

Minutes of the February 25, 2008 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Amy Bergamo, David Eddy, Geneva Gaiko, Joseph De Freitas, Dan Roda from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph."

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 February 24, 2008 was reviewed and placed on file, as was a February 21, 2008 letter from Dubois & King re. a grant award to the Town of Rockingham as part of that company's "Half Century Celebration." The Board also approved the issuance of a second class liquor license for Locust Creek Store, this action being per motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried.

Chairman Fox then welcomed Amy Bergamo, who in turn asked if she could discuss matters related to the Town Hall Rehabilitation project with the Board, to make certain the public is being consistently informed on the status of matters associated with that project. It was reaffirmed that the next phase of work would be the foundation, drainage, and brickwork, coupled with any other related work which would be prudent to include at the same time. It was also agreed that a meeting would be scheduled on May 6, 2008 with the architect to obtain assistance in preparing an appropriate scope of work/cost estimates in relation to the grant from the "Save America's Treasures" program, and to correlate with any other anticipated sources of funds.

The minutes of the February 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. Regarding previous business of the Board, Delbert Cloud offered some wording for definitions of "Resident" and "Non-Resident" for potential inclusion in the Town's "Cemetery Rules and Regulations." These definitions were tabled pending consideration by the Board, and will be taken up at a future meeting.

As the time was then 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Dan Roda of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, he being present by appointment to review options for employee benefit schedules. Given that the current health insurance plan used by the Town is likely to be phased out in the not too distant future, it will be necessary for the Town to convert to a different plan. Since there are a number of options which were briefly explained by Mr. Roda, it will require careful study by the Board over a period of time to determine how to best address the transition.

Mr. Roda departed at 7:30 PM, and the Board returned to the agenda. Delbert Cloud asked for the Board's concurrence to submit an application for financial assistance to the Vermont Water Supply Division Loan Program, for purpose of developing plans and obtaining permits for relocation of the water main which is suspended on the River Street Bridge. The subject water main will have to be moved prior to the State's bridge replacement project which is tentatively scheduled as 2011-2012. Mr. Fox and Mr. Cloud updated the Board on matters discussed with Agency of Transportation officials in a meeting held on February 6, 2008 pertaining to the project. An additional concern is that the wastewater gravity and force mains run within the involved area of the project, and structures will need to be modified during the project and tied back in to correct finished surface elevations upon project completion. It was agreed that the most appropriate way to deal with these would be to have the Agency of Transportation include them as part of the contracted project work, for which the Agency would bill the Town for reimbursement of actual costs. An agreement to provide for this approach was reviewed, and Delbert Cloud was authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town, per motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed the "2007 Mud Season Rules" and agreed that the same rules were appropriate for use and required posting for 2008; motion to endorse the rules for 2008 was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried. Potential wording for restrictions to be included in over-weight vehicle permits was then discussed, and it was agreed that restriction against travel by such vehicles during normal school bus route times should be added. Motion to approve the revised list of restrictions was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

After a brief review of the street tree inventory, it was agreed that a maintenance program should be developed for the designated trees. Delbert Cloud was authorized to submit an application for a "Maintenance Grant" to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, in response to a recently received notice of funding availability. Motion accordingly was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board then turned from the order of the Agenda, to review the following miscellaneous communications: (1) a new VTrans policy re. transportation project “extras,” (2) an Agreement setting forth conditions for proceeding with the Enhancement Grant the Town has earlier received from the Agency of Transportation for work in proximity to the Church Street Bridge, (3) a February 13, 2008 memo from the District Transportation Administrator re. salt supply shortages for winter road maintenance, and (4) a copy of a “Master List of Criteria for Evaluating Ancient Roads” which was originally prepared by the Charlotte Conservation Commission and obtained by Victoria Weber.

Delbert Cloud then provided the Board with a synopsis of the provisions within the recently issued Act 250 permit for a Municipal gravel extraction operation on the Sand Hill Road. It was agreed by the Board that a local permit application should be filed, paralleling the provisions of the Act 250 permit.

The Board returned to the last item of the agenda, that being a review of the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting. Considerable discussion was given to the various Articles on the Warning, and determinations made as to what information pertaining to them might be requested or expected by the voters.

David Eddy asked about the percentages used for the next year’s cost of living adjustments, Delbert Cloud responding that the percentages budgeted are 3% although “actual salaries” for a corresponding fiscal year are not available until the current year ends on June 30th. Mr. Eddy also suggested that the Selectboard should take a leadership stance in setting the direction of spending on health insurance rather than looking to other Towns as an example.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made by retiring Board member Eric Benson, this being seconded by Bill Richards and thus carried, Neal Fox abstaining.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson