

Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe DeFreitas, Delbert Cloud, Jean Burnham, Geneva Gaiko, James Bennett, and Eric Benson.

The initial matter of business was conducted by Jean Burnham, Town Clerk, this being to hold an organizational meeting for the Selectboard. In this, Neal Fox was re-elected as Chair of the Selectboard. Minutes of the organizational meeting may be found in the Town Clerk's records; Jean Burnham departed upon completion of this portion of the meeting.

The scheduled meeting of the Selectboard was then called to order by Chairman Neal Fox. The Board proceeded to review and approve the weekly payroll and payables. The minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting of the Board were approved by motion of Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. As the Local Board of Liquor Control Commissioners, the Board approved issuance of a 1st Class Liquor License to Tozier's Restaurant, and both a 2nd Class Liquor License and a Tobacco License to Bethel Central Market. Before proceeding into other business, the Board members briefly discussed circumstances associated with the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual School District Meeting, no action being taken on these subject matters.

The Planning Commission minutes of February 18, 2009 were then reviewed and placed on file, as were the Town Hall Committee minutes of February 26, 2009.

Discussion then continued on the subject of the Town Hall rehabilitation project. Information provided by the architect, Laz Scangas, on the kitchen area was reviewed. It was agreed by the Board members that the three bay sink should be included in the construction project, as well as the separate hand-washing sink. It was also agreed that space should be provided for a six-burner stove and a "larger" refrigeration unit, and that duct work for venting of a commercial kitchen should be provided for in terms of any enclosed spaces where future installation might be problematic. However, the Board members agreed that it does not seem prudent at this time to seek approval for cooking of grease-laden foods as would require a hood and venting as per a commercial kitchen. Delbert Cloud will discuss this further with the architect.

First Constable James Bennett stopped briefly at this point, and asked if there were any matters which the Board might wish to discuss. The subject of dogs barking "all day long" has come up as a complaint from residents in the East Bethel area, and it was agreed that Mr. Bennett would check with other animal control officers to see what measures are being used to address this matter effectively. This subject will be re-visited when additional information becomes available; Mr. Bennett then departed, and the Board returned to the evening's agenda.

Delbert Cloud provided the Board with an update on the status of several capital projects which may be ready for construction this summer, and which may also be eligible to participate in use of the funding to be available under the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," otherwise referred to as the "Economic Stimulus" funding. There may be advantages to the Town by applying for such funding, although the State agencies and programs by which the funds are to be dispersed are still working out the details of how applications will be reviewed. It was agreed that Cloud should continue to seek financial assistance under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Town Hall rehabilitation project, relocation of the River Street Bridge water main (and associated additional improvements), potential metering of the water system, upgrading of the River Street wastewater pumping station, and for improvements at the solid waste facility to include upgrading the truck scales and developing a water supply.

At 7:55 PM Eric Benson arrived with information pertaining to his role as the Town's representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that he would be attending a "project prioritizing" meeting in the near future. Mr. Benson agreed that he would try to get a status report on the three State of Vermont bridges in Bethel which are scheduled for construction over the next few years, and to inquire about the potential

for any additional class 1 highway paving by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Mr. Benson departed at 8:20 PM.

Delbert Cloud reported on the progress of the “streetscape” project which is funded in part by an Agency of Transportation Enhancement Grant, and which is to provide for certain improvements on Church Street and North Main Street. Due to review requirements at various stages in the plans, it is uncertain whether work will be started in the 2009 construction season, or if it may not be under way until 2010.

Budget Status Reports for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise Funds were next reviewed and discussed. This evaluation of the current fiscal year was necessary as a prelude to a recommendation from the Town Manager that two notes for past year(s) obligations be consolidated into one note which would be amortized over the forthcoming five years with annual payments. This action would address various public works expenses, and costs associated with the flood event of July 11, 2007. After due discussion, motion accordingly to consolidate the subject notes was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried; the resulting obligation in the principal amount of \$390,226.23 will be amortized at the fixed rate of 3.185% over five years. As the Board of Water and Sewage Disposal Commissioners, the Board also reviewed and approved the renewal of a “line of credit” for the Wastewater Treatment Facility, this being for a principal value of up to \$60,000.00, this being by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a February 27, 2009 letter from Liza Wilson of the regional planning commission verifying that the Town of Bethel is “Confirmed” in its planning efforts per V.S.A. Title 24 Section 4350, (2) a February 20, 2009 letter from Sally Hull of the regional planning commission advising that the Town’s “Hazard Mitigation Plan” has been approved by FEMA, and (3) a copy of a recently issued Act 250 permit (#3W1014) to Green Mountain Bible Conference and James/Clara Abbott.

At 10:15 PM, the motion was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss matters of 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 10:35 PM, the only motion was that to adjourn which was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe DeFreitas