

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

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, and Brad Aldrich from the engineering firm Forcier Aldrich & Associates.

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 July 13, 2009 meeting of the Selectboard were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Chairman Fox welcomed Brad Aldrich, he being present per appointment to present his company's recommendation for award of a construction contract to replace the water main on River Street Bridge and to perform other work to upgrade the water system in the Peavine Boulevard vicinity. Mr. Aldrich presented the basis by which his company is recommending an award of the "base bid" work to the low bidder, Courtland Construction Corporation of Milton, Vermont for the contract price of \$327,553.00. After due consideration of the recommendation, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to execute the necessary documents to accomplish the award in conjunction with the Vermont Water Supply Division loan parameters.

Mr. Aldrich then presented the Board with the bid price for an additional scope of work whereby a new water main would be installed beneath the railroad tracks and connected to the existing main on Main Street near the Route 12 and Route 107 intersection, the low bid price for this being also submitted by Courtland Construction Corp. in the amount of \$120,705.00. He recommended that the Town hold a bond vote to obtain the security necessary for a loan to incorporate this portion of work; it was noted that the additional work would not have to be awarded if the Town did not receive "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" funds at a favorable financial assistance level. The Board discussed this matter at length due to the uncertainties associated with ARRA funding. Ultimately, the motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to have the necessary documents prepared for the Board's review at the next scheduled meeting on August 10, 2009, with anticipation of holding a Bond Vote in mid-September, and with the borrowing conditioned upon availability of ARRA funds at a level of assistance deemed by the Board to be adequate in support of the project. With this business now concluded, Mr. Aldrich departed at 6:36 PM.

The Board then returned to the evening's agenda, first reviewing a copy of a July 14, 2009 letter from the regional planning commission to the Bethel Board of Listers re. the centralizing of digitized parcel map data at the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, and a July 16, 2009 letter of response from Louise Ferris-Burt in her capacity as Chair of the Board of Listers. No action was required or taken by the Selectboard regarding this matter. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Neal Fox was authorized to sign the license application whereby the Town would be allowed to continue using the "Marshall and Swift Cost Tables" for preparation and maintenance of the Grand List.

The Board next reviewed the bids received for potential sale of the 1999 Kubota tractor and the attached mower deck. By motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, sale of the equipment to Don Hayward of Randolph, Vermont was approved. Mr. Hayward was the high bidder in the amount of \$950.00; the proceeds will be deposited in the Town's "Highway Equipment Fund."

A July 21, 2009 letter from Dominic and Karol Delia was then discussed, this being request for permission to bury an electrical service beneath Dearing Road in association with the construction of a new home at 1715 Dearing Road. Subject to the customary requirements of the Town associated with such installations in the highway right-of-way, permission was granted by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Various communications were then discussed re. the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project. The Board voiced grave concern over the length of time it has taken to obtain permission from the potential lender, Rural Development, to put the project out for bidding, as the construction season in Vermont is rapidly passing by. However, it was again agreed that the most favorable financial assistance to complete the project would likely be Rural

Development, and the Town has little choice except to await that entity's authorization to proceed.

With respect to intended work at the solid waste facility, it was agreed that a portion of the August 10, 2009 meeting would be devoted to a joint meeting with the Royalton Selectboard to discuss the scope of work and the manner of proceeding with it.

Delbert Cloud then conveyed information to the Board re. work anticipated by the Town Crew for the remaining summer season. It is anticipated that up to five thousand yards of gravel will be crushed and removed from the Sand Hill gravel pit, some for direct haul to road projects and the rest stockpiled at the Town garage for future use. Work to remove trees and brush from the ditchlines/backslashes will continue on Sanders Road, the northerly portion of Christian Hill Road, and other various locations. Ditch cleaning is planned on Royalton Hill Road and elsewhere throughout Town to the extent time will allow, this being a priority for the current year. Regarding re-surfacing of paved highways, Cloud asked the Board if it would be prudent to spend Town money on Pleasant Street due to the compelling need, even though the Vermont Legislature has assigned responsibility for resurfacing class 1 highways to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, at State expense. Spending Town money on Pleasant Street will very simply mean that those dollars will not be available for use on other portions of highway that are the Town's responsibility. Cloud further advised the Board that no program of financial assistance has been set forth for re-surfacing class 1 highways. After due consideration, the Board members agreed that there is a compelling public need to provide a safe and maintainable pavement surface on the subject street, and that Cloud should obtain bids with the intent of contracting such work.

The Board next reviewed "cost of living" data from both the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. It was agreed that the economic circumstances of the times create limitations on the Board's options, but that a 2% upward adjustment of the compensation schedule should be made, the Town being extremely fortunate in having a responsible and well-trained set of employees. Motion accordingly was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, this being effective as of July 1, 2009.

Delbert Cloud next relayed a request from Shirley White to purchase the leaseland she presently has rights to on Hooper Hollow Road. The Statutory provisions whereby this can be done were reviewed, as was the Town's action at the Annual Town Meeting held on March 4, 1980. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Neal Fox was authorized to complete the duties as Agent to accomplish the conveyance in accordance with the established procedure.

The Board then discussed a request from Matt Washburn, the Town's representative to the EC Fiber Board, for a letter of support for EC Fiber's efforts at providing improved technology to the Town. The draft of such a letter was approved and signed by the Board.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) the July 22, 2009 submittal of Fiscal Year 2010 Education Tax Rates from the Vermont Department of taxes, (2) a July 21, 2009 notice from Harpoon Brewery of a bicycle ride which will pass through town on August 15th as a fund-raiser for the Vermont Foodbank, (3) a newsletter from the Windsor County Courthouse, and (4) a streamwater quality report through July 15, 2009 from the White River Partnership.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:35 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas