

Minutes of the August 22, 2012 Continued Meeting of the Selectboard. This meeting was a continuation of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2012.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Jennifer Marx, Vanessa Brown, Guy Best, and Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox. The Board first considered a request from Fire Chief David Aldrighetti for permission to conduct a coin drop as a Fire Department fundraiser on Saturday, September 1, 2012; the staging was proposed to be on Church Street adjacent to the Town Common from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Board members questioned if the Church Street location would allow a set-up per the recommendations used by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, which the Town has endorsed. Motion to approve the request was made by Joe De Freitas with the proviso that if the proper set-up can not be done on Church Street, then a broader portion of highway on Main Street should be used instead; this motion was seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud presented a request from a water customer, asking if balance owed for water fees prior to Irene could be waived. The Board members concurred that accounts having balances due prior to Irene might be forgiven subsequent to Irene, but not for amounts pre-Irene. Motion to deny the request was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board then discussed the potential of providing alternate water supplies to certain water customers on Pleasant Street and Watershed Road. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud would provide the Board with a draft of an agreement as might be used to formalize an understanding with the respective water customers, at which time the Board would determine final wording and how to present an offering to the parties involved.

The Board next reviewed the budgets for the Water and Wastewater Departments for FY' 13 to ascertain if rates would require adjustment to provide for the needs of the Departments. Given debt service requirements from recent capital projects, and the need to more adequately build reserve funds, it was agreed that adjustments are in order, and that the status of the Departments' fiscal standing should be reviewed again in January. Motion to set the Water Department rate at \$325.00 per year per "equivalent unit" effective with the first quarterly billing with proportionate adjustment for metered billings was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, the rate for Wastewater equivalent units was accordingly set at \$495.00 per year.

The Board examined the "Consumer Price Index" prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics through July of 2012, to determine if adjustments should be made to the Town employee compensation schedule. Comment was also made that the Town's employees are well-trained, dependable, and work cooperatively together. After due discussion, Chairman Fox asked if a 3% increase "across the board" would be appropriate; motion accordingly was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Vanessa Brown suggested that compensation details for each employee should be published in the Annual Town Report in the interest of "transparency." She also inquired as to whether or not written job descriptions and job qualification skills were on file for all Town positions; she was advised that the Town believes it is current on such matters.

The Board then discussed the potential "alternate projects" that might be undertaken through the FEMA program in lieu of replacing the failed bridge on Old Route 12. The list includes: a new Town garage, acquisition of a site for future Town Offices, recreation facility upgrades, acquisition of additional cemetery space, construction of water supplies, emergency generator at the school, and necessary traffic/safety improvements on Old Route 12. Vanessa Brown asked if this list were a final list, and was informed that it is not final at this time. She asked if a public polling would be helpful to better ascertain public sentiments; Chairman Fox assured her that input from the public is always very helpful to have when decisions such as these need to be made.

At 5:50 PM, the motion to adjourn to 7:00 PM at the Royalton Town Office on 17 North Windsor Street was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Joe De Freitas

Bill Hall