

Minutes of the December 10, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Abbie Sherman, Geneva Gaiko, Eleanor Griffin, Carl Russell, Louise Ferris-Burt, 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 payables. Chairman Fox asked if anyone had questions or comment they would wish to make at this time. Jennifer Marx asked if the Town had information about when the new River Street Bridge would be open to traffic; it was suggested that the best source of information about the project would be directly from the Agency of Transportation, and contact details could be provided by the Town Office whenever she might wish to check there.

Joe De Freitas reported that the workshop on emergency shelters conducted by the American Red Cross on Saturday (December 8, 2012) was excellent. He considered the information to have been very well presented, and the workshop was well-attended by school/Town officials and interested citizens.

Chairman Fox then directed the meeting to the order of the agenda. The minutes of Selectboard meetings on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> (all 2012) were approved by motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The following minutes were reviewed and placed on file: (1) Planning Commission of November 28, 2012, including notes from Mary Floyd re. stream stability planning, and (2) Recreation Committee minutes of September 17, 2012 and November 29, 2012.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Central Vermont Humane Society advising of its capacity to serve the Town as an animal impoundment facility. The Board members concurred that the present provisions used by the Town are sufficient at this time.

Delbert Cloud then reported on the status of remaining Irene recovery projects. Although much work continues with record-keeping and processing reimbursement requests, the only construction projects remaining are: the alternate projects associated with discontinuing Bridge #49 on Old Route 12, two replacement bridges in the Gilead area, and hazard mitigation work which FEMA approved at the two well houses. The Vermont Public Assistance Office has now recommended the Town's "alternate project request" to FEMA, and the matter now is on hold until direction may be returned about how to proceed.

A November 29, 2012 communication from Corey Mack of Resource Systems Group was reviewed, this setting forth a schedule for the next planning steps under the AOT Enhancement Grant. It is hoped that a set of plans at the "85%" level can be available for the Board's examination at the next meeting.

The 2013 budget for White River Valley Ambulance has now been received, with an accompanying 2011 audit report. Chairman Fox explained various matters which had been considered by the WRVA Board, of which he is a member, in the course of developing the referenced budget. The cost for ambulance services will be very close to the prior year costs; the proposed assessment to the Town of Bethel will be \$117,881.00.

A transmittal dated November 28, 2012 from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns was next reviewed, this setting forth the services provided by the League and identifying the FY'14 dues from the Town of Bethel as being \$2,846.00. It was considered by the Board that the services provided are an excellent value to the Town.

Notice of a budget hearing and a construction project information meeting by the Windsor County Court was then reviewed. The hearing and information meeting will both be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at the Courthouse in Woodstock.

Delbert Cloud presented the budget status reports for the current year as of December 2, 2012. He noted that certain Town officers had not been compensated at the end of

calendar year 2011 as per the salary schedule, and referenced the “voucher” in the payables which would bring these current with the conclusion of 2012. The annual Christmas bonus schedule for Town employees was approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried.

Cloud then provided an explanation of the budget prepared for FY’ 14, clarifying certain line item amounts which would relate to circumstances of the specific budget interval. The resulting dollar value to be raised by taxes will likely not require an increase in the tax rate for the subject year, unless it becomes necessary to increase expenditures for some reason presently not known. The final decision and approval of the budget will be done at a later time, prior to finalizing the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting.

The Board discussed a request from Vermont Castings to include within its discharge to the Town’s wastewater system a small volume of industrial wash water from a silk screening process. The make-up of the flow has been analyzed by the Town’s contracted lab, and the Vermont Wastewater Management Program has determined that the flow would be inconsequential to the wastewater plant’s operation, with no residual build-up of compounds or elements that would negatively effect bio-solids management. Given this information, motion was made by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to approve the discharge subject to continued monitoring of the flow to be certain it will not adversely impact the Town’s system by increased volume or change in the character of the flow.

A November 26, 2012 letter from Kevin Dirth, Whitcomb High School Principal, was reviewed and placed on file, this pertaining to interim bus routes for the winter. A series of communications was reviewed and placed on file re. the highway litigation with the old stage road to Rochester.

At 8:00 PM Chairman Fox welcomed Louise Ferris-Burt, Chair of the Board of Listers and past Chair of the Human Services Advisory Committee. Ms. Ferris-Burt explained how urgently the Board of Listers needs another person appointed, and how much of a time constraint is shaping for the Human Services Advisory Committee to work with in developing appropriation recommendations. The Board members agreed that the time constraints warranted having a Chair designated, to help coordinate the work to be done by the Human Services Advisory Committee; motion to appoint Carol De Freitas as such Chair was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Hall and thus carried, with Joe De Freitas abstaining. Since individuals and their respective skills would be discussed in resolving how the other appointments should be made, it was agreed that the discussion should be held in executive session. Accordingly, the motion to enter executive session was made at 8:12 PM by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session; no minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 8:25 PM, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to appoint Heidi Nikolaidis and Tina Timmons to the Human Services Advisory Committee. Subsequently, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Hall and unanimously carried, to appoint Debra Leahy to the Board of Listers until an election may be held.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 8:28 PM by Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Joe De Freitas

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Bill Hall