

Minutes of the August 8, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Abbie Sherman, Felicia Dieffenbach, Eleanor Griffin, 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. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM, to reconvene at the Recreation Facility on Pleasant Street for purpose of discussing needs at the facility with the members of the Recreation Committee. The present uses were noted, and discussion continued with respect to trends, future desirable features, siting considerations, estimated costs of various installations or improvements, potential grant assistance, and the need for some professional guidance in developing a plan for the facility. It was agreed that the latter need rose to the top of the list in order to avoid errors in the design or placement of any major components of the facility, and to facilitate seeking financial assistance in the future. It was further agreed that the Committee would inquire of other facilities as to design professionals that had been helpful in developing their projects. The Board then returned to the Town Office to resume other business on the agenda.

Upon reconvening at the Town Office, Delbert Cloud relayed an inquiry from a party owning a lot in Fairview Cemetery as to whether, or not, individuals could open and close a grave for placement of an urn containing cremation remains of a relative. The Board members concurred that there would not be a great volume of earthwork as could negatively impact the surrounds, and suggested that Delbert Cloud should prepare an amendment to the "Cemetery Rules and Regulations" which would authorize such work under appropriate conditions.

At 7:20 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Fire Chief David Aldrighetti, he being present per appointment to discuss the acquisition of a pumper/tanker as discussed previously with the Board. Mr. Aldrighetti explained the list of accessories he wishes to see installed, and the means of having that done by the company assembling the truck. Warranty provisions were also discussed, it being noted that components often have different terms of warranty than others. After due consideration, motion to proceed with the acquisition as specified was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. It is understood that various changes may yet be made during the assembly interval. Given the level of support for the Fire Department Equipment Fund discussed by the voters at Town Meeting in March 2011, the Board advised Delbert Cloud to seek a financing plan whereby approximately \$30,000.00 per year would provide for the purchase.

The Board then turned to the order of the agenda. The minutes of the July 25, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board discussed the updating of maps as are used by the Town for a number of purposes, considering particularly (1) the class 4 roads shown on the maps, and (2) other roads which are known but are not mapped on the official highway map prepared by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT). It was agreed that all roads which the Town believes to be Town highways should be shown on Town maps, even if not yet mapped on the official AOT map, until such time as the legislature or the judicial system may establish direction differently.

A letter dated August 2, 2011 from Nancy Avery, Traffic Safety Supervisor for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, was then reviewed along with the report and plan for replacement of signs on the lower portion of Camp Brook Road and the intersection area of Vermont Route 12. The proposed work is part of the "High Risk Rural Roads Program." After due consideration, motion to approve proceeding with the project was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then discussed the "Mutual Aid Agreement" for area Towns which is coordinated through the regional planning commission. The Town has participated in this mutual pledging of support in the past; motion to continue participation was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Various streetscape features were discussed next. Delbert Cloud reported on the evaluation of the stone retaining wall on Main Street/Avon Drive which has been done by Bill Harvey; Neal Fox offered to discuss the subject further with the Business Association. It was agreed that the plan to convert street light luminaires to the “light emitting diode” type would be appropriate to pursue, commencing with the Church Street/North Main Street enhancement grant project. Given other work completed or being done, it was also agreed that attention should be given to addressing the triangle and “gateway” area at the intersection of River Street and Main Street. Concepts prepared by the former “Committee on the Downtown” will be located, and attempt will be made to gain Agency of Transportation assistance in making improvements in this area.

The Board next reviewed a request from Louise Ferris-Burt, Chair of the Board of Listers, to correct an error in the value entered on the Grand List for the Depot Apartments. In brief, the Listers had entered a lesser value on the current Grand List by combining the holdings rather than leaving them under separate ownership for the current year; an action by the Board of Abatement is necessary to amend the entry. Acting in that capacity, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to join with the Board of Listers and the Town Clerk to make the necessary correction.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) information pertaining to the “GO Vermont” project, (2) an e-mail from the Town of Royalton Administrative Assistant confirming that the Royalton Selectboard could meet in joint session with the Bethel Board at 7:00 PM on August 15, 2011 at the Bethel Town Office re. solid waste program business, and (3) the streamwater quality report for August 3rd from the White River Partnership.

With knowledge of conflicts in schedules during the month of September, the Board then considered how best to schedule its meetings for that month. It was agreed that the “regular” meetings for September would be held on the 12th and the 19th.

The Board then determined that the meeting should continue under executive session since a matter involving litigation in which the Town is a party needed to be taken up. Motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to enter executive session for the above stated purpose. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board for the executive session; no minutes were kept.

Upon return to open meeting, the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting to Monday, August 15, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office, to consider matters of business associated with the solid waste program jointly conducted with the Town of Royalton.

The continued meeting was reconvened at 7:00 PM on August 15, 2011 at the Bethel Town Office. The full Board from Royalton was in attendance: Larry Trottier (Chair), Joan Goldstein, Peggy Ainsworth, Ernie Amsden, and Phil Gates. Given that the discussion would be focusing on current litigation and matters specific to certain employees and their work performance, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas to enter executive session for discussion of these matters; this motion was seconded by Phil Gates and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Boards during the executive session; no minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 8:45 PM, no motion stemming from the executive session was forthcoming. Delbert Cloud informed the Boards that he had received bids for paving work, part of which were for two areas at the solid waste facility. Upon learning of the anticipated costs, the Board members concurred that the road corridor referenced as “Area A” should be done, the most favorable bid being from Blaktop. Motion to approve issuance of an award to Blaktop for the subject work was made by Larry Trottier, seconded by Phil Gates and unanimously carried. With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:10 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Larry Trottier and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas