

Minutes of the March 24, 2008 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Matt Washburn, 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 minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board next examined a Liquor License Renewal application from The Bethel Depot, Inc. for a first class cabaret license; acting as the local Liquor Control Board, the application was approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The Board noted receipt of a March 21, 2008 letter from Kevin Geiger of the regional planning commission re. flood hazard potentials, this being placed on file.

The minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting of the Planning Commission were next reviewed. The Board noted the potential changes being considered within the Zoning bylaw. Brief discussion ensued re. regulatory measures applicable to outdoor wood furnaces, and the parameters which manufacturers must adhere to.

A "Line of Credit" held for the use of the Wastewater Department was reviewed for renewal purposes, this being for a one year interval at 3.465 % per annum, to an amount not exceeding \$60,000.00. Motion to renew the subject line of credit was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

The "Annual Financial Plan" for Town Highways was reviewed, and approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. This will be transmitted to the District 4 Transportation Administrator per requirements of 19 V.S.A. Section 306(e).

The Board reviewed "Bridge Inspection Reports" recently received from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and signed the acknowledgement form to certify that the subject reports have been received by the Town. Delbert Cloud updated the Board on discussion he has had with the AOT District Administrator re. three of the bridges which have been noted as having deficiencies, and which may ultimately be the subject of applications for financial assistance under the AOT "Structures" grant program.

Delbert Cloud then explained the need to update the "Town Road and Bridge Standards" as necessary to keep the Town's standards in compliance with the expectations of the Vermont Agency of Transportation and provisions of the federal guidelines utilized by FEMA. He noted that the recommended amendment exceeds the minimum guidelines, and that the Ordinances and Bylaws of the Town contain much more detailed conditions than are contained within the standards which are now being considered for adoption. After due consideration, the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to adopt the following "Town Road and Bridge Standards":

"The Town of Bethel hereby adopts the following Town Road and Bridge Standards which shall apply to all future road and bridge construction within the Town (unless State or federal funding regulations supercede this document). These standards are adopted as a supplement to all existing policies, bylaws, ordinances, and standards, none of which are hereby amended or repealed except to the extent that if a conflict is determined, these standards shall supercede any existing standards deemed to be in conflict.

The standards listed here are considered minimum and are presented for purposes of guiding construction and maintenance personnel. The Selectboard reserves the right to modify the standards for a particular project, where, because of unique physical circumstances or conditions, there is no possibility that the project can be completed in strict conformance with these provisions. Fiscal reasons are not a basis for modification of the standards.

Any new road, whether or not that road is proposed to be conveyed to the Town, shall be constructed according to the minimums of these standards. If any federal and/or state funding is involved in a project the VTrans district office will be notified prior to any field changes taking place that would alter the original scope of work.

Roadways

All gravel roads will have at least an 18 inch thick processed gravel subbase, with the top 3 inches being crushed gravel. Material will be graded so that water does not remain on the road surface, and have adequate space for proper ditching.

Ditches

Soil exposed during ditch and slope construction or maintenance will be treated immediately following the operation as follows:

- Seed and mulch slopes less than 2.5%.
- Place biodegradable matting and seed on slopes between 2.5% and 5%.
- Stone line ditches with angular material on slopes greater than 5%.

Culverts and Bridges

- All new driveway culverts will have a minimum diameter of 18 inches.
- All new roadway culverts will have a minimum diameter of 18 inches.
- Any culvert greater than or equal to 36 inches in diameter will be designed according to the latest VTrans Hydraulics Manual. End treatment (inlet or outlet) will also be evaluated in accordance with this manual.
- All bridges (structures with spans greater than 6 feet) will have waterway openings designed in accordance to the latest VTrans Hydraulics Manual.

Guardrail

When new road or culvert construction creates side slopes steeper than 1 on 3, guardrail will be installed according to AASHTO Roadside Design Guide.”

Joe De Freitas and Delbert Cloud reported to the Board re. the March 18, 2008 meeting at the Town Hall with architect Laz Scangas and Department of Labor & Industry officials re. occupancy limits for use of the Town Hall as a “place of assembly.” As it stands, the State officials will respond to the Town’s questions about occupancy level within a few days, and the architect will proceed to have an update of rehabilitation costs completed. The matter of “setting off” certain portions of work to correspond with envisioned funding sources will then be taken up by the Board and the architect. Delbert Cloud informed the Board of conversation he has had with a representative of USDA Rural Development, this encompassing potentials of both grant or loan assistance for the rehabilitation project. He also informed the Board that a grant application Amy Bergamo had submitted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for funds to “. . . hire a consultant to provide architectural services to address code requirements. . .” has been approved in the amount of \$400.00, to be equivalently matched. The minutes of the Town Hall Finance Committee of February 28, 2008 were reviewed and placed on file.

At 7:10 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Matt Washburn, who had attended per appointment to discuss matters associated with the ECFiber initiative. Material submitted by Loredo Sola dated March 13, 2008 was reviewed, part of this material being a revised draft of the proposed “Interlocal Contract” which Towns are invited to sign to formalize their intent to be a part of the project. The contract itself is being reviewed by legal counsel retained on behalf of a consortium of Towns, and it is anticipated that advice regarding it will be available prior to the ECFiber organizational meeting scheduled for April 8, 2008. Accordingly, the Board decided to schedule it’s next meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 in order to determine at that time what to do regarding the contract. With respect to the fact that the Town would like to have a representative at the April 8, 2008 meeting, and given that Matt Washburn agreed to serve in that capacity, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to appoint Matt Washburn as the Town’s representative, and to authorize Neal Fox to certify that action of the Board.

The Board next reviewed a draft application to be submitted to the Vermont Water Supply Division for planning funds to address relocating the water main suspended from the River Street Bridge prior to the State removing the bridge. The Board members determined the text of the application to be appropriate for submittal.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) notice by letter of March 14, 2008 that the Water Department “Source Protection Plan” update has been found acceptable by the Vermont Water Supply Division, (2) an information pamphlet re. the 63rd Annual Town Officer’s Education Conferences, (3) notice from the District 3 Environmental Office of permit application review activity for Nancy M. Graham, and for Robert T. Schweizer, and (4) a copy of information recently

transmitted to J. Paul Giuliani, Esq. re. the potential participation in the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank sale in June 2008, for financing the Town's share of costs of the Church Street Bridge replacement project.

Motion was then made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss litigation in which the Town is a party. The time was 8:30 PM. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board for the executive session; no minutes were kept. The Board returned to open meeting at 9:20 PM. The only motion was the motion to adjourn to 6:00 PM on April 7, 2008, this being made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas