

Minutes of the March 22, 2010 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Charles Davis, Nick Nikolaidis, Geneva Gaiko, Janet Burnham, and George Burnham.

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 March 8, 2010 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

A draft of the "Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways" was discussed, in preparation for submittal to the District 4 Transportation Office. Potential paving work for the next construction season was discussed, and it was agreed that Church Street should be resurfaced given the voters action at Town Meeting. Road Foreman Robert Hyde has suggested that a grant application be prepared for the Class 2 paving program funded by the Agency of Transportation; consideration was made of resurfacing the North Road if possible. In the interim, the "Financial Plan" was approved by the Board based on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.

The Board next reviewed the "Mud Season Rules" which set forth the manner by which gravel highways will be managed during that interval of time. These were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The status of various financial grants in aid of certain projects was briefly reviewed. No action was required or taken by the Board as this consisted of informational material only.

At 6:30 PM Chairman Fox welcomed Charles Davis who was present per appointment to discuss the Town Hall Rehabilitation project from his perspective as the "Clerk of the Works." Mr. Davis first spoke of his role and responsibilities in general, and then provided specifics of the construction progress and the schedule for the project. Discussion then continued with the members of the public present about design features of the project, particularly in light of the current thoughts of how the building will be used. Several ideas were defined: moving the basement level bathroom/kitchenette toward the front of the building and making it accessible to both of the usable areas on either side of the building, constructing the divider wall running the length of the basement from the foyer wall to the back wall, enlarging the foyer such that it and the stairwell would encompass the entire width of the building, and re-establishing the stair from the mid-level kitchen to the basement level. Uncertainty was expressed over the fact that the architect had eliminated having a complete skim coat of plaster done in the upper level. Delbert Cloud will address these matters with the architect to make certain the project will accommodate them if at all possible.

At 8:05 PM the discussion moved to the potential use of part of the basement level of the building by the Bethel Historical Society. Nick Nikolaidis confirmed that the officers of the Historical Society will conduct the negotiation of a lease for use of the space. Chairman Fox outlined various matters which would need to be resolved for benefit of all parties, such as the actual space to be used, the degree of finishing and mechanical provisions to be installed, timeframe and cost, responsibility/ownership and safeguarding of chattel goods, etc. It was agreed that a copy of the floor plan would be provided to the Historical Society to assist in developing its plans, and that negotiations would be resumed in the near future at a Selectboard meeting. Members of the Historical Society then departed, and the Board returned to the order of the agenda.

The Board reviewed pertinent sections of both ordinances governing the operation of the Town's Water and Wastewater Departments, specifically as pertain to establishing rates in support of the operations. The "Flow Tables" developed by the State of Vermont, and the mathematical basis whereby "Equivalent Units" are calculated for customers, were reviewed and discussed, with various types of properties being considered as examples. Using this information, it was agreed that Delbert Cloud should present a schedule of rates sufficient to support the fiscal year 2011 budgets at the next meeting of the Board.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a March 16, 2010 letter from the Stagecoach in appreciation of the voters appropriation of funds at Town Meeting, (2) the February 2010 newsletter of the regional planning commission, and (3) a transmittal of permits being reviewed by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Discussion then turned to the management of cemeteries and the need for the Board to obtain assistance for various tasks. This matter will be taken up again at the next meeting of the Board.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards at 11:12 PM, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Bill Richards

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Joe De Freitas