

Minutes of the March 26, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Nick Nikolaidis, Heidi Nikolaidis, Gary Alexander, Lisa Alexander, Mary Floyd, Greg Fedak, Susan Fedak, Chris Jarvis, Vanessa Brown, Laura Rubenis, Eleanor Griffin, Robert Gaiko, Senator Richard McCormack, and Jennifer Marx 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. Chairman Fox advised that the first portion of the meeting is available for public comment or inquiry about any aspect of business, and asked if anyone wished to offer question or comment.

Susan Fedak asked if it were still acceptable to install “picture rail” in the Town Hall foyer; both Neal Fox and Joe De Freitas assured her this is acceptable. Ms. Fedak asked if any determinations have yet been made about the fixed costs of the Town Hall such that a discussion could be held about rental fees. Chairman Fox replied that the information has not been assembled due to the extensive demands still made on the Town Office staff for Irene recovery work.

Chris Jarvis asked if the agenda item on highway paving could be brought to the front of the agenda; the Board determined that this should not be done due to the inter-relationship of that subject with six other items on the agenda and the intended sequencing of those items.

Mary Floyd suggested that it would be a good idea to schedule a community festival for some time in the autumn. She offered to help gather people interested in helping with such an event. The Board indicated its receptivity to the idea. Chairman Fox announced that a community meeting will be held re. Irene recovery matters on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; this meeting will be professionally facilitated, and an agenda will be developed prior to that date.

Laura Rubenis asked if the vacancy on the Planning Commission has been filled yet, as she applied for appointment two months ago, and has submitted a second letter in the week previous to now. Chairman Fox replied that there has been interest in the vacancy but no appointment has been made by the Board to fill it.

Vanessa Brown asked if there is a meeting of the Selectboard on Wednesday of this week. Chairman Fox confirmed that a special meeting with the Royalton Selectboard is to be held in Royalton re. solid waste program business.

At 6:15 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Mary Floyd as per appointment for the evening, she being interested in forming a “streams committee” to address matters associated with area watershed(s). Ms. Floyd explained the background work she has done to date, and asked if the Town Hall conference room could be available at no fee for a meeting of individuals interested in the subject on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Board members approved her request, and discussion ensued on matters associated with stream channels and debris removal. It was noted that Senator Campbell has invited participation in a discussion, which might be held as part of the Legislature’s considerations of these matters, in Montpelier. Delbert Cloud will inquire about scheduling of that discussion. A formal motion to approve Ms. Floyd’s use of the Town Hall conference room was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried.

Turning then to the order of the agenda, Joe De Freitas made the motion to approve as submitted both the March 12 and March 20, 2012 minutes of the Selectboard meetings, this motion being seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. Stemming from the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board members formally accepted the resignation of Erin Boettcher as the Town Health Officer, and signed a letter of appreciation to Erin for her service to the Town.

The following minutes of Town committees were then reviewed and placed on file: Planning Commission of March 21, 2012; Development Review Board of March 7, 2012; Development Review Board of March 20 2012, and Recreation Committee of March 12, 2012. Pertaining to the latter, Eleanor Griffin expanded details about the work of the recreation committee, and spoke in support of the recommended rate schedule for pool users, and for the appointment of Frances Staples to the committee. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the recommended rates for use of the pool and facilities. By motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Frances Staples to the Recreation Committee.

The Board then reviewed a drawing submitted by FairPoint Communications of a small work project that company wishes to do on Main Street to provide linkage of its communications apparatus. The Board concluded that the scope of work would be quite unobtrusive and that a Permit could be issued for performance of the work subject to the customary provisions of such permits. Motion accordingly was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

At the request of the public present, Chairman Fox provided description of the appointment and duties of a Town Service Officer. Shelie Richardson has agreed to accept re-appointment to that office, and the motion to re-appoint her was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. Vanessa Brown asked if the contact information for the Town Service Officer would be added to the Town's website; the Board concurred that it would be.

The Board briefly discussed the subject of the Town's "Irene Relief Fund," noting that the deadline for initial applications is March 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion to table further consideration of use of the Town's fund until the next regular meeting of the Board was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Notices about several meetings/workshops associated with Irene recovery were next discussed. Neal Fox and Joe De Freitas both agreed to attend the "Red Cross Shelter Coordinator" program in Strafford on April 12, 2012.

Delbert Cloud then proceeded to update the Board on the status of applications submitted to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Buy-Out Program, and the reconstruction of the Town's water and wastewater systems. Based on recommendations from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to include the work proposed for protection of the Town's well houses, assuming the cost impacts would be approximately per the proposal.

Chris Jarvis asked if anything were to be done with hazardous material emanating from a fuel tank at a property on Pleasant Street. Neither the Board nor the Town Manager had become aware of such a problem, being of the understanding that the subject dislodged fuel tank had not actually been in use. Delbert Cloud will inquire into the status of this.

Cloud next explained the basis upon which certain Town Highways might be re-paved during the approaching construction season, some of this being in conjunction with grant funding, and some being in conjunction with either the Federal Highway Administration or FEMA. Robert Gaiko encouraged the Board to re-pave North Main Street in the near future and to consider paving the steep hill on North Main Street descending to Findley Bridge. Mary Floyd asked (and received) clarification of why Camp Brook Road is eligible for financial assistance from the Federal Highway Administration but not FEMA.

The Board then examined a record of "Project Work-Sites" which are being submitted to FEMA and the repair/recovery costs associated with these. Delbert Cloud identified work completed and paid for; work estimated, although not necessarily completed, for which funds are obligated; and work anticipated to be placed under contract in the forthcoming year. It was agreed that an additional three million dollars should be added to the "Line of Credit" obligation with Mascoma Savings Bank, the rate on this borrowing being at 1% per annum for a term of 18 months from the date of the Irene event. Delbert Cloud has spoken with bank officials and asked for the approval of this

extension of credit. By motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, it was agreed that the individual Board members would execute loan documents, per the provisions discussed, as soon as they become available.

Delbert Cloud explained the preliminary plans for a fund-raising event the school district is planning for a date in August. This would entail use of certain Town Highways for a walking or running course. The Board conceptually approved the plan, and will look forward to more detailed information when it becomes available.

Delbert Cloud then provided the Board with information about a project on Lower Church Street wherein a single family dwelling is to be converted to a duplex, the property owner being Rick Balser. By motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, it was agreed that the Town has ample water and sewerage capacity for the project, and that extending the service will not compromise the hydraulics or fire-fighting capability of the Town's systems.

Under "other business" Joe De Freitas asked Delbert Cloud to clarify concerns over inaccurate information about Town business being entered on Facebook pages. Cloud suggested that information about Town business should be confirmed before it is publicized and becomes misleading to the public. Vanessa Brown said it is awkward to locate the Town's website; Bill Hall offered clarification on how this can be done. Laura Rubenis said she assumed the reference to inaccurate information was directed toward confusion over postings she had made regarding whether, or not, the Board would be holding its designated regular meeting, and that she was only trying to "facilitate." She also noted that she had difficulty accessing the Town website, and further suggested the Town should get rid of the Town Office's Facebook page because no one can ask questions on it.

Vanessa Brown asked how the Board planned to fill the vacant Health Officer position. Chairman Fox replied that no decision has yet been made regarding that matter.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 PM by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Joe De Freitas

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Bill Hall