

Minutes of the May 11, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, and Geneva Gaiko.

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 April 27, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The Constable's report of May 1, 2009 was reviewed and placed on file.

As "old" business relevant to prior meetings, Delbert Cloud reported on his discussion with Steven Stitzel, Esq. re. an ordinance addressing abandoned buildings. It was agreed that Cloud would prepare a draft of a free-standing ordinance on this matter for the Board's consideration.

Three people have spoken with the manager re. their wishes that artificial flowers would still be allowed in Town cemeteries. No action was taken by the Board at this time, but such information will be kept of record.

It was agreed that letters of appointment to the Town Hall Committee should be sent to Kelly Brown, John O'Farrell, and Carol De Freitas, this action being confirmed by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Documents associated with a loan from Mascoma Savings Bank for procurement of the F-550 response truck were reviewed. These provide for the borrowing of \$50,000.00 at the per annum rate of 2.958% to be amortized by five annual payments in the amount of \$10,688.66. After due consideration, motion to approve the borrowing was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried; the following documents were then endorsed by the Board: Business Loan Agreement, Promissory Note, Disbursement Request and Authorization, and a "Certifications" form.

Capital projects that are pending work start were then reviewed. Since no new information has become available regarding a loan from the Vermont Water Supply Division for the replacement of the water main on River Street Bridge, the Board asked Delbert Cloud to seek input from conventional lenders regarding the possibility of financing the work, it being felt that the bid climate is very favorable at this time and that having to wait for another year to do the project might not be advantageous to the Town.

Regarding the Town Hall rehabilitation project, the Board reviewed the following data: an Interim Report filed May 6, 2009 with the National Park Service for the "Save America's Treasures" grant, a May 4, 2009 letter from USDA Rural Development regarding the project having been determined eligible for funding through that program, advertisements currently released for both bidder pre-qualification and procurement of "Clerk-of-the-Works" interest, and a list of parties presently indicating interest in contracting for the project. It was agreed by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, that the next Selectboard meeting would be held on May 27, 2009 at 6:00 PM rather than on May 25, 2009 such that it would be possible to review the qualifications of parties having responded to the Town's advertisements.

Projects at the Bethel/Royalton solid waste facility were next discussed, and a May 13, 2009 memo from Paul Giuliani, Esq. was reviewed. After due consideration, it was agreed that a vote of the Town should be held on June 22, 2009 to seek approval for the proposed improvements. The following "Resolution" was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried:

"RESOLVED, that the public interest and necessity demand that certain public improvements be made at the Solid Waste/Recycling Facility at 122 Waterman Road, Royalton, Vermont, viz: replacement of the lever scales with new 100 Ton hydraulic scales, development of a water supply, and site grading/paving, said improvements estimated to cost One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$145,000.00).

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost of completing said public improvements, after application of funds available from the United States of America and/or the State of Vermont, will be too great to be paid out of the ordinary annual income and revenue of the Town of Bethel; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a proposal for providing such improvements and the issuance of general obligation capital improvement notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$145,000.00) to pay for its cost of the same, should be submitted to the legal voters of the Town at a Special Meeting thereof to be duly called and held on June 22, 2009; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts relating to the proposition of incurring indebtedness and the issuance of general obligation capital improvement notes of the Town of Bethel for the purpose of financing such improvements, as well as the construction, maintenance and operation of such improvements within and without the corporate limits of the Town be in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 53, 89, and 120 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Warning be adopted for use in connection with consideration of the above-stated proposition of making said public improvements.”

The following “Warning” was additionally approved in conjunction with the above Resolution:

“ The legal voters of the Town of Bethel, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Office Building in the Town of Bethel, on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 7:30 PM to consider the following Article of business:

#### **ARTICLE 1**

Shall general obligation capital improvement notes of the Town of Bethel in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$145,000.00) be issued for the purpose of replacement of the lever scales with new 100 Ton hydraulic scales, development of a water supply, and site grading/paving at the Solid Waste/Recycling Facility at 122 Waterman Road, Royalton, Vermont, with 50% of the debt service thereof to be paid by the Town of Royalton?

The legal voters of the Town of Bethel are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said Special Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.”

Delbert Cloud then provided an update on the status of the Enhancement Grant whereby work is intended on Church Street and North Main Street. Progress is slow due to the need for clearances from both the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration at specified points in the development of the plans.

An application to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for financial assistance to resurface Camp Brook Road was next reviewed. Such application is for potential access to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds through the “Non-Class 1 Roadway Paving Program.” The envisioned project cost is projected at \$791,500.00, of which the Town would be obligated to contribute \$158,300.00. The Town’s share would be amortized over five years and the annual payment would be entered on the budget each year as part of the Town’s highway maintenance plan. Motion to approve submittal of the application was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Budget Status Reports as of May 1, 2009 for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise Funds (Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste) were then reviewed and placed on file. No action was required or taken on these matters.

One bid was received on the Austin Western grader in response to the Town's advertisement for bids. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should discuss the bid with the party having made the submittal, with the hope that some additional consideration could be realized.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) specifications for a bid invitation to re-roof the Town Office building, (2) a summary of materials received at the solid waste facility on Green Up Day, (3) a copy of a May 1, 2009 letter sent to the Whitcomb Assistant Principal, Andra Bowen, from the "Safe Routes to School Coordinator" at the Vermont Agency of Transportation advising that grant funds were not approved under a recent application, and (4) the Spring 2009 newsletter of the White River Partnership.

Delbert Cloud relayed a request received from Penny Griffin for permission to create a flower bed at the triangle of Whittier Road and Lilliesville Brook Road. The adjoining property owner has offered support. The Board members concurred that this would be suitable provided no plantings would block visibility for motorists.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

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Neal Fox

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Bill Richards

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Joe De Freitas