

Minutes of the February 23, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe DeFreitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Carroll Ketchum, and Erin Boettcher.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox. The Board initially reviewed the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, these being approved by motion of Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the January 29, 2009 meeting of the Town Hall Committee, and discussed questions which have been raised about the design of the kitchen area within the subject building. Several people have suggested that provision for commercial rating should be made as it would provide more flexibility for future usage of the building. The architect has advised that there is enough space for the required installations, to meet Health Department requirements. The Board members agreed that the design should be done to accommodate placement of all necessary appliances and fixtures as far as locations and space requirements, even if not fully equipped at this time.

The Board next reviewed the regional planning commission minutes of January 14, 2009, and the December 18, 2008 minutes of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. These were then placed on file, no action being required or taken by the Board.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Erin Boettcher, who was present per appointment to discuss the potential of her serving as Health Officer for the Town. She provided the Board with a resume of her experience, and the duties/responsibilities of the office were discussed. The position is actually filled as an appointment by the Vermont Department of Health, but the Town is asked to make a recommendation for the appointment. Upon Ms. Boettcher's departure, the Board members agreed that her qualifications were excellent, and it was considered to be very fortunate for the Town that she has expressed interest in offering her services. Motion to recommend Erin Boettcher for appointment as the Town's Health Officer was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board reviewed certain provisions of Vermont law re. duties/authority of the Legislative Body pertaining to public nuisances and threats to the public health and safety. A February 17, 2009 communication from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns was also examined, this specifically addressing potential measures for dealing with vacant structures or so-called "dangerous buildings." It was agreed that the Planning Commission should be asked to look at the subject and offer input, possibly with the thought that some measures might be incorporated within the Zoning Ordinance rather than addressed under a free-standing ordinance. The matter was thus tabled pending input from the Planning Commission.

At 7:45 PM Chairman Fox welcomed Carroll Ketchum, he being present to discuss the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting, as he expects to be re-elected as Moderator and wants to be familiar with the Articles to be considered by the voters. The official "Warning" was examined for that purpose, and Mr. Ketchum confirmed that he should provide service as Moderator for the special meeting to be held subsequent to the Annual Town Meeting re. water system capital improvements. Mr. Ketchum then departed, and the Board returned to the order of the agenda.

Several communications from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation re. funding mechanism(s) for any federal "Economic Stimulus" package were discussed next. It was agreed that it would be favorable for the Town to seek any available assistance for relocation of the River Street Bridge water main, and upgrading needed at the River Street wastewater pump station. By motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Delbert Cloud to submit all necessary application and "readiness to proceed" documents as would be required to keep the Town in position to accept any funding assistance as might become available.

A February 9, 2009 letter from Trevor Starr, District 4 Agency of Transportation Project Manager, with several attachments pertaining to financial planning and highway project grant programs, was next discussed. As requested, a "Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards" was endorsed by the Board members, this formalized by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried. With respect to potential financial assistance programs through the Agency of Transportation, it was agreed that application(s) for assistance to resurface class 1 and class 2 Town Highways should be prepared.

A February 9, 2009 submittal from Chuck Wise, Transportation Planner for the regional planning commission, was reviewed, this being a draft of the 2009 "Transportation Project Prioritization" list setting forth anticipated projects. No action was required or taken by the Board, the matter being informational at this time.

A February 17, 2009 letter from the Vermont Agency of Human Services was taken up next, this setting forth points of information relative to the duties of a Town Service Officer. An annual appointment is required as of April 15th of each year. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should ascertain if the present Town Service Officer would be willing to accept re-appointment.

The Windsor County Budget for 2009-2010 as filed on February 5, 2009 was reviewed and placed on file. It was noted that the Town appropriation is anticipated to be slightly less than for 2008-2009.

The following communications were then reviewed: (1) notice from the University of Vermont of a workshop re. Emergency Medical Services, (2) a draft Act 250 Permit being prepared for a subdivision of land on Camp Brook Road owned by James and Clara Abbott, and (3) information from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns re. the "Leader Program" whereby various incentives are offered to maximize health and safety within the workplace and help control health insurance costs. With respect to the latter, the Board members acknowledged the program to be a desirable one for the Town to participate in, and authorized Delbert Cloud to submit a letter confirming the Town's participation; this action was formalized by motion of Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

At 9:40 PM the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss matters associated with litigation in which the Town is a party. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session; no minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 9:55 PM, the only motion was that to adjourn, this being made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe DeFreitas