

Minutes of the August 23, 2010 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Jon Tokarski, Louise Ferris-Burt, James Dolan, and First Constable James Mason.

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. As the first appointment of the evening was present, Chairman Fox welcomed Jon Tokarski, he being the "21st Century Community Learning Centers ExCEL Program Coordinator. Mr. Tokarski explained the subject program to the Board, noting that it is in the second year of a five year grant funded interval. He emphasized that the program is designed to pursue objectives which benefit the community as a whole and is not solely an educational program. The Board members asked various questions and advised Mr. Tokarski that they recognize the need for the ExCEL program and will try to coordinate resources to assist if possible. Mr. Tokarski departed at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Louise Ferris-Burt, Chair of the Bethel Board of Listers. Several matters of business associated with the "Listers" were taken up. Initially, a motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to authorize Neal Fox to sign a "Letter of Agreement" with the Vermont Department of Taxes for use of the "Marshall and Swift Cost Tables" by the Board of Listers. The Board then reviewed a letter dated August 17, 2010 from the Board of Listers concerning errors in the Grand List involving two properties in the East Bethel area (parcel numbers 08-75.100 and 08-069.000). Louise Ferris-Burt added further explanation of this matter; ultimately, the motion to authorize correction of the Grand List was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. An August 18, 2010 letter from the Board of Listers was next discussed, this pertaining to "schedules of value" which the Listers use to evaluate the quality of land in various categories, which in turn assist in assigning value to individual properties. The system of valuation is intended to make sure values are fairly set throughout Town rather than varying parcel by parcel for like quality of land. The Board members concurred that education for members of the Board of Civil Authority, who review individual parcel valuation appeals, is extremely important in order to avoid unfairness. Ms. Ferris-Burt then departed at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Fox next welcomed James Dolan, he being present to speak with the Board about the possibility of re-aligning the class 4 road which passes very near to his home on Stefansson Road. He offered several suggestions for alternatives, and showed photographic maps of them. The Board noted that another property owner on the same corridor may have a similar interest, and that it would be most efficient to address both segments during any review process. It was tentatively agreed that a Public Hearing and site visit would be conducted on October 11, 2010. Mr. Dolan departed at 7:30 PM.

Also per appointment, Chairman Fox welcomed First Constable James Mason, he being present at the request of the Board to talk about various matters associated with law enforcement. Loitering and littering were discussed, particularly as those concerns relate to the Main Street Parking Lot. It was agreed that the Constable should maintain a visible presence in Town. Note was also made of the fact that the Town's Ordinance restricting motorized vehicles on Town-owned lands is now in effect. Discussion ensued about the need for a place to house the Town's cruiser, and the need for a "Second Constable". Mr. Mason departed at 8:00 PM, and the Board turned to the order of the Agenda.

The minutes of the August 9, 2010 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 August 18, 2010 were reviewed and placed on file; Delbert Cloud distributed copies of the "planning survey" tabulations which the Commission has recently completed. Delbert Cloud advised the Board that Cecil Washburn has agreed to accept re-appointment to the Planning Commission; motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried to re-appoint Mr. Washburn to a three year term on the Planning Commission ending June 30, 2013. Since Craig Wortman will not be able to accept re-appointment, the Board instructed Delbert Cloud to extend a letter of appreciation to Mr. Wortman for his many years of

service to the Town. Both the Planning Commission and the Selectboard will give thought to a successor.

The minutes of the August 18, 2010 meeting of the Recreation Committee were then reviewed and placed on file. No action was required or taken, although the Board noted that various potential improvements at the Town recreation facility on Pleasant Street are being contemplated by the Committee.

Delbert Cloud distributed copies of a revised "Rapid Response Plan" to the Board members which would be utilized as an emergency management tool. The Board members will review the revisions, and the matter will be taken up at the next meeting for potential adoption of the revised Plan.

The Board next discussed a letter dated August 12, 2010 from Sandy Farrell, who is serving as "Project Happy Holidays" Coordinator. The letter included a request for permission to conduct a fund-raising coin drop on Church Street on Saturday, September 25, 2010. As this has been done annually in recent years, motion to approve the request subject to the customary rules of conduct was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns pertaining to the annual "Town Fair" was discussed. By motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, Delbert Cloud was appointed as the Town's voting delegate to the VLCT Business Meeting.

The Board then reviewed recent communications from Harry Colombo of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, these being by Email dated August 17, 2010 and August 18, 2010, all being in reference to the intended construction of a communications tower at the Town Garage site on Sand Hill Road. Photographs of a crane being elevated at the site were examined, this having been done preliminarily to determine signal strengths and visual impacts. No action was required or taken at this time by the Board.

The Board next discussed the status of work at the Town Hall. The contractor is rapidly coming to completion on the rehabilitation of the building. Minutes of the August 12, 2010 meeting of the Town Hall Restoration Committee were reviewed and placed on file, as were the job meeting minutes of August 10, 2010. The Board reviewed an easement for the placement of poles and wires on the site, this being a revision of an earlier easement in order to provide for the concerns of an abutting property owner. The form was unanimously approved and endorsed by the Board members.

Streamwater quality reports for August 11, 2010 samplings done by the White River Partnership were reviewed and placed on file.

With no further business to attend, motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards at 10:40 PM, this being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas