

Minutes of the November 14, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Eleanor Griffin, Mary Floyd, Geneva Gaiko, Ola O'Dell, Laura Rubenis, June Tierney, Kellie Burke, Senator Richard McCormack, Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph," and Robert Chapman of "ORCA Media."

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 October 24, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. Under the matter of "old business" a letter to James Mason was signed by the Board members, this accepting Mr. Mason's resignation from the office of Town Constable and thanking him for the years of service he had provided to the Town.

The minutes of the regional planning commission for meetings of September 14, 2011 and September 28, 2011 were reviewed and placed on file. Chairman Fox asked if the rate increase for membership in the regional commission were appealable; Delbert Cloud will research this matter and report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

The minutes of the October 20, 2011 meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee were next reviewed, these in significant part being a summation of area Town's evaluations of response efforts to the hurricane Irene disaster. An attachment to the above minutes was also received, this being information about the Upper Valley Disaster Animal Response Team program. No action was required or taken by the Board on these items.

An October 26, 2011 letter from Tim Aldrighetti was then discussed, this requesting permission to make a water service connection in the 8-inch ductile iron water main on Pleasant Street to supply units within Richards Mobile Home Park. It was specified that the work would be done by Tracy's Plumbing and Heating, and Larmie Construction. The Board members expressed agreement that the work should be authorized, and the motion to approve it was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board next considered a request from Whitcomb School Principal Kevin Dirth for reservation of the Town Hall for the evenings of December 7th and 8th, this being for the upcoming Winter Concert annually presented by the school. Motion to approve the request was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

A second request for use of the Town Hall was presented by Mary Floyd on behalf of the Bethel Historical Society, the dates requested being January 21 and 22, 2012. She said the revenues from the planned event would be donated to civic purposes and hoped the fee for use of the Hall could be negotiated. Laura Rubenis asked what the purpose of the event is; Mrs. Floyd replied with a description of the planned activity. Chairman Fox said he felt the Town does "owe" the Historical Society and would take the question of fee up for discussion. It was agreed by the Board members that the requested dates would be reserved. Since Peavine Park had been mentioned as one facility which might benefit from the event Mrs. Floyd is helping to plan, Eleanor Griffin noted that there is still trash at the facility which had been gathered by volunteers and needs to be picked up. Laura Rubenis asked for clarification on the matter of "owing to the Historical Society." Chairman Fox replied that the Historical Society had been forced to abandon two events which had been scheduled at the Town Hall, the cancellations having been necessitated due to use of the Town Hall as a flood relief center.

The Board examined a draft survey map of the Dunham Road right-of-way submitted by Licensed Land Surveyor Lawrence Swanson. Via the transmittal letter of November 3, 2011, Mr. Swanson would like the Board's approval of the draft before he prepares a mylar for recording. The Board members agreed that the draft is appropriate, and that Mr. Swanson should also prepare the written description for the right-of-way as surveyed.

Delbert Cloud then updated the Board on a number of matters associated with the Irene recovery effort. He first noted that the Town has been given permission by the District Environmental Office to continue crushing operations at the Rock of Ages quarry in order to have sufficient material available to restore highways. He then gave the Board a summation of work being done through the USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program, and anticipated projects

under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Buy-out Program. By means of a project list, he explained for the Board's understanding how repairs would be divided over the current calendar year and the subsequent year, and the anticipated costs associated with all projects. Given the data set forth, he recommended that the Town extend its line of credit with Mascoma Savings Bank by an additional two million dollars at the same rate (1%) for an eighteen month term. This borrowing was approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Budget Status Reports for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise Funds were then reviewed, these being for effective date of November 1, 2011. No action was required or taken by the Board on these, although note was made of some line items showing the impact of Irene recovery work/costs.

Delbert Cloud spoke of the fact that the majority of local costs for Irene recovery work will be picked up in the fiscal 2013 budget year, and subsequent years. He also noted that some typical expense levels on certain line items might run less due to the extensive installations being done through the current recovery effort.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) the standard "Subgrant Agreement" with the Agency of Transportation for the Irene disaster recovery effort, (2) proposal from Aldrich and Elliott for engineering services to evaluate and repair the wastewater system's river crossing siphon structure, and (3) a project update from Mark Colgan of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. re. the repair of the Vermont Route 107 corridor.

Chairman Fox then asked if anyone from the public wished to speak with the Board about any particular matter. June Tierney offered thoughts regarding the FEMA home buy-out program which she is considering use of, noting that a replacement home might very well be within the Township still, thus not contributing to a permanent lessening of the Grand List.

Eleanor Griffin said she was concerned about the condition of the transfer station not being very good on Saturday. Ola O'Dell concurred. Delbert Cloud replied that the usual equipment operator is taking some vacation time, and the facility does still receive some spikes of flow due to flood repair work; he had not received other complaints.

Ola O'Dell said another person had complained to her about the telephone at the Town Office not being answered during business hours. Delbert Cloud questioned if the person might in fact have been trying to call using the Town Clerk's number, which is not answered by the Town Office staff, and the Clerk's office is not open as many hours as the Town Manager's office. He said it would be more useful if a person having such grievance expressed it first person rather than through someone else who might not know the particulars; he assured everyone present that the Town Manager's phone is always answered during business hours. Ola O'Dell then advised that she actually wanted to know if a telephone answering device had been installed at the Town Office yet; Delbert Cloud confirmed that such a device is installed.

At 9:45 PM the motion was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss litigation in which the Town is a party, this being specifically in reference to the old stage road to Rochester. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 9:55 PM, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas to authorize Lawrence Swanson to proceed with survey work on the subject right-of-way as soon as his schedule would allow; this motion was seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:58 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas