

## Minutes of the July 21, 2008 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

This meeting was conducted at two locations. Initially, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office on 134 South Main Street by Chairman Neal Fox. The following were in attendance: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, and Geneva Gaiko. After review and approval of the weekly payroll and payables, Chairman Fox declared the opening of a Public Hearing, to receive public comment on the views of citizens on community development activities that have been undertaken under VCDP Grant # 0238/04AM(05), and to give citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of funds associated with said activities. The project was to construct accessibility modifications whereby all Town Offices, meeting rooms, and bathroom, would be made accessible. Delbert Cloud provided information on the overall costs and accomplishments of the project, these being very much visually evident to all observers. Upon presentation of the above described information, and the determination that no public comment was forthcoming, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to adjourn the Public Hearing.

The minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were then reviewed; motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as submitted. In association with old business, a memo dated July 7, 2008 from Peg Trombly re. oversight of the Royalton Academy Building was noted and placed on file. A letter from the National Trust for Historic Preservation dated July 1, 2008 was also reviewed and placed on file, this being to confirm the Town's receipt of a \$400.00 grant to assist financially with an update of the rehabilitation plans for the Town Hall. Delbert Cloud also informed the Board of the schedule by which the architect, his sub-contracted engineer, and a "Section 106" consultant will all be visiting the Town Hall property at 9:00 AM Tuesday, July 29, 2008; fee schedules applicable to the reviews were also examined and placed on file.

The business of the ECFiber broadband initiative was then discussed, there being several recent communications which have been transmitted between the representatives of that governing board. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, it was agreed to table these matters pending further time to evaluate them. Motion to adjourn to the Whitcomb High School cafeteria was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, the time being 6:30 PM.

At 7:00 PM at the Whitcomb High School cafeteria at 273 Pleasant Street, Selectboard Chair Neal Fox called to order a Public Hearing on behalf of the eight Town "White River Alliance Solid Waste Program." The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comment from citizens and officials of all eight Towns on the newly drafted "Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)" which has recently been "pre-approved" by the Waste Management Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The following people were present: Bethel Selectboard members Neal Fox, Bill Richards, and Joseph De Freitas; Royalton Selectboard members Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth, Peg Trombly, and Larry Trottier; Hancock Selectboard members Paula Roth and Jim Leno; Rochester Selectboard members Larry Straus and Marvin Harvey; Pittsfield Selectboard member Suana Bicek; Barnard Selectboard members Tom Morse and Rock Webster; Granville Selectboard members Vivian Branschofsky and John Pikulski; Agent for Alliance, Delbert Cloud; and citizens Geneva Gaiko of Bethel, Phil Gates of Royalton, and Shirley Young of Bethel.

Chairman Fox asked Delbert Cloud, as agent for the Alliance program, to provide a summation of the matters associated with the program and the current draft of the new "SWIP." Cloud commenced with an explanation of the purpose for the Hearing itself, which he hoped would assist everyone present with a common understanding of the process by which the SWIP could be adopted by each of the eight Towns. He then provided an over-view consisting of the following points of information:

### Brief History of Solid Waste Management Initiatives:

1. Original Local Program (1970).
2. Act 78 of the Vermont Legislature (1987).
3. First "White River Alliance Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (1992).
4. Revision of "Vermont Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (2001).
5. Pending Adoption of Revised "White River Alliance Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (September 12, 2008).

Objectives of State and Local Plans (Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 10 Section 6604(a)(1)):

1. The greatest feasible reduction in the amount of waste generated;
2. Reuse and recycling of waste to reduce to the greatest extent feasible the volume remaining for processing and disposal;
3. Waste processing to reduce the volume or toxicity of the waste stream necessary for disposal;
4. Land disposal of residuals.

Immediate Tasks:

1. Adopt the SWIP by September 1, 2008.
2. Appoint a Committee Representative (compile data, promote awareness, develop recommendations).
3. Develop a Clear Focus of Individual Town's Needs (ordinances, methods and procedures).

Cloud then encouraged each member Town's Legislative Body to decide when a second Public Hearing could be held within their respective Town and to advise him such that it could be advertised at the Alliance's expense, and documented as part of the necessary adoption process. He then invited comments or questions. Marvin Harvey (Rochester) inquired if any other mutual meetings were intended. Cloud replied that none were scheduled at this time. James Leno (Hancock) and Vivian Branschofsky (Granville) both commented about the difficulty in enforcing ordinances as are suggested in the new SWIP given the limited time certain Town officials actually have, pointing out that the two Towns share a part-time Constable. Cloud replied that there would be some assistance available, such as educational flyers, brochures, sample warning notices, etc., and it would be necessary to determine how best to address various of the new initiatives. He pointed out that there are objectives identified, and progress reporting must be done, but there are not many hard deadlines for the tasks requiring the most study. Tom Morse (Barnard) spoke of the fact that the "materials recovery facility" in Chittenden County provides a good amount of informational material on various matters. Both Larry Straus (Rochester) and Suana Bicek (Pittsfield) said their respective Towns have already scheduled a second Public Hearing.

Cloud said both he and Phil Gates (author of the Solid Waste Management Plan presently being used by the Alliance) could attend any of the future Hearings if it would be helpful in providing information to the public. Chairman Fox then declared the Public Hearing closed, as there was no further comment forthcoming; the time was then 8:10 PM. Mr. Fox thanked those in attendance, and everyone departed at this time with the exception of the Bethel Selectboard members and Delbert Cloud.

After a brief recess, Chairman Fox called the meeting of the Bethel Selectboard back to order, the time being 8:15 PM. Regarding the business associated with ECFiber, the names of individuals who have indicated interest in serving as an "Alternate" representative to the ECFiber governing board were considered, and a motion ultimately came forth by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried to appoint Ian Stewart as the Town's "Alternate," subject to his willingness to serve.

A "Petition" for permission to place poles and wires within the rights-of-way of Dearing Road and Arnold Road to serve property owned by "Carey" was then reviewed. Delbert Cloud said CVPS has informed him that the adjoining property owner has approved the proposed installations. The Petition was approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Delbert Cloud next gave the Board an update on the status of projects which have been approved on private property by the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, for repairs stemming from the July 11, 2007 flood. No action was required or taken at this time.

In evaluating the latest information about the price and availability of salt for winter maintenance of highways, the Board members agreed that it made sense to continue as a part of the consortium seeking bids from suppliers for Municipal purposes, this effort being coordinated by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Motion to continue as a member of the "VLCT Road

Salt Purchase Collaborative” was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed information pertaining to potential legislation whereby federal laws governing weight limits on interstate highways might be relaxed to allow more truck traffic on the interstate. After due consideration, motion was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to offer the Town’s support to the initiative, which is being coordinated through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and modeled after federal law amendments made for New Hampshire.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a July 7, 2008 letter from the Mapping Unit of the Agency of Transportation re. the “mass discontinuance” procedure for eliminating highways as part of the “Ancient Roads” legislation, (2) E. coli reports for the last several weeks from the White River Partnership, (3) District 3 Environmental “Project Review Sheets” associated with a subdivision on Albin Hill Road by John and Deborah Mahan.

“Line of Credit” number 64018984 with Mascoma Savings Bank is now up for renewal. It was agreed that the note should be renewed, subject to approval of the rate of interest by the individual Board members when it is known; Delbert Cloud will poll the members with the information when available.

Regarding pending bridge and culvert projects on Lilliesville Brook Road, it was agreed that the road should be closed as necessary to provide for the work, subject to the public notification procedures customarily used for such purposes. The timing of the closures will be determined by the Town Manager and the Road Foreman when schedules of suppliers and contractors are known. Motion to accordingly provide for the road closures was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

At 9:45 PM, the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss matters associated with the performance and compensation of two specific Town employees, this matter being prompted by the need to replace the present Road Foreman, who is retiring in the near future. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session; no minutes were kept. The Board returned to open session at 10:20 PM. The motion was then made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to offer two present employees a set of duties as discussed during the executive session, with compensation per his recommendations.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 10:22 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