

Minutes of the January 6, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe DeFreitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, and Jamal Kheiry.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox. This meeting was held in lieu of the usual meeting as would have been held on Monday, January 12, 2009 in order to attend a meeting in Royalton in joint session with the Royalton Selectboard. Being detained briefly due to other business, Bill Richards arrived at 6:20 PM. Initially, the Board reviewed and approved the weekly payroll and payables, and the minutes of the December 22, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the latter being accomplished by motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and thus carried. The Constable's report of December 28, 2008 was reviewed and placed on file.

Chairman Fox inquired if either Geneva Gaiko or Jamal Kheiry had particular matters they wished to discuss with the Board. Both replied that they were present with general interest only, rather than with respect to any specific matter.

Delbert Cloud relayed an inquiry which had come from both downtown merchants and the Town Road Foreman pertaining to the use of the Main Street Parking Lot. Since a number of vehicles are left there while people utilize the services of the Stagecoach, and these vehicles limit the availability of parking spaces as well as hampering efforts to keep snow removed, the suggestion has been made to see if the parking lot by the White Church could be utilized for the Stagecoach stop. The Board members felt this suggestion made sense, and asked Delbert Cloud to consult with Stagecoach Director David Palmer to obtain his input.

The Board next reviewed a grant funding offer from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, whereby a \$15,000.00 grant has been offered to the Town to assist with the restoration of the Town Hall. This is a grant which requires an equivalent (or greater) match of dollars from the Town. After review of the applicable provisions, motion was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to acknowledge the Town's acceptance of the subject grant.

The Board members then took up business associated with the Water Department, in its capacity as the Board of Water Commissioners, to consider how best to present a bonding question to the voters for securement of financial assistance to relocate a Town water main which is suspended from River Street Bridge in advance of the State's replacement of the bridge. It was reconfirmed that an informational meeting would be held on Town Meeting Day, with a vote by Australian ballot held within 10 days thereafter per requirements of Vermont Statutes. A draft ballot, warning, and resolution were reviewed; it was agreed that these should be forwarded to Paul Giuliani, Esquire, for his review as Bond Counsel.

A set of recommendations for tax appropriations was then discussed, these having been submitted on January 5, 2009 from the Town's "Human Services Advisory Committee." The Board members agreed that the request from Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens should be reviewed further when additional information could be obtained from that organization, before making a final decision as to how to best deal with the request. It was noted that the Committee has requested the Board to appoint Paul Feeney as a member of the Committee; both Scott Putney and Geneva Gaiko have tendered their resignations after having completed many years of service. Motion accordingly to appoint Mr. Feeney was made by Neal Fox, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

A December 31, 2008 letter from Carroll Ketchum, President of the Bethel Library Association, was next discussed. It was agreed that a contribution of \$750.00 should be included within the Selectboard's budget for FY 2010 in support of the Library Association. This was formalized by motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

Drafts of the "Warning" for the Annual Town Meeting, and the "Annual Town Report" itself, inclusive of all budgets and financial statements were then reviewed. These were deemed to be in near final form, subject to a few minor changes as would be completed prior to the next Board meeting when final review and action would be taken.

The Board members agreed that Delbert Cloud should follow up with the architect, Laz Scangas, to confirm the status of plans and bidding for the Town Hall rehabilitation project; the Board members will try to attend for informational purposes. The motion to adjourn was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried, the time being 7:45 PM. The Board then departed for Royalton, to join with the Royalton Selectboard in a joint meeting primarily to address matters of business associated with the Alliance Solid Waste Program.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe DeFreitas