

Minutes of the June 27, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Louise Ferris-Burt, Charles Lyman, Kenneth Carter, 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 June 13, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Board authorized Neal Fox to sign a "Letter of Agreement for Computer Appraisal Services" whereby the Vermont Department of Taxes would license the Town to allow its Board of Listers to use the Marshall and Swift Cost Tables for appraisal purposes; this action was formalized by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed the Planning Commission minutes of June 22, 2011, this in pertinent part being directed at the renewal of the Town Plan. A "Letter of Transmittal" of the proposed Town Plan from the Planning Commission to the Selectboard was also reviewed, this being dated June 22, 2011. Vermont Statutes Title 24 Sections 4384 and 4385 were also examined, and the motion was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to hold a Public Hearing to receive comment about the proposed Plan on July 25, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the June 16, 2011 meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee were then reviewed and placed on file. The suggestion was made that it might be helpful to the Board's understanding of the Committee's work if David Aldrighetti, the Town's appointed representative, could attend the Board meeting on July 11, 2011; Delbert Cloud will see if this will be possible.

A June 14, 2011 letter of resignation from the Recreation Committee was received from Timothy Brennan, this being accepted by the Board with deep regret. Discussion ensued regarding potential new members for the Committee, and the matter will be taken up at a forthcoming meeting when information may be known about individuals' willingness to serve on the Committee.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Charles Lyman and Kenneth Carter, they being present on behalf of the Central Vermont Quad Runners to discuss the trail system being used for the current year by the Club. Due to a highway issue within the Town of Stockbridge, the Club would like to have a short alternative route approved within the Town of Bethel in order to retain continuity of its trails. Specifically, it is requested that the following roads be approved for use by the ATV Club: Whitcomb Hill Road, Whittier Road between the intersections with Whitcomb Hill Road and Gay Hill Road, and the westerly end of Gay Hill Road between the Stockbridge Town Line and the intersection with Whittier Road. After due consideration of the basis for the request, motion was made by Bill Richards to approve the above referenced roads for use by the Club, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, the Club was also authorized to do drainage improvements on Town Highways 122 and 54, these being previously approved for the Club's use. The Selectboard members then thanked the Quad Runners representatives for the work done to help clean the grounds at the solid waste facility as part of the Club's participation in Vermont Green Up Day, this help being very much appreciated.

The Board then examined a set of documents received from the Vermont Agency of Transportation re. the replacement of the River Street Bridge. It now appears that a slightly greater land area owned by the Town must be utilized for placement of utility poles than had been provided for under the "Easement" previously approved by the Selectboard. After due consideration, motion to approve the requested Easement as amended was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Louise Ferris-Burt, Chair of the Town's Board of Listers. Ms. Ferris-Burt explained that she has prepared a response to the Vermont Department of Taxes' redetermination of the calculation for the "coefficient of dispersion," this response being in the form of an appeal to the Valuation Appeal Board. She expressed her firm belief that the State has not considered this matter correctly; the Board members concurred, and the motion to authorize Neal Fox to sign the letter of appeal on behalf of the Board was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed various documents pertaining to fiscal matters associated with the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. No action was required or taken, as final evaluations will be done upon the actual close of the year.

The Grand List as calculated by the Board of Listers as of June 7, 2011 was then examined. The Board reviewed the budget as approved by the voters at the last Annual Town Meeting, inclusive of all money appropriations the voters had approved, and determined that the tax rate would need to be \$0.67 for Municipal purposes. Motion to approve the Municipal Tax Rate for fiscal year 2012 at \$0.67 was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud then provided the Board with a summation of matters associated with the free electronics collection program being implemented by the State of Vermont as of July 1, 2011. Since the material is already being collected by the solid waste program, Cloud recommended that the Town agree to participate with the State's initiative, subject to concurrence by the Royalton Selectboard which jointly manages the local program. Motion accordingly was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next discussed new laws and regulations pertaining to the State of Vermont's management of "salvage yards." It was agreed that a discussion should be held at a forthcoming meeting with the Planning Commission to see how the Town should regard the management of salvage yards and other debris on private properties.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a June 8, 2011 memo from Leslie Nulty re. ECFiber services, (2) streamwater quality reports from the White River Partnership for June 8 and 22, and (3) reports from the June 11th hazardous waste collection event held at the solid waste facility.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas