

REVISED Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 6:00 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 40 people in the audience.

Also participating: April Andrews, Tammy Benjamin, David Cahill, Margaret Cheney, Anne Day, Nancy Dean, Chad Finer, Andy Hodgdon, Nancy Hoggson, Bill Lamb, Alison Lauter, Cheryl Lindberg, Jim Masland, Don McCabe, Lynn McGrew, Sarah Nunan, Sue Pitiger, Sarah Reeves, Chief Robinson, Trevor Star, Liz Tuggle, Bob White, Chuck Wise.

Childs opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. 6:00 pm - Litigation (Executive Session may be Required). Pursuant to Title 1 VSA § 313(a)(1), Candon **moved** (2nd May) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and to invite Steve Soares and the Listers to join the session. **Motion passed.**

At 6:33 pm the Selectboard moved into public session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item). By consensus, the Selectboard approved the Agenda after removing Jack Harned's application, at his request.

3. Public Comments (Discussion). The Town of Norwich was awarded money for the SR2S project. Congratulations are due to Smart Mobility and RSG for their work on the grant application.

4. Committee on Police Services Report (Discussion). Childs, once again, publicly thanked all Committee members for their hard work. Alison Lauter introduced the other members who are: David Cahill, Chad Finer, Bill Lamb, Claudine Louis, Teresa Lyons, Don McCabe, Ned Redpath, Sarah Drew Reeves, Demo Sofronas and Jay Van Arman. Two members were absent, Rose Addante and Luke Lindberg, who are presently at college.

May questioned the "four full time officers" decision, particularly considering that many residents support 24/7 coverage which cannot be provided without five officers. Lauter stated that the Committee, based on actual crime statistics, concluded that this type of coverage is not necessary at this time in Norwich.

Also discussed were that respect and support need to go both ways (police to residents and residents to police), the ongoing accountability of the Selectboard to review on a regular basis, hours of coverage should be set by the Police Chief, benchmarks, community policing and working on a new Mission Statement for the Police Department.

Chief Robinson said he has reserved the community room at the Norwich Public Library for the first Wednesday of every month for police/community interaction.

The Board agreed by consensus to review progress with the Committee in three months.

5. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve Check Warrant Report #08-10 for the period from 10/11/2007 to 10/24/2007 in the amount of \$208,254.32; of which \$197,769.18 is General Fund, \$2,293.29 is Fire Station Designated Fund and \$8,191.85 is Sidewalk Designated Fund. **Motion passed.**

6. Request to Expend Funds from Tracy Hall Designated Fund (Discussion/Action Item). Soares explained that this was to improve the taped sound quality at Selectboard meetings. May **moved** (2nd Chapdelaine) to approve the expenditure of \$379.00 from the Tracy Hall Designated Fund for a hand held wireless microphone from Hanover Strings for use at CATV recorded meetings in Tracy Hall. **Motion passed.**

The new Tracy Hall Designated Fund balance will be \$23,888.76.

7. 7:30 pm - Class 1 Road Conversion (Discussion/Action). The Town Manager said the road being discussed was Route 5 to Main Street to Marion Cross School to River Road. This is a bill that could be sponsored if the community wishes to move forward. Soares also stated it would allow the Town to move more quickly with the Corridor Project; the Town would have more control aesthetically over the road; it is already scheduled to be repaved by the State and that a number of experts were present in the audience to answer questions. Hodgdon provided written figures for the cost of maintaining the proposed Class 1 conversion. He also provided answers to some questions raised at the last Class 1 meeting and his list of advantages and disadvantages.

Also brought out at the meeting was that Class 1 roads remain in the State paving program, that paving is good for 15-20 years, that the State has not done a culvert inventory, that State reimbursement rates are projected based on gas tax revenues and are set by Statute, and that there is a “specific bill on wall” for a portion of this roadway.

The Town Manager stated that at the present time the Town has no intention of rerouting truck traffic, but that he could not say what the Town would do a year from now. Day said that she does not feel there has been a full discussion of truck traffic on Church Street. Lupien suggested that there should be a public meeting to discuss all traffic problems in the Town with experts present to answer questions.

8. Norwich Gazebo/Bandstand (Discussion/Action Item). The Town Manager has received one budgetary estimate of \$37,140, which covers the “worse case situations” for work on the Bandstand, from G.R. Porter & Sons. Funds currently available are estimated to be \$14,250.

Pitiger said that the Norwich Women’s Club feels the taxpayers of Norwich should pay for the repairs. It was discussed that it is necessary to get a sense of what the community would like to do. Lamb offered to put a survey up on the norwichsurvey.com website.

After some further discussion, the Selectboard decided to put this on the Agenda for November 14th.

9. Strategic Planning Committee and Charge (Discussion/Action). Deferred until the November 14th meeting.

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) TRORC 9/25/07 Meeting Minutes
- b) Copy of Memo from PVR Re: Notice of Continuation of Appeal of Gardner Lewis Trust v. Town of Norwich

By consensus, the Selectboard received all correspondence.

11. Selectboard

- a) Zoning Administrator Reappointment Process (Discussion/Action Item). Put off until Planning Commission can review.
- b) Planning Commission Application – Jack Harned (Discussion). Withdrawn.

Chapdelaine **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on November 14, 2007.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – November 7, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – November 14, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Draft Zoning Regulations Review

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