

Minutes of the November 28, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, William Hall, David Sambor, Mary Floyd, David Aldrighetti, Laura Rubenis, Ola O'Dell, and Amy Danley-White 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. The minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. As business stemming from prior meetings, the Board reviewed a memo from the Recreation Committee recommending the appointment of Dulce O'Hara to that committee. With this endorsement now being available, motion to appoint Dulce O'Hara to the Recreation Committee was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed the November 16, 2011 minutes of the Planning Commission. It was noted that representatives of the regional planning commission had discussed various matters with the local commission re. the Town Plan, and land use districts, at this meeting. Chairman Fox expressed concern that the Town should not unduly compromise economic growth opportunities through provisions of its land use ordinances, and it was agreed that a joint meeting should be held in early 2012 to discuss the direction being taken on certain matters.

Delbert Cloud then provided a brief summation of the water monitoring program for the closed landfill on Waterman Road in Royalton (jointly owned by the Towns of Bethel and Royalton). October 2011 test results for the State-prescribed monitoring have just been received, and appear to still show favorable quality trends. Additional testing done by the University of Vermont re. nutrient levels is now completed, and Cloud will attend a briefing on that testing later in the current week. He informed the Board that the Johnson Company is procuring bids for development of a potable water supply at the facility, this being per the Selectboards' earlier request; bids are due on December 6, 2011.

The Board then examined loan offering documents from Mascoma Savings Bank, these having been submitted at the request of the Town for financing the purchase of a new pumper/tanker fire truck. The requested principal is in the amount of \$238,000.00. This will be amortized by annual appropriations to the Fire Department Safety and Equipment Fund, over eight years at 2.75%. The resulting annual payments will be \$33,549.75. The loan documents were approved and signed by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud provided the Board members with a copy of a recent sampling report for coliform bacteria in the Pleasant Street well. There was a "total coliform" finding (no fecal or E coli) for the sampling done on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The well will be cleaned, serviced, disinfected, and re-sampled before it is brought back on line as a water source. At present, the "Boulevard well" can provide adequate flow for the system. It is believed this contamination is a consequence of the Irene flood event.

The Board then re-visited a subject discussed at various times in the past, this being capital projects for the Water Department. Recent upgrades in distribution mains on Pleasant Street, Church Street and the river crossing/Peavine Boulevard will be subject to amortization payments for many years ahead, and there are several other sections of distribution mains that are very old and may be prone to failure. Delbert Cloud suggested the next most urgent section for replacement is the portion through Main Street itself. Given costs that are being carried for past projects, and the likely cost for a project on Main Street, Cloud suggested that the Board should examine options to minimize repair or replacement of water mains in peripheral areas where housing is at low-density. It has been considered that individual wells could be installed at much less expense than replacing water mains at today's construction costs, one example being a mile of distribution main which serves only 9 houses north of the fire station on Pleasant Street. Subsequent to the discussion, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by

Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to seek technical and legal advice regarding the merit of such an option.

Delbert Cloud then updated the Board on “Irene recovery work” being done, inclusive of the NRCS Watershed Protection Program and the FEMA Hazard Mitigation programs in addition to local infrastructure repairs. He advised that the Town is reasonably able to cease aggressive repairs in advance of the winter season, and start more formal planning for re-commencement of work in the following construction season. Joe De Freitas suggested that better signage should be placed to advise of weight restrictions on the Boulevard Bridge. Cloud will attend this.

Chairman Fox asked if anyone from the public wished to speak about any particular subject. William Hall spoke of an article recently published in the “Burlington Free Press” about the embezzlement which had occurred through the solid waste program. He expressed dismay that such an event could have happened and said financial controls should have prevented this from happening. He asked if controls were now in place to prevent recurrence. Chairman Fox asked Delbert Cloud if he would respond. Cloud replied that the problem would not have been caught through usual “checks and balances” which have always been done every day, because the computer records were being altered to correlate with the daily transactions as being reported. A customized report had to be used by the computer technicians to confirm what was happening. The Town has implemented recommendations from auditing firms, more than one audit having been done during the interval the embezzlement occurred within. Employees will continually be reminded that all data entered on the computer stays available even if seemingly deleted. There are no reasonable recommendations left to implement as a further precaution, but advice from technicians/auditors will always be considered.

A request for use of the Town Hall was next taken up, this being an administrative meeting being scheduled by the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union to be held during the day on December 5, 2011. This request was approved by motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

At 7:50 PM, the motion to enter executive session to discuss matters associated with the performance of a specific employee was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. The motion to reconvene in open session was made at 8:34 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Within open meeting, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to compensate Delta Thurston for 88 hours of unused vacation time at her regular rate of pay. The motion to adjourn was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the time being 8:35 PM.

---

Neal Fox

---

Bill Richards

---

Joe De Freitas