

Minutes of the October 22, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Jane Burroughs of the auditing firm Fothergill Segale & Valley, Carl Russell, Nick Nikolaidis, Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Mark Nicholson, Christie Nicholson, and Wanaka Garber.

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. Chairman Fox asked if anyone present had questions or comment regarding any matters of Town business. Nick Nikolaidis asked if a container for sand could be placed at the Town Hall for the winter season; it was agreed that a container could be placed by the handicap entry to the main floor level, with the understanding that it could be used for the front walkway as well. Mr. Nikolaidis also asked if directional signage could be established for Densmore Drive, so people would know that is a 2-way street. The Board authorized Delbert Cloud to determine how best to accomplish this.

With no further public comment forthcoming, Chairman Fox turned to the first appointment for the evening and welcomed Jane Burroughs of the auditing firm Fothergill Segale & Valley. Ms. Burroughs explained that a part of performing an audit of the Town's records is submittal of the report to the Selectboard and answering any questions pertaining to same, that being her purpose in attending the meeting. She outlined the approach taken to audit the Town's "modified cash basis" financial statements, exclusions to the audit, and findings made. Upon conclusion to the discussion, Bill Hall suggested that the Town might consider going to a "modified accrual basis" of accounting in lieu of the "modified cash basis" now utilized. With the discussion ended, Jane Burroughs then departed, and the Board returned to the order of the agenda.

Subject to the change of a date for the NRCS report re. Janice Punger's retaining wall (2011 rather than 2012), the Selectboard minutes of October 9, 2012, and the amended minutes of September 24, 2012, were approved by motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The Board also reviewed a revised proposal for an information display sign to be placed by the Town Hall submitted at the Board's request from George H. Burnham. Motion to approve the proposal and commission the work was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. The Board members also endorsed letters of "thanks" to Mary Floyd, Robert Taylor and Sheila Taylor in recognition of civic services performed.

The Board then reviewed and placed on file several sets of committee minutes: (1) the Development Review Board minutes for August 21, 2012; October 2, 2012; and October 17, 2012; (2) the Parks and Public Spaces Committee minutes of October 16, 2012, and (3) the regional planning commission minutes of September 12, 2012 and September 26, 2012. The agenda for the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting of October 16, 2012 was also reviewed and placed on file.

The Board then examined plans (STP 2922 (1)) drawn by the Vermont Agency of Transportation for resurfacing of Vermont State Route 12, inclusive of the Town's class 1 highway which is part of the subject corridor. Considerations of the Town were discussed, including coordination of work to be done on Church Street under the AOT Enhancement Grant. After due discussion, the "Finance and Maintenance Agreement" for the subject project was approved and signed by the Board members.

Delbert Cloud then explained budget revisions which would need to be made for the "alternate projects" being undertaken in lieu of replacing Bridge #49 under the FEMA recovery program. Essentially, the "alternate water project" has been deemed ineligible for funding and the funds designated for it need to be re-applied to other work; the Board advised Cloud to make budget adjustments as he believed most appropriate to retain eligibility for the Town's purposes.

The Board then discussed the status of the "alternate water supply" project for residents on a portion of Pleasant Street and on Watershed Road. Given both cost and property owner interest factors, it was decided that the project would initially consist of pursuing

an alternate on-site source for the four most distant customers. Delbert Cloud will seek concurrence from the Vermont Water Supply Division for that course of action.

Mark Nicholson, Christie Nicholson, and Wanaka Garber asked the Board for explanation of certain matters they were still wondering about re. the Bridge #49 matter. It was asked if some other signage could be used other than "Bridge Closed" at the northerly intersection with Route 107 because there is still a functional bridge on the road prior to Bridge #49; the Board concurred, and Delbert Cloud will attend to placing different signage. Discussion also included potential future need for a bridge, as perhaps for recreation purposes (walking, snow machine, etc.); the Board concurred, that being one reason the right-of-way has been retained even though the road has been re-classified from class 3 to class 4 over the involved section where the bridge is located.

A lengthy communication from Blake Lamothe, Chair of the Palmer (MA) Redevelopment Authority and the Central Corridor Rail Coalition, was next reviewed. Motion was made by Neal Fox to request more information as to benefits in Vermont before offering to support Mr. Lamothe's initiative; this motion was seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

An e-mail dated October 5, 2012 from Christine Hadsel, Director of Curtains Without Borders, was then discussed. Ms. Hadsel outlined how the historic theater curtain could be re-hung at the Town Hall stage, subject to obtaining the services of a "rigger" to do the higher mounting attachments. After due consideration, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to have Delbert Cloud secure a quotation of cost for the services of a "rigger" and proceed with the installation if the quote appeared reasonable.

An October 17, 2012 letter of resignation from the Board of Listers was received from Jason Ballou, his resignation being effective immediately. Mr. Ballou's resignation was accepted with regret, and the Board agreed that the vacancy should be posted per the requirements of Vermont Statutes Title 24 Section 961 and advertised in the next edition of the "Herald of Randolph." Consideration of matters addressed in an October 22, 2012 letter from Louise Burt, Chair of the Board of Listers, will be taken up at the next meeting of the Board.

Joe De Freitas provided a summary of the meeting with a Red Cross representative at the school on October 17, 2012 re. use of that facility as an emergency shelter. A list of available training programs is to be sent, and it is tentatively hoped that a 2-hour training session could be held in December.

The latest version (as of February 10, 2012) of the Town of Bethel official highway map has been received from the Agency of Transportation. The Board examined this, noting certain highways which have not been included on it since the basis for mapping could not be achieved. No action was required or taken on this matter at this time.

With no further business to attend, the motion was made at 8:16 PM by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to adjourn to the Royalton Selectboard Office on North Windsor Street in South Royalton at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 to take up business associated with the solid waste program.

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Neal Fox

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Joe De Freitas

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Bill Hall