

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Ed Childs, Chair; Alison May; Jack Candon; Gerard Chapdelaine; Suzanne Lupien; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 20 people in the audience.

Also participating: Betty Barba, Neil Fulton, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Karen Kayen, Bill Lamb, Jean Lawe, John Lawe, Cheryl Lindberg, Lynn McGrew, Sarah Nunan, Arthur Owen, Chief Robinson, Henry Scheier

Childs opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with one addition.

2. Public Comments (Discussion). Arthur Owen spoke about being unhappy with the Police Forum, specifically with the facilitator and the Town's money being spent on providing pizza. Sarah Nunan talked about her concerns with capital projects, in particular the Corridor Project and Fire Training Center.

Chief Robinson recognized and thanked four individuals who had come to his assistance in an incident at Dan and Whit's on June 27th. The persons (Matt Fraser, Cheri Henry, Jason Gershon and Tiffany Gershon) were given certificates and coffee mugs.

3. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). RSG representatives are conducting surveys of residents regarding the Norwich SR2S. The Town Manager asked for and received permission to draft a letter of support for the project needed for the application. Three candidates for Fire Chief participated in the assessment center process Monday and Tuesday. Highlighting of the front and back stairs at Tracy Hall is in process. Citizens Bank was awarded the bid for \$1, 243,000 for 53 days at a 5.20% interest rate.

4. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Candon) to approve the 06/07 General Fund Check Warrant Report #08-02 in the amount of \$127,272.71 for the period from 7/02/2007 to 7/11/2007. **Motion passed.**

5. Request to Expend Designated Funds from Corridor Enhancement Fund (Discussion/Action Item). After some discussion, May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the expenditure of \$1,265.00 from the Corridor Enhancement Designated Fund to SVE Associates for professional services. **Motion passed.**

The new Corridor Enhancement Designated Fund balance will be \$25,541.30.

6. Set Tax Rate (Action Item). The Finance Committee supports the use of Undesignated Fund Balance funds to offset the amount to be raised from property taxes. After discussion and a decision to not use these funds, May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to set the Town Tax Rate for FY08 at .4710, plus the Local Agreement Rate of .0018, for a Total Town Tax Rate of .4728. **Motion passed 4 to 1** (yes - Childs, Chapdelaine May and Lupien; no – Candon).

The Undesignated Fund Balance Selectboard Financial Policy will be revisited in the fall and further discussion will be held then on the appropriateness of the language in section 4.2.

7. Charge for Strategic Planning Committee (Discussion/Action Item). The Selectboard again discussed the need for a strategic plan to provide an awareness of what was done before and why, for capital budgeting purposes.

May **moved** (2nd Childs) to adopt the draft charge for the Strategic Planning Committee with the omission of the August 22nd date and to send it out to all boards and commissions asking them to respond by September 26th with comments on how they see themselves being involved. **Motion passed.**

8. Parking Ordinance Amendment (Discussion/Action Item). The Parking Ordinance amendment was postponed until the August 22nd Selectboard meeting.

9. Correspondence (Please go to www.norwich.vt.us, click on Town Offices bullet in left panel, scroll down to Norwich Selectboard section and click on Recent Selectboard Correspondence to view)

- a) Letter from Geoffrey Vitt Re: Norwich Five Response to Selectboard
- b) Copy of Letter to VLCT from Phyllis Morris Re: Accident in Town Clerk's Office
- c) Copy of Letter to Phyllis Morris from VLCT Re: Accident in Town Clerk's Office

By consensus, the Selectboard received all correspondence.

13. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 6/20/07 meeting. May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the minutes of the 6/20/07 meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) Set Date for Public Forum on Capital Projects (Action Item). Saturday, October 6th at 9 am was the date set by the Board.
- c) Personnel (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(3), May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and to invite Steve Soares to join the session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:00 pm.

At 10:00 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Candon **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on August 22, 2007.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – August 22, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Draft Zoning Regulations Review

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