

Minutes of the August 27, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Lucien Hinkle, and Carl Russell.

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. He then asked if there were any public comment or inquiry. Lucien Hinkle explained to the Board how unsafe he considers the intersection of Quarry Road and Sanders Road to have become. He referenced the fact that there is considerable traffic exiting Quarry Road during these times, with poor visibility for traffic on Sanders Road. He suggested that it would be much safer if traffic from Quarry Road were required to stop at the intersection. The Board members expressed familiarity with the subject intersection and concurred that a "stop intersection" for traffic entering Sanders Road from Quarry Road would be in the public interest; motion to amend the Town's Traffic Ordinance accordingly was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. It was also agreed that the Town should see if any other measures could be taken to improve visibility at the intersection.

The Board then turned to the order of the agenda. The Selectboard minutes of August 13, 2012 were approved by motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The minutes of the continued meeting, held on August 22, 2012 were also approved, this by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. The Board also reviewed and placed on file the Planning Commission minutes of August 15, 2012; the Development Review Board minutes of June 19, 2012 and of August 21, 2012; and the agenda for the Local Emergency Planning Committee for its meeting of August 23, 2012.

Delbert Cloud next provided the Board with an update on the status of Irene recovery work, this encompassing the following subject matters: (1) hazard mitigation measures to be accomplished at the Town's well houses, to make them more flood resistant, (2) repair plans for Peavine Bridge, (3) current status of plans for replacement of Bridges #35 and #37 in Gilead, (4) alternate projects to be considered in lieu of replacing Bridge #49, this list being unchanged from the Board meeting of August 22, 2012; (5) continuing work on Camp Brook Road, which is covered by the Federal Highway Administration, (6) total projects undertaken through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program to provide individual assistance to property owners, and (7) the status, as best understood at this time, of properties that may be included in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Home Buy-out program.

The Board then briefly discussed the forthcoming VLCT Town Fair. Delbert Cloud was designated as the Town's voting delegate to the Annual Business Meeting which is part of that event.

The Board again reviewed a memo dated August 2, 2012 from Lisa Campbell wherein Ms. Campbell had recommended appointment of Laura Rubenis, Willow Griffith, Lydia Morris, and Rosalie Benson to the Parks and Public Places Committee. It was agreed that the Committee Chair, Lisa Campbell, would confirm with the Town Manager what places would be addressed by the Committee, and that volunteers doing previously approved projects would be respected for their good faith efforts and "left alone" by the Committee. With this understanding, the motion to appoint the above-referenced people to the Parks and Public Places Committee was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) an August 15, 2012 letter from the Board of Trustees of Gifford Medical Center thanking the Selectboard for its support of the proposed senior living center in Randolph Center, and (2) the White River Partnership's streamwater quality report for samples of August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Delbert Cloud expressed concern over inaccuracies posted to a social media page about business conducted by the Selectboard at its meeting of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The subject page is held by someone representing himself as being Bethel Vermont but the page is not an

official Town page. The Town is prevented from offering correct entries to it regarding formal business conducted by the Town. These entries circulate all over the world. He hoped the “untruths” were not posted on purpose to cause misunderstanding of the Board’s actions. He also suggested that since “Transparency” is such a catch word these days, that it is a deception in itself for a person to hold a page used routinely to present matters of public business yet not reveal their own identity and make it clear that the page is not an official Town page.

At approximately 7:15 PM, the motion was made by Bill Hall to enter executive session to discuss matters of litigation in which the Town is a party, this motion being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board for the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 7:30 PM, the only motion was that to adjourn, this being made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Joe De Freitas

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Bill Hall