

Minutes of the March 8, 2010 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Barbara Hayward, Patricia Lyman, Shirley White, Robert Dean, Roberta Dean, Robert Gaiko, Charlene Shepard, Cecil Washburn, Eric Benson, 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 February 22, 2010 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Constable's report of March 1, 2010 was reviewed and placed on file. An application for a 1st class liquor license was approved for the Creek House Diner; and both a tobacco license and a 2nd class liquor license were approved for Locust Creek Store. The Board examined documents pertaining to renewal of a line of credit used by the Wastewater Department for principal amount of up to \$60,000.00, the note being held by Mascoma Savings Bank. Motion to approve the documents was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The Board members then endorsed the associated documents.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Robert Gaiko, and inquired if there were any particular subject he wished to speak about with the Board. Mr. Gaiko suggested that a more favorable acknowledgement should be made for the people that have delinquent tax accounts on June 30th but pay them in full before the end of the calendar year. He also asked how delinquent water and sewer accounts were collected (the tax sale process is presently being used for such purpose although disconnecting the service until payment may be made, can be done.) He encouraged the Board to continue the thought of extending the Town Office parking lot in a southerly direction to gain additional parking spaces, noting that there might be fill available when the State replaces the River Street Bridge, this extension concept having been earlier considered by the Board and may be pursued this construction season if circumstances are favorable. Mr. Gaiko also suggested that the Board should consider hiring an equipment operator during the summer months, which could facilitate keeping the grader/operator used more often.

Returning to the order of the agenda, the Board reviewed a February 22, 2010 letter from the Vermont Agency of Human Services re. duties of the Town Service Officer, given various program changes which are being made. The Board members concurred that with the appointment term expiring on April 14, 2010, Shelie Richardson should be re-appointed, subject to her willingness to serve; motion accordingly was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

A report to Probate Court for the Cowdrey Fund was examined and found to be acceptable. Motion to authorize Neal Fox to sign the submittal on behalf of the Board was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board then discussed a draft of the fiscal 2011 "Annual Financial Plan" for Town Highways, and determined the financial entries were appropriate. Delbert Cloud will review pending projects/grant applications with Town Crew Foreman Robert Hyde, and bring a final draft back for the Board's consideration at its next meeting.

At 7:00 PM, per appointment, Chairman Fox turned the meeting to discussion of the Town's "Cemetery Rules and Regulations," it being understood that several members of the public have stated displeasure over the recent amendment of the Rules whereby artificial ornamentation is forbidden. Cecil Washburn, who has been assisting the Selectboard with management of the cemeteries, said the problem of litter from such ornamentation has been an on-going problem, noting that cemetery rules since the 1980's have required people to remove ornaments by July, but it is not done by most people and someone else has to do it. Roberta Dean suggested that provision to allow artificial ornamentation at least through September 30th should be allowed, and that people should be reminded to help keep things picked up. Robert Gaiko said he believes enough people want such a provision and that a small Town should oblige its citizens. Charlene Shepard expressed her wish to be able to decorate gravesites for holidays, including placing wreaths at Christmas time. A discussion ensued regarding methods of dealing with the resulting refuse from artificial ornaments, and the possibility of placing signs to help inform people of the needs/rules. Cecil Washburn

reminded everyone that there is also a need to pick up areas in advance of scheduled burials, these happening at random times; he stated that the way this is done will not affect him as he is resigning from the service he has been providing. Further discussion ensued, and ultimately the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried to delete the present wording of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations Section III Item "F" and substitute in its place: "All ornamentation will be removed from cemetery property(s) whenever it may become unsightly." Since there are five publicly-owned cemeteries, the Board members agreed that further consideration would have to be given for management of refuse at each. Discussion of this subject concluded at 7:45 PM, and all members of the public except Geneva Gaiko and Amy Danley-White (press) departed.

The Board then reviewed Budget Status Reports for the Town General Fund and the "Enterprise" Funds. Various line items were discussed, but no action was required or taken as this data was informational only.

At 8:00 PM, Eric Benson arrived, to provide the Board with information stemming from the most recent meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee, for which he is the Town's appointed representative. Mr. Benson suggested that the Town should prepare a "wish list" of projects sometime next Fall for projects it would like to see placed on the "Priority List." He also reported that the intersection area of Camp Brook Road and Sugar Hill Road has an accident history such that the Agency of Transportation might be able to design and place precautionary signage; it was agreed that Delbert Cloud would consult with Reta Seto of the regional planning commission re. this matter. Mr. Benson also reported that the plans are being developed for a park and ride facility in Royalton at Exit 3 (the Town has copies of the conceptual plans at the Town Office) and that the area now a field between the exit ramp and the highway corridor can not be used because of safety considerations associated with the ramps. The area to be developed is accessed from Waterman Road, and lies immediately north of the motor sports business. Mr. Benson departed after discussion concluded on this latter item, and the Board again returned to the order of the agenda.

Delbert Cloud updated the Board on matters associated with the construction contract with E.F. Wall. The architect's recommendations for exterior trim colors were reviewed, the first recommended treatment modeled after the original appearance of the building having been displayed at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board members concurred with the architect's recommendation of black coloration for the exterior trim, partly because it was felt the white stonework would stand out favorably by this. It was also agreed that the main entry doors should match the originals, as per available pictures, as closely as possible. Information pertaining to the second floor heating system was discussed at length, and the Board members resolved that radiant tubular floor heating should be used as it would be less obtrusive than radiators and cleaning would not be so difficult.

Minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting of the Bethel Recreation Committee were reviewed and placed on file. With respect to fees for use of the pool facilities by the "Century 21 Camp" program participants, the Board members concurred that the recommended fee of \$350.00 appeared reasonable; it was further agreed that a meeting should be held in the near future with the Recreation Committee to discuss this and other program issues. Delbert Cloud will facilitate scheduling of this.

Other matters of business which must be scheduled at forthcoming meetings were discussed, and tentative dates set for most of them, subject to confirming with interested parties.

An Email was noted as being received from Ola O'Dell pertaining to her interest in serving on the Human Services Advisory Committee. This was tabled to a future time since the subject committee will not be active until its review of appropriation requests commences next Fall.

At 10:47 PM, the motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas