

Minutes of the May 5, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Heidi Nikolaidis, Justin McCoart, Victoria Weber, Ian Stewart, Matt Washburn, Geneva Gaiko, 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. As the first item of business, the Board reviewed the April 28, 2008 minutes of the Board of Selectmen, these being approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. It was noted that the "Trail Rules" submitted by Richard Adams on behalf of the Central Vermont Quad Runners should be posted with the trail map at the Town Office. Victoria Weber also suggested that the "Rules" would be helpful public information if posted on the Bethel website. Delbert Cloud will convey this suggestion to Mr. Adams.

The Town Hall Finance Committee minutes of April 24, 2008 were next reviewed. It was noted that the committee is anxious to finalize grant documents and secure funds for the "Save America's Treasures" grant; the matter of identifying scopes of work to correlate with potential funding sources is dependent on input from the Town's architect.

With respect to the Town joining with others through the ECFiber Interlocal Contract to develop and implement a communications system, Chairman Fox stated that the Town appears to be in receipt of sufficient legal advice to confirm that the draft Interlocal Contract for formation of "ECFiber" should now be signed, it being anticipated that the initiative will move forward expeditiously, and that a final form of the contract will be available for consideration in the near future which, when executed, will perpetuate the association being formed at this time. He then made the motion to approve the subject contract, this motion being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Justin McCoart asked if the Town had yet appointed an alternate representative to the ECFiber Board of Directors; Chairman Fox advised such has not yet been undertaken by the Board.

The Board next considered the present speed limitations applicable to Sand Hill Road, and the activities of the Town both at the Town garage and at the gravel extraction site recently permitted. The following Resolution was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried:

"To Amend the Traffic Ordinance of the Town of Bethel, Vermont, said Ordinance being a Civil Ordinance.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public, and

WHEREAS, Town equipment and other heavy commercial vehicles frequently are utilized on, or travel over, Sand Hill Road, so-called, and

WHEREAS, visibility is limited in certain locations by sharp curves in the subject highway, and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of collisions between heavy vehicles and passenger vehicles will be minimized if speed of travel is restricted to slower speeds,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Article IV of said Traffic Ordinance shall be amended by replacing the wording of the speed limit distinction for Town Highway 46 (Sand Hill Road) with the following: "25 mph beginning at the intersection with Class 2 Town Highway 5 (Peavine Boulevard) extending northerly to the intersections with VT Route 12, this being the entire length of said Sand Hill Road."

This Amendment is adopted under the authority of VSA Title 24 Section 1972 and shall be effective on July 5, 2008."

A list of conditions associated with the operation of the pit on the Pratt/Placy property was then reviewed and discussed. The "second phase" contract with the property owners was also discussed and found acceptable.

A draft contract for engineering services from Forcier Adrich & Associates to relocate the water main on River Street Bridge was next discussed. No signature is required at this time, as the draft is submitted to the Vermont Water Supply Division as part of the Town's application for financial assistance to design and permit the relocation project.

At 6:35 PM, Bill Richards made the motion to enter executive session to discuss litigation in which the Town is a party. This motion was seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 7:00 PM, no motion for action was made. Brief discussion was held about road maintenance issues, grader use, etc. The motion to adjourn to Monday, May 19, 2008 was then made by Neal Fox, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried at 7:10 PM.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas