

Minutes of the January 11, 2010 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, and Keith Bollman.

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 Constable's report of January 1, 2010 was also reviewed and placed on file.

Chairman Fox advised that he has been encouraged by a number of people to seek re-election for an additional three year term on the Selectboard, as his present term is expiring. In response to the public's interest, he announced that he would seek re-election.

Turning to the Agenda for the evening, the Board approved the minutes of the December 28, 2009 meeting of the Selectboard, these being approved per motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. In association with the Constable's report reviewed earlier, the Board members discussed the proposed schedule of penalties the Constable has recommended for use with the Animal Control Ordinance. Motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to affirm the schedule as appropriate for the Constable's use.

The Board then reviewed an "Animal Complaint" dated December 29, 2009 this having been submitted as a consequence of a goose having been killed by a dog. This incident was investigated on the date of the occurrence by the Town Constable and Selectboard member Joe De Freitas. Keith Bollman encouraged the Board to develop necessary laws, if need be, to protect the public. It was agreed by the Board members that the matter hinged upon concurrence between the Constable and Selectboard that the dog is adequately identified; if so, it was further agreed that Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 20 Section 3745 should be utilized and the dog should be impounded forthwith and humanely destroyed, motion accordingly being made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Returning to the Agenda, a matter of continuing business was taken up subsequently to the Selectboard minutes, this being renewal of a Promissory Note with Mascoma Savings Bank. The original principal in the amount of \$140,000.00 has now been reduced to \$86,000.00 and the new loan documents provide for the re-financing at that lower amount. The loan documents were approved and Chairman Fox authorized to sign various of them on behalf of the full Board, this being provided for by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed the "Report" submitted by the Planning Commission to the Town Clerk and the Selectboard on December 31, 2009 re. a proposed amendment to the Bethel Zoning Ordinance. This transmittal was to satisfy V.S.A. Title 24 Sections 4441(c) and (g). The Selectboard reviewed the submittal and V.S.A. Title 24 Section 4442 re. the procedure for considering amendment of the Town's bylaws, and decided that a Public Hearing could be called shortly after Town Meeting.

The "Pre-Bid" Meeting minutes of the Town Hall rehabilitation project, dated December 28, 2009, were reviewed and placed on file. It was noted that the scheduled bid deadline is January 19, 2010. The Health Officer's report for the quarter ended December 31, 2009 was also reviewed and placed on file. No action was required or taken at this time by the Board on these matters.

The Board next discussed a December 11, 2009 report from the Agency of Transportation re. the deteriorating condition of a retaining wall on the upstream side of Pinello's Bridge. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud and Road Foreman Robert Hyde should consult with the Vermont ANR Streams Alterations Engineer to see how best to address the necessary repairs.

The Board then examined a December 22, 2009 letter, with attachments, from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regarding special weight limits on highways and bridges. Delbert Cloud explained the data which would be transmitted back to the DMV, no action being required or taken by the Board other than acknowledgement that the requisite forms should be returned with the data entered as discussed prior to the deadline of February 10, 2010.

Information submitted to the Town from the Mapping Unit of the Vermont Agency of Transportation was discussed next, this pertaining to both the annual submittal of the “Certificate of Highway Miles”, and the mapping of class 4 highways. It was agreed that a sufficient amount of time should be made available at the next regular Selectboard meeting to discuss the mapping issue with the Town’s Class 4 Road Committee.

The Board then edited a list of resources available during emergencies, this list being the essence of what had been the Town’s “Rapid Response Plan.” The list was approved as updated and will be kept available for use if needed. A more inclusive and formal emergency response plan is being prepared by the regional planning commission for the Town. The more inclusive form will meet all state and federal requirements for emergency preparedness.

Delbert Cloud next provided the Board with a verbal status report on all projects being constructed with anticipated financial assistance through the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” (ARRA). These projects are: water main relocation at the River Street Bridge, the Town Hall rehabilitation project, deck replacement on Bridge #48 over Locust Creek, and site work/new scales at the solid waste facility. This matter was informational only, to keep the Board apprised of the status of the projects.

The Board then examined Budget Status Reports dated January 4, 2010 (current fiscal year) for the Town General Fund, the Water Department, the Wastewater Department, and the Solid Waste Program. This information was examined as a prelude to the subsequent discussion of the budgets for Fiscal Year 2011 for those same funds/departments. Modest editing was done to prior drafts, with the Board ultimately agreeing that the completed budgets were suitable for inclusion in the Annual Town Report and presentation to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. The “Selectboard’s Report” for Fiscal Year 2009 was approved for the same purposes.

The Board proceeded to complete a draft of the “Warning” for the Annual Town Meeting, subject to receipt and review of any legal petitions as might be submitted for additional articles to be added to the “Warning.” In aid of decisions on this matter, the Board considered a January 11, 2010 letter from Carol De Freitas, and a set of recommendations from the Human Services Advisory Committee dated January 8, 2010. It was agreed that the Board members would hold time available on Thursday, January 21, 2010 on their personal schedules in the event that the now completed draft might need any changes.

The only other business consisted of reviewing the January 3, 2010 “Windsor County Courthouse Newsletter.” Motion to adjourn was then made at 10:30 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas