

Minutes of the November 26, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Nick Nikolaidis, Laura Rubenis, Eleanor Griffin, Louise Ferris-Burt, Carl Russell, and Jennifer Marx for the "Herald of Randolph."

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 then asked if anyone present had matters they wished to ask or comment about that were not otherwise provided for in the agenda. With no comment forthcoming, Chairman Fox then turned to the order of the agenda. The minutes of the November 15, 2012 meeting of the Selectboard were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Neal Fox; Bill Hall abstained as he had not been in attendance at the subject meeting.

The scheduled appointment for the evening was to have been discussion with Keith Bush about use of the Town Hall for piano lessons, but Mr. Bush was not in attendance. It was also known that Louise Ferris-Burt wished to speak with the Board about the vacancies on both the Board of Listers and the Human Services Advisory Committee, as she is Chair of both, but she was also not in attendance at this time. The Board thus moved ahead to further items on the agenda.

Delbert Cloud summarized the communication received through Vermont Emergency Management about National Weather Service Advisories. The information included definitions of various weather events, and explained the time frames by which information is relayed to provide advance notification of weather events. When severe weather is anticipated, and the National Weather Service has high confidence in the reliability of the data, advisories are sent at least 3 to 5 days ahead of the event's onset, and the advisories are updated at a minimum of once a day. It was noted that it is also necessary, as in the case of recent hurricane Sandy, "to squelch 'hype' for events that may have... little impact for" designated geographic areas. The Board members agreed that certain points of the information should be made available to the public via the Town's website.

The Vermont Department of Corrections also provided information re. public information meetings it intends to hold via interactive television at four times over the year ahead. This information will also be made available for public awareness.

The Board next reviewed a request from Chris Lathrop of Dubois & King for input on any community events which might be scheduled at the same time as the State of Vermont intends to re-surface Route 12, including the class 1 portion through the Village. The intent is to make accommodations if possible under the contract for the work. The Board suggested that Delbert Cloud should contact Mary Floyd regarding "Forward Festival" scheduling, and the school Principal to see if the school might have any planned events.

Draft fiscal year 2014 budgets for the Water Department, Wastewater Department, and the Solid Waste Program were then reviewed. Delbert Cloud explained the basis by which the budgets were developed, and requested input from the Board members at any time on these. The final review will not be done until late December or early January. Cloud also noted that the next meeting in December will be fine as regularly scheduled (December 10th), but that the next "regular" meeting night would be on Christmas Eve. He also noted that meetings in January should be held earlier than the usual 2nd and 4th Mondays in order to finalize the Town Report and post the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting. After due consideration of all factors, the Board members agreed that the meeting nights in December would be December 10th and 17th, and the meeting nights in January would be January 7th and 28th.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Louise Ferris-Burt, and invited her to explain her suggestions for filling vacancies on both the Board of Listers and the Human Services Advisory Committee. With respect to the vacancy on the Board of Listers, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to address the matter under executive session later in the evening after other business has been

completed. Laura Rubenis asked what the process is for filling vacancies on committees, and suggested that a description of a committee's purpose and meeting schedules would be helpful to the public. Neal Fox replied that the process depends on what the committee may be, as some vacancies have to be filled according to prescription of Vermont law and others are at the Selectboard's discretion. Joe De Freitas noted that the Town's committees are listed in the annual Town Report, and reports on their activities can also be found there. He then made the motion to also address the matter of Human Services Advisory Committee appointments in executive session, this motion being seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. Chairman Fox then said he would like to publicly thank Louise Ferris-Burt for having served on the Human Services Advisory Committee for a total of 27 years, the majority of those in the capacity of Chair.

Given that Keith Bush had not yet arrived, Delbert Cloud spoke briefly of the fact that Mr. Bush had personally provided entertainment as pianist at the "Open House" held when the Town Hall renovation project was completed, and that a family of one of his music students had given the Packard piano to the Town for use at the Town Hall. Since Mr. Bush now wishes to use the Town Hall as a place to provide lessons, Cloud asked how the Board might wish to handle the request. It was agreed by the Board members that Mr. Bush should be asked to attend a forthcoming meeting of the Board to discuss how this might be done.

Chairman Fox then stated that he would like to take up the dedication of the Town Report under executive session because it has traditionally been a way for the Selectboard to recognize people who have made significant contributions to the community. Laura Rubenis asked if the public could make recommendations, and she was told "yes." Several suggestions were offered by members of the public present. With no further business to address in open meeting, motion was made at 7:10 PM by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to adjourn to executive session to consider appointments to Town committees, and to review an application for funds from the Town's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board for the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 8:00 PM, the motion was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to table the appointment to the Board of Listers and re-advertise notice of the vacancy. Bill Hall then made the motion to table the appointments to the Human Services Advisory Committee until such time as the Board members could confirm interest from others that had expressed willingness to serve, this motion being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

With regard to the loan application, it was agreed that a special meeting would be called at such time as the Chair of the Loan Committee could meet with the Board to help resolve questions. Action was accordingly tabled by motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

With no further business remaining, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM by motion of Bill Hall to 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at the Bethel Town Office to meet in joint session with the Royalton Selectboard on business of the solid waste program, this motion being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Joe De Freitas

Bill Hall