

Minutes of the February 27, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Ola O'Dell, Vanessa Brown, Bill Hall, Laura Rubenis, Valdis Rubenis, Eleanor Griffin, Lydia Morris, Eric Benson, Chuck Lyman, Dick Adams, David Aldrighetti, Mary Floyd, and Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph."

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 February 13, 2012 meeting of the Selectboard were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. With reference to the prior meeting of February 13, 2012, the Board approved and endorsed a letter of appreciation to the seventh grade class at Whitcomb for the donation of \$1,300.00 to the "Irene Relief Fund."

The Board next reviewed the Recreation Committee minutes for its meeting of February 6, 2012. To avoid any confusion regarding the matter, the Board clarified that it is still in support of developing a "master plan" for the overall recreation facility to help establish priorities for maintenance and improvements. It is the expectation of the Board that means will be found to develop such a plan, regardless of the amount of money appropriated to the Recreation Fund in the FY'13 budget.

The Board then reviewed the Planning Commission minutes of February 15, 2012. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should inquire if the Planning Commission could meet with the Selectboard at the Selectboard's meeting on March 26th, to discuss the subjects of "Land Use Designations" and "Hamlets." Discussion then turned to "emergency planning," this having been taken up by the Planning Commission at its February 15, 2012 meeting in response to questions asked at that time by Laura Rubenis, who raised the same subject now for discussion with the Selectboard. She encouraged the Board to host a public meeting for discussion of the Town's response to tropical storm Irene. Mary Floyd also spoke in support of this idea. The Selectboard noted that information volunteers had collected pertaining to the nature and quantity of needs faced by individuals is still not available to the Board, which would be necessary to consider in drafting any revisions to an emergency response plan and seeking public input on same; it is understood Ola O'Dell holds the referenced information at this time. Discussion ensued, and it was ultimately agreed that all available information should be shared in order to prepare any necessary revisions to the plan and to be better able to answer questions which might arise from the public.

At 6:50 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Chuck Lyman and Dick Adams who were present as representatives of the Central Vermont Quad Runners ATV Club. Mr. Lyman referenced the fact that much work is needed on the trails because of Irene, and the Club would like to know if the same Town Highways can be used in the forthcoming year as were used last year. Chairman Fox commented that the Club has been a good steward of the trails being used, and that it is important for the Town to utilize the class 4 road system for various purposes, many of such roads having been invaluable for access and transportation in the aftermath of Irene. Comment was made by David Aldrighetti that the ATV's do not cause anywhere near as much damage to roads as is done by various ones using jeeps. Ultimately, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to allow use of the same highways under the same conditions of use as were approved by the Board at its meeting of April 27, 2009 during the hours between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM from May 15th to October 31st.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Eric Benson, he being present in anticipation of his role as Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting. The various Articles on the Warning were reviewed, such that Mr. Benson had necessary understanding of each to enable conduct of the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this matter.

The Board next reviewed the minutes of the Local Emergency Planning Committee for its meeting of February 16, 2012. Vanessa Brown said she was not aware that the Town had an emergency planning committee; David Aldrighetti replied that the Town does not. The subject committee is made up of First Response representatives from 30 Towns under the umbrella of the regional planning commission, he being the representative (Fire Chief) from the Town of Bethel. Discussion turned to the status of the school as an evacuation shelter it being noted that

it lacks a generator in the event of power failure, and it is not known if shower facilities are adequate.

The Board continued with the order of the agenda. After due consideration, it was agreed that the present draft of the Town's "Mud Season Rules" is appropriate. Motion to approve the subject "Rules" for use in the current year was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Under other business, the Board examined an amendment for additional work to be undertaken under the AOT Enhancement Grant for upgrade of sidewalks-curbing-drainage on Church Street and North Main Street. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the amendment was approved by the Board.

By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, renewal of a line of credit in the amount of \$80,000.00 for the Wastewater Department was approved. The Note is held by Mascoma Savings Bank, bearing interest at the rate of 2.25 % per annum.

Delbert Cloud provided the Board with a brief update on the status of reimbursements from FEMA for flood expenses. Although only \$43,000.00 has been released thus far, FEMA now has the system in place whereby it is anticipated reimbursements will henceforth be made in a more timely way.

It was agreed that North Road, Peavine Boulevard, and Camp Brook Road (all class 2 Town Highways) will require resurfacing at least in part. Delbert Cloud will respond to the Agency of Transportation's letter of "March 2012" accordingly, such that marking of centerlines will not be scheduled just before resurfacing occurs.

Under business of the local Board of Liquor Control Commissioners, a second class liquor license and a "tobacco" license were approved for Bethel Central Market, and a first class liquor license was approved for the Creek House Diner.

With no further business to attend, motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards at 7:47 PM, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas