

## Minutes of the March 9, 2015 Select Board Meeting

Present: Board members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith Arlund, Assistant Town Manager Abbie Sherman, W. James Floyd III, Bob Leister, Mary Floyd, Lisa Floyd, Kate Jarvis, Chris Jarvis, Kim Prestridge, Adrienne Abbott, Lisa Abbott, Donna Rogler, Ola O'Dell, Ele Griffin, Jolene Scott, Crystal Washburn, Shelby Washburn, Carol Sears, Pam Brown, Sherry Rogers, Todd Sears, Ben Sears, Dave Eddy, Janet Burnham, Tamela Ennis, Julie Nelson, Brendan Butler, Lisa McCrory, Donald Giovanella Jr., Wayne Smith, Tracey Hathaway, Douglas Marshall, JoAnn Marshall, Geneva Gaiko, Heidi Nikolaidis, Stan Capron, Jim Gray, Mary Gray, Sonya Stanley, Steve Neron, Darrell Durprey Jr., Wally Radiciani, Calen Vaire, and Lisa Warhol for the "Herald of Randolph."

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Hall introduced Sgt. John Helfant of the Vermont State Police, Royalton Barracks, who was there to give a presentation to the community about opiates in the Bethel community.

Sgt. Helfant shared photographs of recent seizures and provided information regarding recent arrests made in or near Bethel, including one made earlier in the day. Sgt. Helfant encouraged the reporting of any suspicious activities when they occur as that information assists the officers in making an arrest. Activities can be reported by calling 9-1-1, the Royalton Barracks at 234-9933, or by e-mailing Sgt. Helfant at john.helfant@state.vt.us.

At 7:25 PM, Hall thanked Sgt. Helfant for his presentation and opened the meeting for Public Comment.

- 1) Lucien Hinkle shared with the Board his opinion that an error had been made in the inclusion of the \$27,000 from the AOT Enhancement Fund into the FY2016 budget. Hall advised that the Board was not prepared to address financial matters for this meeting, but it would be looked into at a future meeting for establishing the municipal tax rate.
- 2) Mary Floyd provided the Board with a request for advertising for the Bethel Community Forward Festival. Floyd was advised this is a matter that she will need to discuss with the Town Manager.

### Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

- 1) Adoption of "Mud Season Rules" for 2015. By motion of Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried, the "Mud Season Rules" for 2015 were adopted.
- 2) Discussion of Representatives to the Bethel/Royalton Solid Waste Management Program Board and Potential Action. Present representatives to the board are: Bill Hall, Robert Gaiko, and Kristen Judkins. Arlund informed the Selectboard that he received communication from Gaiko that he may be resigning from the solid waste board and suggested the Selectboard table this item for the next meeting. Arlund will confirm Gaiko's intentions and advertise for a replacement if necessary.
- 3) Review and Approval of the Town Highways Annual Financial Plan. By motion of Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried, the Annual Financial Plan was approved. In a related matter, the Board was presented with a revised "Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards" which included a certification regarding the Town's highway network inventory. The Board approved this revised certification.
- 4) Review of Proposal for Design Services from Vermont Integrated Architecture for the Bethel Recreation Facility. The Board reviewed the proposal for services which is for Recreation Facility improvements as part of the FEMA Alternate Project. It was noted the proposal is in line with the cost estimate for design services previously provided to FEMA. The Board advised Arlund to move forward with this proposal.
- 5) Town Manager's Report:
  - a. Status Update of Action Items.
    - i. Arlund has been in contact with Fred Duplessis of Sullivan & Powers to arrange completion of the FY2014 audit.
    - ii. Regarding reactivation of the Class 4 Roads Committee, Arlund has been in contact with prior committee member Tim Mills. Maurice Brigham has also volunteered to join the committee. Arlund will be working on criteria for examining the class 4 roads, which will be reviewed by the Board. Russell suggested input from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding acceptable management practices. Russell also suggested contacting the White River Partnership for assistance.

- iii. Arlund has forwarded the Management Plan for the Marsh Meadow Property to various entities for review, including the Bethel Conservation Commission. The plan is close to being finalized.

Minutes and Communications:

- 1) Selectboard Minutes of February 9 and 23, 2015. By motion of Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried the modified minutes of February 9, 2015 and the minutes of February 23, 2015 were approved.
- 2) Committee Minutes. The Board reviewed the following: (a) Conservation Commission minutes of February 10, 2015; (b) Planning Commission minutes of February 18, 2015; (c) Forward Festival Committee minutes of February 23, 2015; (d) Town Meeting Committee Minutes of February 24, 2015; and (e) Emergency Shelter Committee agenda for March 10, 2015 and summary for October 2014 – March 2015.

Regarding the Conservation Commission minutes, Hill noted the minutes state the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan is "allegedly in the works." Hill is concerned that the Commission is unaware of the Town's progress regarding this and would like the Town Manager's weekly report to provide updates on its status. Arlund informed the Board that the Emergency Planning Committee is in the final stages of developing this plan.

Russell noted the Conservation Commission minutes identifies tasks the Town needs to complete to be eligible for the 17.5% State match in the event of a disaster, which includes river corridor protections. Russell would like to see a broader conversation which involves the Planning Commission and includes environmental merits so that a better explanation can be provided to the public, other than the financial piece.

Mary Floyd advised the Board that the Forward Festival Committee is considering eliminating the parade from the festivities due in part to safety concerns. The Committee is working on an alternative replacement for this activity.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board.

- 1) Lisa Hill shared with the rest of the Board the following, some of which was feedback she received at Town Meeting: (a) With the Route 107 paving project, the sidewalks seem to have been eliminated along River Street leading to North Road. Hill wondered what the reason for this was; (b) Regarding the Town Hall, a great job is being done with the cleaning; (c) Hill is working with Don Hyde on developing Green Up Day activities and would like to do some pre-event advertising. There will also be a better distribution of bags this year; (d) Hill wondered if there would be any mapping of water/sewer lines prior to paving of North Main Street so they won't need to be dug up again. Arlund advised that we do have as-built drawings from the sidewalk project that covers part of this corridor. Arlund has also had preliminary discussions with an engineer regarding the mapping of these lines, but it is an expensive task.
- 2) Based on Town Meeting feedback, Carl Russell would like to focus on financial planning as part of the objectives for the coming year. As part of this, he would like to provide for some visioning for alternatives in regards to the locations of the Town Offices and the Town Garage and the sharing of resources.

At 7:52 PM, Lisa Hill made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

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Bill Hall

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Carl Russell

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Lisa Hill