

Minutes of the May 27, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

This meeting was held in lieu of the meeting which would have regularly been held on May 25, 2009, the change being necessary to accommodate scheduling of business.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Mary Floyd, Joe Duncan of the engineering firm Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Laz Scangas of the architectural firm Arnold & Scangas, and Health Officer Erin Boettcher.

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. A "Dog Warrant" authorizing the Town's Constables to impound and destroy unlicensed dogs was unanimously endorsed by the Board.

Joe Duncan, P.E. of Forcier Aldrich & Associates was present at this time; Chairman Fox welcomed him to the meeting and invited him to provide information pertaining to the construction projects of the Water Department which his company has been developing. Mr. Duncan explained the methodology the Vermont Water Supply Division intends to use in providing funding for projects which meet requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) loan/grant program. He suggested that it is appearing more likely for the Town to be offered ARRA funding, and he reviewed the scenario(s) whereby the "River Street Bridge Water Main Project" and the "Metering of the System" might be potentially included. (Both projects are included in the Town's application, but the two projects can be separately addressed – they do not have to be kept as one project.) After considering the available information, the Board focused on the need to relocate the River Street Bridge water main; motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to put that project out to bid as expeditiously as possible subject to the condition that award would be dependent upon available financing deemed by the Board to be acceptable. Mr. Duncan then departed at 6:40 PM. The Board then discussed the potential "metering" project further. It was agreed that this project should be left in place as an active application, but that no action should be taken at this time with respect to bidding or bonding.

The Board discussed rules applicable to fires at Peavine Park, this being a question raised by Mary Floyd, who had observed careless behavior by some park users. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud would determine what fire places might be usable and report back to the Board, at which time the matter of rules/signs, etc. will be taken up.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Fox welcomed Laz Scangas, he being present per appointment as architect for the Town Hall Rehabilitation project. Discussion initially focused on the status of financing, this being anticipated to be through USDA Rural Development utilizing ARRA funds in addition to grants-in-aid. Although the Board is anxious to have the project put out to bid, it has been emphasized by Rural Development that a formal award must be announced before that can be done, and the construction plan review will not be released until that has happened. Mr. Scangas agreed that everything possible to move forward has been addressed, and that the Town can proceed with (1) qualification of potential bidders, and (2) hiring a "Clerk of the Works", even though the bidding process will have to await Rural Development's approval. Responses have been received to the Town's advertisements for both potential bidders and Clerk-of-the-Works, and it was agreed that review of these should be done under executive session due to the sensitive nature of matters which would be discussed and which meet the prerequisites of Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 1 Section 317. Motion was thus made at 7:30 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to enter executive session for review of the above referenced matters. Delbert Cloud and Laz Scangas were the only people remaining with the Board for the executive session; no minutes were kept. The Board returned to open meeting at 9:05 PM; no motion for any action was made at this time. Chairman Fox thanked Mr. Scangas for his time in meeting with the Board, and Mr. Scangas departed.

Health Officer Erin Boettcher stopped at the meeting and asked if she could speak with the Board for a few minutes, Chairman Fox advising in the affirmative. Ms. Boettcher informed the Board that she had been called upon to inspect a vacated mobile home

which has gone into disrepair. She found the unit to be totally uninhabitable and felt compelled to issue a health order to require that certain measures be taken to protect the public's health and interests. Chairman Fox thanked Ms. Boettcher for providing the Board with notice of her intended actions; no action was required or taken by the Board at this time. Ms. Boettcher departed, and the Board asked Delbert Cloud to research the Town's water and sewer ordinances for points of information which the Board may take up at a future time.

The Board then turned to the order of the Agenda for the evening's meeting. The minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Planning Commission minutes of May 20, 2009; the regional planning commission minutes of April 8 and April 29, 2009; and the Transportation Advisory Commission minutes of May 7, 2009 were all reviewed and placed on file.

Delbert Cloud then updated the Board on the status of an improvements project being planned for the solid waste facility which it is hoped will be fundable through Rural Development using ARRA funds, this project including development of a water supply and replacing the present truck scales. Cloud reported that the Royalton Selectboard will be able to attend a joint meeting with the Bethel Board on June 22, 2009 to address business of the solid waste program.

Cloud also informed the Board that an application for financial assistance to do shimming and overlaying on Camp Brook Road has been submitted to the Agency of Transportation, this also being an application associated with potential access to ARRA funding. No information is yet available regarding the status of this application.

The Board next reviewed a proposal for auditing services submitted by Sullivan, Powers & Co. such services being promulgated in significant part by flood damage for which federal money had been received by the Town. The proposal was found acceptable, and was approved by motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

With no further business requiring the Board's attention, the motion to adjourn was made at 10:45 PM by Bill Richards, 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