

Minutes of the July 12, 2010 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Guy Best, Minh Best, Janine Reeves, Ellen Nobile, Larry Nobile, Newt Whitcomb, James Hill, Janet Burnham, Kevin Flynn, Nick Nikolaidis, Geneva Gaiko, Eric Benson, Mary Ann Church, Richard Church, Harry Colombo, 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 June 28, 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 July 1, 2010 was reviewed and placed on file, as were the Recreation Committee minutes of June 29, 2010.

The Board reviewed the status and time frame for implementation of the recently adopted Ordinance which restricts motorized vehicles on Town-owned property. Delbert Cloud relayed concerns he has received from citizens re. abuse of class 4 roads by four wheel drive vehicles. No action was required or taken at this time regarding these matters.

Delbert Cloud then informed the Board that the project for installation of new truck scales at the Bethel/Royalton solid waste facility is finally about to be released for bidding. It is anticipated that the bids will be available for review in early August, with construction during the current season. With respect to the Bridge 48 rehabilitation project on "Old Route 12", the bridge is again open for two-way traffic, and the contractor is doing final installations in anticipation of a final inspection before the end of the current month. Delbert Cloud will confirm if adequate measures are completed to provide for the interests of adjoining property owners.

As the time was then 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed the residents of Bicentennial Lane, to discuss the neighborhood's interest in having its wastewater collection system accepted as a part of the public wastewater system. Newt Whitcomb summarized information he had gathered from various contractors, suppliers, and engineers re. the physical aspects of the pipes and structures serving the neighborhood. He suggested that a plastic riser/collar with a water-tight cover might be usable to upgrade the manholes in the system; he believes these are "State approved" for locations that do not have vehicular traffic over them. Some discussion ensued regarding the condition of the gravity pipes, and the clean-out opening in the cul-de-sac. The subject of an easement being given to the Town for future inspection/maintenance/repair needs was then noted. At this point, Janine Reeves said that she is concerned about her property value if her title becomes encumbered by an easement for three manholes and the interconnecting pipes; she is not prepared to grant an easement at this time. The Board members concurred that no action could be taken by the Town until resolution of the easement issue is accomplished. The matter was thus tabled, and the neighborhood residents departed at approximately 7:10 PM.

The Board then turned to the order of the Agenda, and took up several matters associated with the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project. Delbert Cloud summarized the basis under current permits and State/federal specification requirements whereby the kitchen has been designed and built. It was agreed that the kitchen as designed would be satisfactory for the time being until determination might be made in the future to seek permits for a commercial kitchen allowing preparation of food. Regarding the historic theater curtain, it has been determined that a waiver may be available from the State Fire Marshall's prohibition against having it hung for use and display, due to a "Life Safety Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources." There are certain conditions which must be satisfied if the provisions of the "Code" are used; since the curtain is not fire-proofed (and should not be) there can be no electrical devices or cables, etc. within three feet of it. Presently, there are electrical devices that may have to be moved if the curtain is to be hung at the stage front, and a method of mounting light fixtures and fans above the stage will have to be devised differently than planned in order to allow the curtain to be lifted vertically. It was agreed by the Board members that the architect and contractor should be asked to devise clearance for the lifting of the curtain since no actual installations have been done yet in that area above the stage. No action will be taken regarding changing installations already in place until further information is available, such as actual size of the curtain, involved costs, etc.

The time was then 7:45 PM, and Chairman Fox turned to the second appointment of the evening, which was to address the lease of a portion of the lower level of the Town Hall

by the Bethel Historical Society. The current draft of the lease was reviewed and discussed with those present. The Board members agreed that there has been a significant amount of public support for the proposed lease, and that the activities of the Historical Society are a viable catalyst by which civic and economic interests will be furthered. After due discussion, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to authorize Neal Fox to sign the lease agreement on behalf of the Town; Nick Nikolaidis signed on behalf of the Historical Society in his capacity as President.

In other business associated with the Town Hall, Delbert Cloud summarized decisions made in the field after the last job meeting about the painting scheme. It had been agreed that the walls and ceiling in the meeting hall and balcony should be a lighter "off-white" color and the trim done with the "warmer" brown tone found in the entry foyer rather than using the olive color also found there. Cloud provided the Board with a copy of the contractor's last requisition for payment, showing the present progress of the project, and also a copy of the job meeting minutes of June 29, 2010.

The Board then examined a site sketch and easement document under which the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation would provide for the necessary 400 amp service to the rehabilitated building. Two new pole locations would be necessary, these both being on Town property. After due consideration, motion to approve the easement was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) streamwater quality monitoring results from the White River Partnership, (2) a June 25, 2010 letter from the Randolph Town Manager, Gary Champy, thanking the Town of Bethel Fire Department for assistance provided during the recent structure fire in downtown Randolph, and (3) a pamphlet from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation entitled "Vermont Stream Crossing Handbook."

At 8:15 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Harry Colombo, he being present to update the Board on a proposal by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority to provide improved communications in the built-up area of Town and its immediate surrounds as part of the State of Vermont's initiative to promote/support such capacity in more rural areas of the State. It has been determined that a portion of the Town garage property seems suitable for provision of better communications via a tower/antennae structure, located such that it would be visually in line of sight with a present tower in the Town of Royalton. Discussion ensued relative to various matters including legalities, amount of monetary consideration, co-ordination of uses on the site, benefits to the community, and the need for public input. It was ultimately agreed that Delbert Cloud would seek legal comment from the firm of Stitzel, Page and Fletcher, and that a public forum/informational meeting should be held at 7:00 PM on the Board's next scheduled meeting night, that being July 26, 2010. Mr. Colombo thanked the Board and departed at this time.

Eric Benson reported on the work he has been doing to establish a public trail system on the Branliere property. He has reviewed plans with the County Forester, John Boutin, and has discussed how some clearing can be done at no cost to the Town. Carl Russell has suggested that he could do the necessary work with his horses for the value in the harvested trees. Marking will be done, to allow clear understanding of what will be done. The Board members indicated concurrence, and will await further information. Mr. Benson also gave the Board an update on the work of the regional Transportation Advisory Committee, he being the Town's appointed representative. He then departed at 9:30 PM.

The Board next discussed the matter of how dedications and testimonials might be provided for at the rehabilitated Town Hall. Recent Emails regarding memorial of John Dutton were specifically included in the discussion. Ultimately, the Board members agreed that there may be an on-going wish on the part of multiple interest groups to provide dedications, and that the manner/methods of accomplishing this should not be done spontaneously. An organized approach will be sought as the rehabilitation project itself is brought to completion.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards at 10:00 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