

Minutes of the August 22, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Nick Nikolaidis, Susan Fedak, and Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by acting Chair, Bill Richards; Neal Fox was temporarily detained at a previously scheduled meeting elsewhere. Initially, the Board reviewed and approved the weekly payroll and payables, and the minutes of the August 8 and 15, 2011 minutes of the Board of Selectmen, the latter approval being provided by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and thus carried. Delbert Cloud also provided the Board with minutes of the August 16, 2011 meeting of the Recreation Committee, which were reviewed and placed on file.

It was noted that the term for the Town's appointed representative to the Board of Directors of the South Royalton Senior Center is expiring. Carroll Ketchum has been serving as the Town's representative, and has advised that he would be willing to continue in that capacity. Motion to re-appoint Carroll Ketchum was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and thus carried.

The Board next reviewed an August 4, 2011 e-mail from Rita Seto of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission pertaining to the query from the Town of Stockbridge about reclassification of Music Mountain Road from class 3 to class 2. If this reclassification were to be considered, it may be necessary for a portion of Town Highway(s) in Bethel to qualify for reclassification as well. This matter will be taken up again when further information is available from the regional commission.

Delbert Cloud informed the Board that the Town's request for an amendment of the AOT "Enhancement Grant" had been filed with the Agency of Transportation in advance of the August 19th deadline. Notice of additional funding being approved will not be available until around the close of the calendar year.

At 6:30 PM, the Board welcomed Nick Nikolaidis and Susan Fedak, representatives of the Bethel Historical Society. They discussed with the Board how funds from the Historical Society are used to the benefit of the greater community, and the fact that events the Historical Society may hold bring people to Town and generate additional benefit via "spin-off" purchasing activity. The Historical Society would thus like to have the Board consider a reduction in the rental fee for use of the Town Hall in hosting fund-raising events there. Neal Fox arrived at 6:50 PM, and participated in further discussion of this matter. Susan Fedak summarized the Historical Society's position by noting that Town and school usage of the Town Hall without fee is understandably consistent with the public need, and that fees should properly be charged for private functions, but that the Historical Society should be considered as "something in between." The Board members thanked the Historical Society representatives for their input and agreed to consider the matter, but that hasty changes without careful thought would not be made.

The Board next reviewed bids which had been received from 5 contractors for re-surfacing Royalton Hill Road and East Street. Delbert Cloud informed the Board that notice has been received subsequently to the bid submittal deadline that the Agency of Transportation has approved a grant for paving assistance on Camp Brook Road in the amount of \$168,640.00, such work having to be completed no later than July 22, 2013. Since some preparatory work should be done on Camp Brook Road before paving, and given the lateness of the season and cooler temperatures forthcoming, Cloud recommended scheduling bidding and placement of paving material on Camp Brook Road for early in fiscal year 2013 (ie. after July 1, 2012), and using the current year's paving funds to do the Royalton Hill and East Street project. The latter project could be done around mid September while conditions are still favorable; he noted that the most favorable bid is from United Construction. The Board members concurred, and the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to award the project to United Construction.

Delbert Cloud then provided the Board with the information now available about the Agency of Transportation's plans for replacement of the River Street Bridge. The project has been awarded to Beck & Bellucci, Inc. of Franklin, New Hampshire. A pre-construction conference is scheduled for August 24, 2011 in Wilder, Vermont which Cloud will attend in order to obtain further information about the project and the schedule.

Cloud noted that there had previously been a number of other construction measures within prior plans for the bridge project that had been dropped out due to cost constraints. Several needs still remain that should be given attention in the best interest of the Town and the public at large, and Cloud suggested that the Agency of Transportation should be asked to re-visit such matters as pedestrian walkways and the traffic configuration of the intersection of Route 107 with Route 12, keeping also in mind the poor visibility for motorists associated with the railroad underpass and the intersection of Peavine Boulevard with the State routes. The Board members concurred, and endorsed the thought that designs and funds should be sought to provide for betterment of these matters.

The Board was then provided with information about the State of Vermont's "457 Deferred Compensation Plan" which the Town employees could have benefit of, subject to adoption of the Plan by the Selectboard. There is no financial match required from the Town, this being solely a means whereby employees can help provide for their own retirement. After due consideration, motion to adopt the subject Plan was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the following Resolution being endorsed by the Board and made a part of this adoption:

“Whereas, the individuals signing below have the legal authority to take the action set forth herein on behalf of the Town of Bethel (Municipality) hereinafter referred to as Participating Employer.

Whereas, the Participating Employer wishes to adopt the State of Vermont Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, an eligible deferred compensation plan governed by Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code, for its employees.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Participating Employer adopts the State of Vermont Section 457 Compensation Plan effective August 22, 2011.

Further Resolved, that the participation of the Participating Employer's employees in the Plan shall be governed by the plan document, a copy of which is attached, the services agreement(s), and any and all rules and regulations promulgated by the State of Vermont Board.

Further Resolved, that the Participating Employer agrees to be bound by and honor the decisions and action taken by the State of Vermont Board, the plan administrator, in connection with Plan management and administration, including but not limited to, amending or terminating the Plan and selecting investment options and service providers.

Further Resolved, that the Participating Employer agrees that no employee shall be allowed to contribute more than the maximum annual contribution into the Plan. If the employer offers one or more other 457 plans, the employer shall coordinate the maximum annual contribution among all of the plan and agrees that any excess deferrals resulting from participation in multiple plans shall be attributable to and distributed from one of the other 457 plans, not the State Plan.

Further Resolved, that the Participating Employer will facilitate educational programs developed for use with the State's Plan as requested by the State or service provider to the extent possible during work hours.”

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) notice from the Woodstock Bicycle Club of a charity bicycle ride scheduled for Sunday, September 1st which will travel certain Town highways, (2) streamwater quality reports for August 17, 2011 submitted by the White River Partnership, and (3) some general information about the "Complete Streets" program received from the regional planning commission.

With no further business to attend, 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