

## Minutes of September 14, 2015 Selectboard Meeting

Present: Board members Bill Hall, Carl Russell and Lisa Hill. Others present: Town Manager Keith Arlund, Assistant Town Manager Abbie Sherman, Geneva Gaiko, David Sambor, Eleanor Griffin, Eric Benson, Lisa McCrory, and Lisa Warhol for the "Herald of Randolph."

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Public Comment or Inquiry: David Sambor was present on behalf of the Bethel Revitalization Initiative (BRI) to request approval for use of the Town Hall to conduct a planning meeting for Bethel University. Use of the Town Hall at no charge was approved by the Board.

Appointments: Town Meeting Committee re. Committee Direction and Grant Application Approval. Eric Benson and Lisa McCrory, representing the Town Meeting Committee, advised the Board that the meeting on September 3 demonstrated there is a need for educating the public on Town governance. Benson and McCrory requested guidance from the Board as to next steps for the committee regarding two matters: 1) Town Report and 2) the committee would like to develop an operator's manual with the financial assistance of grant funding. The Board advised the committee that grant funding always comes at a cost in either matching funds or demand on employee time. The Board would also like to know if there is a demand for an operator's manual. Regarding the Town Report, the Board advised they are always open to suggestions.

### Reports, Motions, and Ordinances:

1. Review of Bids for Bethel Recreation Center Improvements. Bids for the Recreation Center came in higher than anticipated. Arlund advised the Board the engineer is reviewing the possibility of reusing the current septic rather than connecting to Town sewer. An unanticipated additional cost will be incurred to install new electrical from the pole to the building. Rebidding in the spring may yield higher bids. The demolition of Bridge #79 and improvements to the intersection with Route 12 are the priority with the alternate projects and the cost for these items is not yet known. The Board opted to wait for further information before making a decision.
2. Communication from Royalton Selectboard re. Opiates Issue. Hall requested Arlund set up a joint meeting with the Select Boards of Randolph, Royalton, and Sharon to further discuss this matter.
3. Vermont Castings WARN & NPLA Notification. Communication from Vermont Castings Group was informational to the Board and is required by Statute. No action was required by the Board.
4. Review of 2016 BCBSVT Exchange Plans Rates. The Board was presented with the rates for employee health insurance for calendar year 2016 and a spreadsheet detailing budgeted amounts and options for funding. The Board agreed to fund half of the health reimbursement account which is used towards the maximum out-of-pocket costs.
5. Designation of Voting Delegate for VLCT Annual Business Meeting. Motion to appoint Keith Arlund as the voting delegate for the VLCT Annual Business Meeting on October 8, 2015 was made by Carl Russell, seconded by Lisa Hill, and unanimously carried.
6. Town Manager's Report:
  - a. Status Update of Action Items.
    - i. Historic Preservation as given consent for the logging easement through the Recreation Center. Formal permission will be forthcoming.
    - ii. Arlund announced that Greg Timmins will be resigning as Town Constable effective after the Bethel Community Forward Festival. Arlund has been looking for other individuals who could cover this role.
    - iii. Speed signs have been ordered along with three mounting plans to move the signs around. The mounting plates would be installed in the village, near the school, and another location to be determined.
    - iv. Richard Adams has been in contact with Arlund to advise that he is pleased with the no shooting on Sundays at the Town-owned gravel pit. Adams continues to monitor the pit and has only received one complaint over the summer which was subsequently dealt with.
    - v. New flag poles will be installed soon at each cemetery and at Fort Fortitude.
    - vi. Lisa Hill would like to revisit the reactivation of the Ancient Roads Committee and the list of criteria that was tabled at a prior meeting.
    - vii. Carl Russell would like Arlund to view the stone wall at Cherry Hill cemetery.

- viii. Russell will be meeting with the Parks & Public Places Committee regarding maintenance at the General Thomas Monument.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Selectboard Minutes of August 24, 2015 and Continued Meeting of September 3, 2015. Minutes for both meetings were approved by motion of Lisa Hill, seconded by Carl Russell, and thus carried. Bill Hall abstained from the minutes of September 3 since he was not in attendance.
2. Committee Minutes. The Board acknowledge receipt of the following: (1) July 8 and August 5, 2015 Board of Civil Authority (BCA) minutes. Arlund advised that the Green Mountain Bible Conference Camp is appealing the BCA decision. He has referred the matter to the Town's attorney. (2) August 17, 2015 minutes of the Bethel Community Forward Festival; (3) August 18, 2015 minutes of Development Review Board; (4) August 19, 2015 minutes of the Planning Commission; and (5) September 9, 2015 minutes of the Bethel/Royalton Solid Waste Management Board.
3. Other Communications. The Board acknowledge receipt of the White River Partnership's White River Water Quality results for August 26 and September 9, 2015.

Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board. The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Janice Punger regarding water and sewer rates. Hall would like to move forward with the discussion with Aldrich & Elliot to refine equivalent unit calculations. Hall also advised Arlund to respond to Punger's letter that this is an issue the Board recognizes. Discussion regarding the installation of meters ensued. Hill stated there are other issues with the water system that need to be addressed right now. Meters would be down the road.

At 7:05 PM, Lisa Hill made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Russell, and unanimously carried.

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Bill Hall

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Carl Russell

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Lisa Hill