

Minutes of the January 23, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, William Hall, and Eleanor Griffin.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox, the Board first reviewing and approving the weekly payroll and payables. The minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud provided the Board members with a notice of a public hearing being held by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development on February 13, 2012 re. CDBG "Disaster Funding" which that Department will be receiving as a consequence of Irene. The minutes of the Development Review Board for meeting of December 6, 2011, and the Bethel Planning Commission for meeting of January 18, 2012 were both reviewed and placed on file.

A brief review was then made of the "Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage" which the Board had approved at the meeting of January 9, 2012. It was discovered by staff that the discontinuance of a short segment of Town Highway 118, a class 4 road, had been finalized during the calendar year just ended (2011). Although this would not affect the state aid to highways, the notation of the discontinuance has been included on the form, which fact is simply being now reported for the Board's knowledge; no action was required or taken by the Board.

A letter dated January 12, 2012 from Nancy Avery, Traffic Safety Supervisor for the AOT Traffic Design and Safety Division, was then discussed, this pertaining to the "High Risk Rural Roads" program. The Town had previously indicated its interest in participating in the subject program, to provide better signage for Camp Brook Road. The referenced letter requested the Board's re-affirmation that the Town would continue with the project. After due consideration of the project plans and the provisions of the program, motion to approve the "Maintenance Agreement" and authorize Delbert Cloud to issue certifications regarding the Town's continuing interest and the adequacy of the right-of-way, was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed a January 12, 2012 letter from Louise Ferris-Burt, Chair of the Human Services Advisory Committee. The letter set forth the committee's recommendations for appropriation of Town funds to various service entities, subject to approval by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. The recommended amounts were consistent with the Board's directions to the committee and were thus found acceptable for inclusion on the Warning for the Annual Meeting.

Budgets for the enterprise funds (water, wastewater, solid waste) were again discussed, these having been preliminarily reviewed in December 2011. The Board considered these to be appropriate for their respective purposes, no changes being necessary.

Turning to the General Fund budget, the Board members did not recommend changes from the submittal reviewed at the prior meeting. Eleanor Griffin asked if the Board would consider increasing the line item for the Recreation Facility Improvement Fund from \$5,000 to \$11,000 as requested by the Recreation Committee. The Board again reviewed the Committee's request, but decided that with the economic factors of the times it would not be appropriate to ask for additional above the \$5,000. It was noted that the voters could be asked at Town Meeting to consider an amendment to the budget for an increase to the budgeted amount.

The Board then examined a draft of the "Warning" for the Annual Meeting. It is understood that petition(s) for additional articles to be entered on the Warning may be submitted through the close of business on January 26th. It was determined that the Warning should be signed by the Board members, subject to any petitions as may be received, ie. a special meeting will be called to review petitioned articles if any are requested. Motion accordingly was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

A draft of the “Selectmen’s Report” was next discussed. Subject to minor editing to be done, the Board members agreed this report is satisfactory for publication. Motion accordingly was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed and placed on file the “Bethel/Royalton Landfill Statistical Analysis – October 2011” which has just been received from the consulting laboratory, Endyne, Inc. It appears that the favorable trends in groundwater quality in the vicinity of the closed landfill are continuing.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a “Notice of Alleged Violation” for the Water Department, this having been received on January 17, 2012. The Town’s response of January 18, 2012 was also noted, and it was agreed that the subject should be taken up subsequent to response from the Vermont Water Supply Division.

The following communications were reviewed and placed on file: (1) a January 11, 2012 letter from the Windsor County Offices re. the Windsor County Budget, (2) a memorandum from Ernie Kelley (Section Chief of the Residuals Management Division in the Vermont Wastewater Management Division) dated January 18, 2012 re. the Town’s biosolids program, (3) a January 16, 2012 letter from Gary and Lisa Alexander re. Irene recovery, and (4) notice from the Town Manager that a reservation of the Town Hall has been requested by the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce for March 2, 2012.

A brief discussion then ensued regarding “house-keeping” matters at the Town Hall, and the need to replace lighting on the Church Street Bridge. No action was required or taken on these matters.

Joe De Freitas commented on the extremely successful event held at the Town Hall on January 21st and 22nd which had been coordinated by Mary Floyd, much of this event being centered around the “Irene” disaster and recovery thereafter.

At 7:45 PM, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session for purpose of discussing a litigation issue in which the Town is a party. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept.

Upon return to open meeting at 8:55 PM the only motion was that to adjourn, this being made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas