

Minutes of the September 19, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Mary Floyd, Nick Nikolaidis, Heidi Nikolaidis, William Crossman, Jolene Scott, Amber Taft, Shawn Taft, Crystal Washburn, Val Rubenis, Laura Rubenis, Ola O'Dell, Chris Jarvis, Jennifer Clarke, Louise Ferris-Burt, Road Foreman Robert Hyde, Eric Foster of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph," and Senator Richard McCormack.

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. The minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Constable's report of September 1, 2011 was reviewed and placed on file.

Chairman Fox asked those present if particular issues should be taken up first, or if the Board should proceed with the order of the agenda. The general response was that the agenda items were of interest and that the Board should proceed with its business accordingly.

It was first noted that the Federal Highway Administration's requirements for replacement of signage at particular dates has been modified. Signs can now be replaced by compliant signage at such time as the signs have reached the end of their useful life, which will consequently pose a much lesser burden on Town budgets.

The draft "2012 VLCT Municipal Policy" was briefly discussed, no action being required or taken by the Board. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, Abbie Sherman was designated as the Town's voting delegate to the VLCT annual business meeting on October 6, 2011.

Delbert Cloud informed the Board that Camp Brook Road is coming to a point in the repair process wherein it may be possible to keep the road open during the daytime while construction work continues, possibly as soon as Wednesday evening September 21, 2011. The Board members concurred that the road should be re-opened, even if for one-way traffic only, whenever the Town Manager and the Road Foreman consider that necessary work can be accomplished without undue difficulty as posed by through traffic.

The Board discussed the role Peavine Boulevard might have in providing for traffic flows without full use of Vermont Route 107. Eric Foster of the Vermont Agency of Transportation advised that the Town's highway would not be used for an official alternate route; no further discussion was deemed necessary.

Cloud then updated the Board on the status of repairs being done on the Town's water and wastewater systems. He provided a quote from CVPS whereby three phase power could be provided to the Boulevard pumphouse; the Board members found this favorable and the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to approve the proposal.

At this point, a question was raised by a member of the public about the Town's response to issues of hazardous waste management subsequent to the flood event. Discussion then turned to the needs of individuals promulgating from the flood, and the purpose of the Town Hall and its use as a disaster relief site. It was noted that no report has been submitted to the Selectboard of the level and type of service being provided which would enable the Board to assess the continuing need for the facility, despite requests having been made for such a report. At approximately 9:10 PM, Chairman Fox made the motion to establish the 26<sup>th</sup> of September as the date by which the Hall would be cleared of all materials and supplies and its use as a relief site be discontinued; this motion was seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Upon review of information re. the USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which the Town has sponsored in the past for individual property owner's to

obtain financial assistance for eligible projects, the motion to sponsor the program again was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board concurred with the Board of Listers and the Town Clerk that mobile homes damaged by the flood should be cleared by the Town Clerk for removal if taxes were paid through the August installment only. This was formalized by motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board members concurred that water and wastewater fees would be waived for the interval of time in which flood damaged dwellings are not occupiable.

Considering the costs of production for crushed granite with the Town's contracted equipment at the Rock of Ages quarry, motion was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and thus carried, to charge other users at the rate of \$15.00 per yard; Bill Richards abstained from this vote.

Given that the next scheduled meeting of the Board will not be until October 10<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed that the matter of who should fix a water leak at the Jarvis property on Pleasant Street should be resolved. Since (1) curb stops frequently are on the opposite side of the street from a customer's building, this circumstance not being unique to the Town of Bethel, and (2) precedents are consistent that property owners are responsible for repairs between the curb stop and the building, the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to require the leak be repaired by the property owner at his expense as expeditiously as possible.

The motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to equip the office telephone system with an answering device to advise of the hours of operation.

At 11:15 PM, the motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Bill Richards

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Joe De Freitas