

Minutes of the July 25, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Carla Hodgdon, Andrew Delaney, Fred Dieffenbach, and Dr. Kevin Dirth.

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 July 11, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The following minutes of committees were also reviewed and placed on file: (1) Bethel Development Review Board of July 19, 2011, (2) Bethel Recreation Committee of July 19, 2011, and (3) the Public Safety Community Advisory Board meeting of June 14, 2011. The Transportation Advisory Committee agenda for August 11, 2011 was also reviewed, it being noted that "Enhancement Grant" applications will be discussed at that meeting.

As the time was 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox called for the first appointment of the evening to be taken up, this being to hold a public hearing regarding the intended application to the Agency of Transportation for an amendment of the Enhancement Grant previously received by the Town. The proposed amendment would assist financially with greater anticipated costs associated with the approved scope of work, and would allow the Town to expand the scope of work in an immediately adjacent location. Chairman Fox asked the members of the public if any comment were forthcoming from their perspective. Those present offered expressions of concurrence but had no specific recommendation for changes in the amendment requested. It was noted for the record that the hearing had been duly warned, to qualify as one of the requirements of the application process. With no further comment forthcoming, motion to close the hearing was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then returned to the order of the agenda. A July 14, 2011 letter has been received from Paul Vallee, advising that he is resigning from the Development Review Board as of the end of his term, ie. June 30, 2011. Delbert Cloud informed the Board that he has verbally received notice from Eric Richardson that he does not wish to accept re-appointment to the Planning Commission, again as of the end of his term of office on June 30, 2011. It is believed that Joann Kent may also not wish to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission, although there has not been confirmation yet. Given these understandings, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to re-appoint Penny Griffin to the Development Review Board for a term ending June 30, 2014, and to appoint Keith Bollman to a term ending June 30, 2014 on that same Board. This action provides for a full seven member Development Review Board. Motion was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to appoint Fred Dieffenbach to the Planning Commission for a term ending June 30, 2014, and to re-appoint Carla Hodgdon to the Planning Commission for a term also ending June 30, 2014. It was noted that a vacancy will exist on the seven member Planning Commission if Joann Kent does not wish to be re-appointed.

The Board next examined a memo dated July 11, 2011 from the Vermont Department of Taxes re. the matter of assessing penalties for "late filed Homestead Declarations." The Board decided to table this matter until more information is available regarding how many people may be involved and what dollar value is conjectured.

With the time being 7:00 PM, Chairman Fox declared a Public Hearing to be opened in accordance with procedures of Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 24 Section 4385, this being for purpose of receiving public comment about the draft of the Town Plan which the Selectboard has received from the Planning Commission by transmittal dated June 22, 2011. The Board members concurred that the Plan appears to be complete and appropriately drafted in compliance with State law. Carla Hodgdon suggested that there are actually some portions of the Plan that seem redundant, this being due to certain mandates from State law and recommendations from the regional planning commission. The members of the Selectboard and the Planning Commission agreed that the updates deemed necessary to bring the previous Plan current are properly done within the draft now being considered. No other public comment was forthcoming, and the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to conclude the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM. Motion was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to adjust the cost for copies of the new Plan if necessary to reflect the associated expenses to produce it.

Discussion continued between the Planning Commission members and the Selectboard about potential new members for the Commission (since it appears that a vacancy may exist), and the tasks which will need to be taken up in the near future by the Planning Commission. These latter include the need to develop specificity within the Bylaws for any “measurement” activities to ensure that decisions can be objectively drawn in compliance with recent court and state legislative actions, and to determine how “salvage yards” should be regarded within the Bylaws. Various legislative mandates will also need to be addressed.

At 7:30 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Dr. Kevin Dirth, School District Principal, he being present per appointment to offer further information to the Board about the “Missoula Theater” being incorporated as part of the School’s activity schedule. It is anticipated that the Town Hall can be available at certain times for both rehearsals and for the final presentations. Upon learning the details of the program, the Board members concurred that the Town Hall could be used for the purpose, with fees waived. Dr. Dirth then asked if the Town would consider the possibility of assisting the School District with acquisition of fuel for the bus fleet since the Town does have a tank capable of receiving bulk deliveries. It was agreed that the volume used by the School District should be tabulated such that calculation of relative costs could be made between the Town’s “tanker” cost and the fluctuating retail cost elsewhere.

The Board then discussed the current draft of the Town Plan now before them for potential adoption. It was agreed that the draft is appropriate, and the motion was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to adopt the proposed Town Plan in accordance with provisions of Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 24 Sections 4385 and 4350.

The Board then reviewed the streamwater quality report from the White River Partnership as of July 20, 2011. No action was required or taken as this item was informational only.

The Board next considered a request from Mike Bilodeau for an “Interim Water & Sewerage Capacity Permit” for up to 450 gallons of flow to provide for a single family residence he plans to construct on his property on Pleasant Street. It was agreed that there would be no negative impact on the production, distribution, or storage capacity’s of the Town’s systems, and that subject to submittal of appropriate plans for the service connections, they would be approvable; motion accordingly was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board reviewed a “Reappointment Form” whereby Robert Dean would serve until June 30, 2016 as the Town Forest Fire Warden, subject to approval by the Board and officials at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Motion to approve the reappointment was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud informed the Board of an energy conservation program which would seemingly provide a prompt pay-back at the Town Garage property, this being available through Efficiency Vermont. The Board members concurred that this would be prudent to participate in.

Two communications were then reviewed: (1) information about the Harpoon Point to Point bicycle ride being scheduled for August 13, 2011, and (2) information about the VLCT Town Fair scheduled for October 6, 2011.

Discussion then ensued re. various repairs needed at the Church Street Common. Delbert Cloud will attend several of these, and Neal Fox will supply an American flag on behalf of the American Legion.

With no further business to attend, motion to adjourn was made at 9:20 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