

Minutes of the December 17, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Joe De Freitas, Bill Hall, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, 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 for any public inquiry or comment.

Carl Russell said he thought the Fire Chief's meeting on Saturday re. "first response" matters was very productive, even though there were not many members of the public in attendance. He asked if the Town Hall might be usable for a public meeting for citizens who might wish to assemble and develop ideas on "building community." The Board members replied in the affirmative, with the expressed hope that there would be positive thought about "moving forward." With no further public comment or inquiry forthcoming, the Board turned to the order of the agenda.

The minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Bill Hall, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud provided the Board members with copies of the most recent schedules for the Highway Equipment Trust Fund, these having been referenced in discussion during the December 10, 2012 meeting.

The regional planning commission minutes of October 24, 2012 were next reviewed. Delbert Cloud reported that he had recently spoken with Slavko Stanchak and learned that Mr. Stanchak will not be able to continue serving as the Town's representative to the Board of Commissioners. The Board members agreed that it is important for the Town to have representation, and that a replacement should be sought. Accordingly, the Board asked Delbert Cloud to place notice in the "Herald of Randolph" to notify the public of the need.

The Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of October 16, 2012 were then reviewed and placed on file. Bill Hall provided a brief over-view of the meeting, he being the Town's representative to that committee.

Delbert Cloud presented the Board members with copies of the most recent plans available from the engineering firm Resource Systems Group re. the "streetscape" project to be completed under the Agency of Transportation Enhancement Grant program. Accompanying e-mail communications between the engineer and the utility company indicate reservations by the utility company about relocating poles on North Main Street. Cloud explained his rationale for wishing to have certain relocations made, to ensure that if the Town's infrastructure is to be re-designed with the project, that the best solutions to the re-design be used. The Board members concurred that discussions should be pursued to provide for appropriate solutions.

A December 10, 2012 report from the Vermont Department of Taxes was taken up next, this report setting forth the Department's determinations of the Town's "Common Level of Appraisal" (106.42%) and the "Coefficient of Dispersion" (16.2%). The Town has previously appealed the coefficient of dispersion value, believing that certain sale values should not have been included in the calculation. Nonetheless, the report does not require any action by the Town at this time, it being informational only. Delbert Cloud also provided the Board with a preliminary casting of the Board of Lister's "Form 411" which indicates that the tax rate in support of the FY' 14 budget now being prepared will not have to be increased from last year.

Cloud also provided the Board members with a schedule of fund balances as of June 30, 2012, and noted that the Board should try to appropriate some additional funds to the Fire Department Building & Equipment Fund whenever possible in order to off-set some expenses of the new pumper-tanker which were paid from the Town General Fund. He

also suggested that the restoration of the piano at the Town Hall should be undertaken now since the project has been supported by donations from a broad sector of the public and there are sufficient funds to cover the project. The Board members agreed, and authorized Cloud to obtain quotations/proposals and proceed with the work.

A draft of the “Warning” for the Annual Town Meeting was next reviewed. It was agreed that the Warning is appropriately drawn for the moment, pending changes as may become necessary in preparation for the annual meeting.

A notice has been received from the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing, and Community Development that the Municipal Planning Grant application from the Town has been approved for funding. This will enable the Planning Commission to proceed with an updating of the Town Plan, keeping it compatible with current regional and state planning objectives.

Two communications were reviewed from Vermont Emergency Management. It was agreed that the Town should place notice in the “Herald of Randolph” to encourage anyone still having “Irene recovery needs” to check with the Town Office to see if any applicable programs for assistance might be still available for consideration.

The Board then discussed a draft of the “Selectboard’s Report” of activity in the fiscal year from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 as will be included in the Annual Town Report. It was agreed that some editing is needed, Joe De Freitas volunteering to offer changes for the Board’s consideration.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 7:15 PM by Bill Hall, this being 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