

Minutes of the February 28, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Gregory Timmins, Dietre Feeney, Paul Feeney, Madeline Feeney, Eric Benson, and Geneva Gaiko.

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 Selectboard meeting of February 7, 2011 were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Planning Commission minutes of February 16, 2011 and the Local Emergency Planning Committee minutes of February 17, 2011 were also reviewed and placed on file.

The need for a Town Representative to the Stagecoach Board of Directors was then considered. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas, and unanimously carried, David Aiken was appointed.

The Board then examined a proposal for mounting and displaying the historic painted curtain at the Town Hall, this being submitted by Chris Hadsel of "Curtains Without Borders, Inc." Since the Board is not yet in receipt of recommendations pertaining to other functional curtains for the Town Hall stage area, it was decided that the matter of displaying the painted curtain should be tabled until all relevant information becomes available.

As the time was then 6:15 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Second Constable Gregory Timmins, he being present per appointment to discuss his work as Constable and the status of his training toward certification. Mr. Timmins advised that there have been a few minor issues he has worked with, the most recent being a particular dog complaint. He has now been appointed as Truant Officer by the Bethel School District. He has nearly finished the "phase two" training requirements, and has also now become certified as a RAD instructor. The decision to do field training through the Woodstock Police Department has proven to be a very good choice in Mr. Timmins's estimate, as he has found the training to be excellent and very applicable to anticipated duties in Bethel. General discussion ensued regarding the above subjects; the Board members thanked him for having taken the time to update them on these matters, and Mr. Timmins departed at approximately 6:40 PM.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Madeline Feeney, she having requested an appointment with the Board to talk about proper display of our nation's flag. She cited significant historic data regarding the flag and its symbolism, and suggested options as to how the flag at the Town Hall should be displayed in a manner meeting proper criteria. Of the options presented, she recommended continuing to display the flag both day and night, but with provision for better illumination at night-time. The Board members agreed that the matter should be addressed, and the motion to resolve same was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. It was agreed that Miss Feeney would further study methodologies that could be used and the associated costs, and would return with a recommendation for the Board's consideration. At the suggestion of Dietre Feeney, Madeline will also find out if the Cub Scouts would be willing to help monitor the flag's condition and needs to make sure it does not get into disrepair over time. Madeline, Dietre, and Paul Feeney all then departed at approximately 7:12 PM.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Eric Benson, he being present to discuss the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting in light of his role as Moderator. The various Articles were discussed, and it was agreed as to how points of information might be made available in response to voters' questions.

A pamphlet promoting the availability of the Town Hall for meetings and functions was then examined, this having been developed by Abbie Sherman of the Town Office. It was agreed that the item could be very helpful for encouraging use of the building as it contains necessary information and is also visually well done. A couple of suggestions will be conveyed to Ms. Sherman for her consideration, but it was agreed that the pamphlet should be distributed for promotion of the property.

A request for use of the conference room at the Town Hall has been received from Rita Seto of the regional planning commission. This would be for a meeting on March 10th of the regional "Transportation Advisory Committee." Ms. Seto also asked if the fee for use could be waived. The Board members decided that the fee should not be waived, but did agree by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, that the "four hour" minimum use time could be waived, as the proposed meeting would not likely run for more than two hours.

Information from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns about an educational course on "Conducting Effective Lister Grievances and Property Tax Assessment Appeals" was discussed next. Both Neal Fox and Joe De Freitas decided to attend the program.

Documents pertaining to renewal of a "line of credit" with Mascoma Savings Bank for use by the Wastewater Department were next reviewed, and it was determined by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, that the note should be renewed. The maturity date will be March 4, 2012.

A letter from Lieutenant William Jenkins of the Vermont State Police was then discussed, this letter seeking to establish membership by area Towns on a Community Advisory Board, to "facilitate and foster better communication between the Vermont State Police and the communities..." The Board members agreed that this would be a desirable effort to undertake, and Joe De Freitas offered to serve as the Town's representative, this being agreeable to the full Board.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:07 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas