

Minutes of the May 23, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Susan LaFlamme, Eric Benson, 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 Health Officer's reports for May 18, 2011 and May 19, 2011 were reviewed and placed on file. The minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Planning Commission minutes of May 11, 2011 were reviewed, and the Board members were provided with copies of the draft Town Plan which is to be the subject of a Public Hearing held by the Planning Commission on June 22, 2011. Ultimately, the updated Town Plan will be considered by the Selectboard for adoption.

The Board then discussed a renewal application for a "Village Center" designation. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should submit the application for renewal to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development based on the presently defined geographic downtown area.

The streetscape project planned for Church Street/North Main Street was reviewed. In light of budget projections prepared by the involved engineering company, Resource Systems Group, it was agreed that the Town should submit an application to the Agency of Transportation requesting additional funding. The "letter of intent" for such purpose needs to be filed by June 3, 2011; motion accordingly to file the "letter of intent" was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Various matters of business associated with the Town Hall were taken up next. Delbert Cloud informed the Board that the "water problem" in the basement was due to someone having left the expansion tank valve on the boiler in the closed position, this resulting in a discharge of water through the emergency blow-off valve; there does not appear to be any problem relative to water infiltration from the exterior of the building. The equipping and furnishing of the building seemed to be nearly complete in the Board's estimate. It was agreed that financial assistance should be sought to help defray the cost of displaying the historic theater curtain, and that various special projects would still need to be completed (restoration of the piano, potential installation of a chandelier). Discussion continued regarding kitchen utensils and appliances, and it was agreed that Delbert Cloud should coordinate with Nick Nikolaidis to provide for specific needs at certain upcoming events.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Eric Benson, he being present to discuss with the Board the thought of placing a "bulletin board" in the vicinity of the Town Hall. The idea has been discussed previously at Bethel Business Association meetings, and there appears to be quite a lot of interest in having such a signage placed. In the discussion with the Selectboard, the matter of providing illumination for the flag was brought up. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should contact the Town Hall project architect, Laz Scangas, to see if he might have a suggestion regarding how both matters might be encompassed. As discussion concluded, Mr. Benson thanked the Board for consideration of the subject; he then departed and the Board returned to the order of the agenda.

The subject of unauthorized salvage yards was next on the agenda. The Board members discussed current State of Vermont regulations whereby the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation may assume responsibility for enforcing laws applicable to "salvage yards," the regulations actually encompassing many other forms of "junk" not limited to scrap motor vehicles. It was agreed that both Delbert Cloud and Joe De Freitas would attend a Vermont League of Cities & Towns workshop wherein the regulations would be explained, and the subject would be brought up again at a forthcoming meeting. The subject of "Dangerous Buildings" and "Vacant Buildings" was also discussed at this time, and it was agreed that further research would be done before the Town decides what course of action would be appropriate regarding such problem real estate.

Delbert Cloud then provided information about the solid waste program, on which no action was required or taken by the Board. He recommended that two improvements be considered during the coming construction season, these being (1) additional paving, and (2) development of the water supply for the facility. Cloud will discuss these matters with the Royalton Selectboard before any decisions are made.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:20 PM by Bill Richards, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Bill Richards

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Joe De Freitas