalks included the purpose of existing Sidewalk Fund #27 vis-à-vis proposed monies for a pedestrian corridor from Heritage Lane to Barrett Memorial Park, and Huntley Street to Moore Lane. Calloway read the Fund #27 purpose: “the development and construction of sidewalks and bike paths.” Layton explained the original idea of Fund #27 was to save money for sidewalk renovations. Jaan Laaspere, Planning Commission Chair, mentioned the new Multi-modal Subcommittee; they will create an inventory to update the master plan for a holistic vision. Vincent pointed out the sidewalk inventory in the January 24, 2024 Selectboard packet. Personally, Laaspere favors of the proposed pedestrian corridor with \$80,000 to \$90,000 allocated from surplus monies. Andy Scherer spoke in favor of expanded, additional paths and walkways. Duffy clarified that four-season maintenance is still an outstanding question, and Peter Orner echoed that understanding. Selectboard members discussed and, with Duffy’s clarification, confirmed that monies already allocated to an existing fund, such as Sidewalk Fund #27, can be spent by the Selectboard for the fund purpose approved by the voters; however, another additional warrant article(s) would be needed for voters to allocate part of the surplus funds for any particular existing fund or for a new fund. Layton was concerned about the genesis of the \$80,000 to \$90,000 cost of the proposed pedestrian corridor; Layton and Smith requested a basis for the number. Duffy explained that the Beaver Meadow/proposed pedestrian corridor is a new idea and the existing Sidewalk Fund #27 does not have much money in it, therefore he thinks there is a need to ask for more money. Duffy also confirmed he has spoken with TRORC and DuBois & King regarding the cost of a study, etc. Orner supported language for the creation of the two pedestrian corridors. Selectboard members indicated a desire for proposed language that implied a date for work to be done.

As to Tracy Hall and input from students, Layton had spoke with Jeannie Kornfeld, Hanover High School (“HHS”) science teacher. “March Intensive” courses are developed each year for the following year. Kornfeld indicated an interest in developing a course related to Tracy Hall’s climate and historical preservation issues with attention to architecture and interior space. Kornfeld also mentioned Scott Stokoe of Dartmouth’s organic farm regarding design; Casey Kelsey, HHS Science and Engineering teacher; and, Chrissy Morley of Marion Cross School Environmental Education regarding ideas for younger children to be involved.

**Public comments concerning use of surplus monies:**

Person	Climate	Tracy Hall	Sidewalks	Fire Dept	Police/ Public Safety	Affordable Housing	Highway Dept	Hemlock Road
Suzanne Stofflet								X
Peter Orner			X 80-90,000					
Andy Scherer			X 80-90,000					
Jaan Laaspere			X per master plan					
Mary Layton		March Intensive course focusing on Climate & Historical preservation issues; connecting students with architects now.						

**Adjournment:** Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Vincent. Layton, Smith, Vincent, Calloway: Yes.  
**Motion Passed.** Selectboard adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia S. Calloway, Chair  
Norwich Selectboard

Approved: February 28, 2024

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Marcia S. Calloway, Chair  
Norwich Selectboard