

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 10, 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 44 people in the audience.

Also participating: Watt Alexander, Phil Dechert, Jack Harned, Jamie Hess, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Dennis Kaufman, Alison Lauter, Cheryl Lindberg, Don May, Lynn McGrew, Sarah Nunan, Sharon Racusin, Henry Scheier, Paul Tierney, Reeve Williams, Stan Williams, Alice Worth.

Childs opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda with some changes.
2. Public Comments (Discussion). Tierney spoke about his thoughts on strategic planning; stating that he believes a lot of time should be spent defining what townspeople want.
3. Receive Committee on Police Services Report (Discussion). Lauter thanked the Selectboard, residents who participated and Chief Robinson on behalf of the Committee. The Committee did reach a consensus on the police force needing to change with direction from the Selectboard. The Committee recommended keeping the force at four (including Chief Robinson), with the possibility that the force may grow to five. Lauter said that the two major points of the report are: (1) that the Norwich police move to a community policing model and (2) Selectboard needs to set policies for the Police Department.

May **moved** (2nd Lupien) that the Norwich Selectboard receive the Committee on Police Services Report. **Motion passed.**

The report will be fully discussed at the October 24th Selectboard meeting.

Copies of the report are available at the Town Clerk's Office or it can be read online at www.norwich.vt.us or www.norwichstudy.com.

4. Town Manager's Report (Discussion). The Town Manager met with Chuck Wise at VTrans to further discuss the class 1 conversion and to confirm that a representative from VTrans would come to the October 24th Selectboard meeting. Budget reviews with Department Heads for FY09 have started. There was a meeting on October 5th for employees to explain Cafeteria Plans and Flexible Spending Accounts. Bids were opened for winter sand on October 5th and Twin State won the bid. Soares met with McKenna Road residents and others on October 9th to answer specific questions on status of the Corridor Project. On October 10th, the Town Manager met with Bob Franzoni of CATV to discuss/evaluate a possible new wireless microphone for Selectboard meetings. There is a vegetative rock wall project sponsored by VT Better Back Roads, using Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, in cooperation with TRORC and Linda Boudette going on near the Spaulding house on Turnpike Road. The Town of Norwich Trails Committee was awarded the 2007 Community Enhancement Award in recognition of the trail work on Gile Mountain by the VT Trails and Greenways Council, congrats to them! G.R. Porter & Sons has

provided an estimate on the bandstand and it looks like the work could reach more than \$30,000. The underground storage tank at Kendall Station cannot be moved until the last week of October.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Report #08-09 for the period from 9/27/2007 to 10/10/2007 in the amount of \$435,379.79; of which \$433,025.49 is General Fund, \$502.85 is Highway Garage Designated Fund and \$1,851.45 is Corridor Grant Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. Request to Expend Funds from Sidewalk Designated Fund (Discussion/Action Item). After a brief discussion, May **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the payment of \$6,500 from the Sidewalk Designated Fund to complete payment to RSG, Inc. for the work done on the Norwich Safe Routes to School 2007 grant application. **Motion passed.**

The new Sidewalk Designated Fund balance will be \$39,225.53.

7. 7 pm - Broadband/Fiber Optic Presentation by Stan Williams (Discussion). Williams, representing ValleyNet, did a presentation on bringing a community owned town-wide fiber-optic network to local Vermont towns, using the Burlington Telecom model. What is being proposed is a high-speed fiber optic network that will provide 100% coverage. The network would be funded by a capital lease with subscriber fees paying interest, principal and operating costs at a low municipal interest rate. To accomplish this a group of local Vermont towns and selectboards would need to place a warning on next year's town meeting ballot to authorize "an interlocal agreement amongst a group of Vermont towns to finance and operate a fiber-to-the-home network". Additional information is available at www.valleyfiber.net.

8. McKenna Road Group Re: Corridor Project (Discussion). Worth read a statement from the group regarding the Corridor Project stating that their belief was that the Project should start at the Ledyard Bridge and finish at the edge of Town, that the contract with SVE not be extended after December 1st (although they thanked Bob White for his work), and that transparency and strategic planning be required going forward. Childs proposed allowing White the opportunity to do final plans and obtain State approval. Lupien supported the group's position and spoke in favor of keeping the design of the Project separate from the rest. Nunan questioned the scope of authority granted in the 1999 and 2000 Town votes. The Selectboard directed the Town Manager to check on this matter with the Town counsel.

9. Interim Flood Hazard Zoning (Discussion/Action Item). Dechert explained that the modifications are required by FEMA and that current Zoning Regulations do not comply. The Planning Commission has agreed to the changes and is comfortable with going ahead with the adoption of Interim Zoning Regulations to accomplish compliance. Candon **moved** (2nd Childs) that the Selectboard set a date and time of November 14, 2007 at 6:30 pm for a public hearing on the Interim Flood Hazard Bylaws. **Motion passed.**

10. 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) Email from Claudette Brochu Re: Citizen Concerns. It was pointed out that the Town is not "purchasing" the road. A response will be sent.
- b) Letter of Thanks from Norwich Historical Society President Nancy Osgood

By consensus, the Selectboard received all correspondence.

11. Selectboard

- a) Approval of the Minutes of the 9/26/07 meeting. Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd Lupien) to approve the minutes of the 9/26/07 meeting. **Motion passed.**
- b) CATV Programming Schedule (Discussion). May read a proposed Selectboard resolution. After discussion regarding CATV being a public service organization, the Board authorized the Town Manager to have a conversation with Bob Franzoni about doing better.
- c) Zoning Administrator Appointment/Reappointment (Discussion/Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Candon) that Dechert be reappointed as Zoning Administrator for a period ending May 31, 2010. **Motion passed.**
- d) Planning Commission Membership Size (Discussion/Possible Action Item). After a brief discussion, May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) that the Planning Commission membership be reduced from 9 to 7 members. **Motion passed.** It was agreed that this would be reviewed by the Selectboard in May of 2008.
- e) Planning Commission Resignation (Jeff Mathias) (Discussion/Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) that the Selectboard accept Jeffrey Mathias' resignation effective October 2, 2007. **Motion passed.** Mathias was thanked for his service.
- f) Planning for November 7th Special Selectboard Meeting (Discussion/Action Item). This meeting will be a working session with the Planning Commission to review the draft Zoning Regulations. Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments/questions ahead of time.
- g) Litigation (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), May **moved** (2nd Candon) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and to invite Steve Soares and Chief Robinson to join the session. **Motion passed.** The Selectboard moved into Executive Session at 9:16 pm.

At 9:22 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Candon **moved** (2nd Lupien) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on November 14, 2007.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – October 24, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:
Draft Zoning Regulations Review

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV VIDEO TAPES ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE TAPE. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.