

Minutes of the December 12, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Mary Floyd, Geneva Gaiko, William Hall, Eleanor Griffin, and Amy Danley-White for the "Herald of Randolph."

The Board waited briefly for set-up of media equipment prior to calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fox doing so at 6:10 PM. The Board initially reviewed and approved the weekly payroll and payables. A letter from Ultramotive Corporation dated December 7, 2011 was reviewed and placed on file, this being in appreciation for action taken by the Board of Abatement to lower tax obligations due to damages from hurricane Irene. The minutes of the November 28, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed a summation of bid results for development of a water supply at the solid waste facility, this being submitted by the Johnson Company who is serving as the Towns' engineer for this project. The low bidder, Cushing & Sons, has submitted two options, one being for them to include a subcontractor under their contract, and the other being for the Towns to contract for trenching (and related) work themselves. The difference in cost was seen to be nominal, and the Board felt the security of having one contractor accountable for the project was in the public's interest. Motion accordingly to award the project to Cushing & Sons at the value of \$62,051.75 was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, this being subject to concurrence by the Royalton Selectboard.

The Board then reviewed and placed on file the regional planning commission minutes of October 26, 2011, and the Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of August 11, 2011. Delbert Cloud confirmed that the Executive Director for the regional planning commission, Peter Gregory, would be attending the January 9, 2012 meeting to discuss with the Board matters associated with membership in the commission and land use planning. It was also agreed by the Board members that the next Selectboard meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Monday, December 19, 2011 in lieu of the 26th of December due to holiday season schedules.

Various matters of business associated with recovery from hurricane Irene were then taken up. An e-mail from Charlene Bostrom was reviewed and placed on file, this advising of Bethel having received press coverage in the New York Times as a result of the substantial damage to the Route 107 corridor. A newsletter from the regional planning commission relating to "Recovery After Irene" was also placed on file. Delbert Cloud reported that two properties determined by the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program to be in the "exigent" category are in the bid procurement phase, bids being due on Thursday, December 15, 2011. Regarding the FEMA Hazard Mitigation "Buy-out" program, necessary information is now being assembled for submittal of a "Letter of Intent" to participate in that program, this being due no later than December 30, 2011. Delbert Cloud reviewed projects now completed or in progress, the status of recovery work on public infrastructure repairs being further ahead than had originally been expected, much being creditable to the continuing favorable weather. Certain projects were noted as being specifically intended for completion in the following construction season. "Post-Irene Task Force Subcommittee Reports" were briefly discussed, it being evident that legislative action would be needed to follow through with certain of the identified issues.

Mary Floyd raised the question of how debris in stream channels is going to be handled, citing it as being a serious concern since it will move with future high water events. The Board members concurred, and encouraged anyone having such concern to contact their legislators, as the manner of addressing this problem is currently being reviewed by several State agencies. Delbert Cloud advised that the Town has requested assistance through a potential program of the Department of Agriculture, but the status of such a program is dependent upon a meeting of the minds within several State and federal entities. Geneva Gaiko referenced the fact that debris is also deposited on many fields and meadows and property owners do not have resources to remove it.

Budget status reports for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise Funds (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste) were reviewed, it being noted that effects from Irene are evident within the data. No action was required or taken by the Board at this time. The Enterprise Budgets for fiscal year 2013 were discussed, it being agreed that no new capital projects would likely be undertaken with the possible exception of Water Department distribution system changes which may be pursued in the Pleasant Street area north of the fire station.

A letter was received from the Vermont Police Academy dated November 28, 2011 advising that Gregory Timmins has now completed the three-phase Basic Training Course for Part-time Officers. The Board members expressed appreciation for the work Mr. Timmins has done in accomplishing this standing.

With respect to a forthcoming "Tree Steward" program offered by a consortium of Vermont State departments, it was agreed that Delbert Cloud should consult with John Hartland to see if he might have recommendation of who might be interested in attending.

Motion was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to provide Town employees with the customary schedule of holiday benefits.

Neal Fox provided a copy of the 2012 budget for the White River Valley Ambulance. He noted that the budget is reduced from last year's by \$0.50 per capita, yet the budget includes purchase of a third ambulance in order to implement an adequate rotation of replacement vehicles.

Eleanor Griffin asked who should be called in the event of an emergency. Reference was made to the list of Town officers as is printed in the annual Town Report, and the fact that the 911 system should be used for many forms of emergency rather than calling individual Town officers.

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

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas