

Minutes of the June 22, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, David Eddy, Jean Burnham, Carroll Ketchum, Joe Duncan and Brad Aldrich from the firm of Forcier Aldrich & Associates, Peg Ainsworth and Joan Goldstein of the Royalton Selectboard, Royalton Selectboard Administrative Assistant Nate Cleveland, and Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chairman Phil Gates.

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 June 8, 2009 meeting of the Board were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The May 13 and May 27, 2009 minutes of the regional planning commission were reviewed and placed on file.

The Board next considered the subject of vacancies on Town committees: (1) by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, Peter Dohrn was re-appointed to the Planning Commission for a term ending July 1, 2012, (2) by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Ruth Clough was re-appointed to the Development Review Board for a term ending July 1, 2012, and (3) by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Felicia Dieffenbach and Abbie Sherman were appointed to the Recreation Committee, Newall Wood being the only member presently remaining in service on that committee prior to these appointments.

At 6:20 PM Chairman Fox welcomed Brad Aldrich and Joe Duncan of Forcier Aldrich & Associates, they being present per appointment to discuss the status of the River Street Bridge water main replacement project. This project is presently "out for bids" and is thus at a transitional point where "design and permitting" is essentially completed and the "bid and construction phase" begins. This marks the point wherein different people will take up their roles; Brad Aldrich will now be the primary contact at Forcier Aldrich & Associates. He and Rachel Marvin will be the lead engineers from the company to follow the project through construction. Mr. Aldrich proceeded to outline the services which his firm would provide, and presented the corresponding contract for those services. After brief discussion, he and Joe Duncan departed at 6:52 PM. The Board members then continued discussion of the subject; ultimately by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Delbert Cloud was authorized to sign the contract for the engineering services on behalf of the Town.

The Board next reviewed a request for permission to conduct a coin drop on Main Street on August 15, 2009, this request having been submitted by Sue Skaskiw on behalf of "Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society." Motion to approve the request was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Current data pertaining to streamwater quality compiled by the White River Partnership was next discussed. This data was placed on file, no action being required by the Board.

Delbert Cloud asked the Board as to what procedure might be used for naming class 4 roads, particularly when necessary for 911 locatable address purposes. The Town has recently received a request for a 911 address for a property on a class 4 road, but staff is unable to provide one until a name is assigned to the road; (State law assigns the authority for naming highways to the Selectboard). It was agreed that before taking action, the Board would like to know if the subject property owner has a suggestion.

The Board then considered how best to allocate the portion of funds from the sale of cemetery lots between (1) annual expenses in the year of sale and (2) perpetual care, the perpetual care portion being turned over to the Trustees of Public Funds for investment. The Board reviewed prior distribution methodology, finding that the percentages varied somewhat. It was agreed that a 40% "annual" and 60% "perpetual" seemed to be the most similar to past practices. The Chair of the Trustees of Public Funds, Carroll Ketchum, was present at this time and he concurred that such a proportion would be a sensible one. Motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to add a column in the chart for distribution of the subject funds on

the 40/60 (annual/perpetual) basis. It was noted that certain expenses, such as corner markers and reserve funds, will still be taken from the sale proceeds before this division of the remaining balance.

The following miscellaneous communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a May 21, 2009 letter re. the National Flood Insurance Program, (2) notice of events scheduled as part of the Burlington International Waterfront Festival, (3) a June 3, 2009 letter from the regional planning commission re. a "Demographics of Transportation" study recently done, (4) a June 3, 2009 letter from the Vermont Land Trust re. acquisition of development rights on the Royal Larocque Farm, (5) a June 5, 2009 letter from the Vermont Natural Resources Board re. wetlands, (6) a "Thank you" letter from ACORN for the appropriation approved by the voters at Town Meeting, and (7) a letter of concern re. management of unlicensed dogs from Joan Hubbard. Regarding the latter, the Board asked Delbert Cloud to advise Ms. Hubbard that the procedure(s) she advocates are in fact utilized – the terminology which raised concern is merely Vermont Statutes verbatim.

As the time was then 7:30 PM, motion to adjourn to a time immediately subsequent to the now-convening Special Town Meeting was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The purpose of the Special Town Meeting was to establish security for loans which may be sought to make improvements at the Bethel/Royalton solid waste facility. The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator and minutes are on file as records of the Town Clerk.

The Selectboard meeting was reconvened at 7:52 PM with a call to order by Chairman Neal Fox. The Board briefly discussed the now-adjourned Special Town Meeting, the Board members indicating their satisfaction that the vote had been in the affirmative to provide the necessary security for the potential loans.

Matters pertaining to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project were then taken up. It was agreed that the "Clerk of the Works" position would require in the range of 20-30 hours of work in a typical week. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud would establish the rate of pay and contract provisions with the selected candidate and submit necessary data to the Rural Development Construction Specialist for review. A June 2, 2009 letter re. design criteria submitted by Janet Burnham was reviewed; this information will be shared with the Town Hall Committee and the architect. Of particular note was a letter received on June 19, 2009 from Hampton Tucker, Chief of the Historic Preservation Grants Division of the National Park Service, this letter confirming that Rural Development loan funds can be used as a "match" for the "Save America's Treasures" grant.

The Board next discussed the present value of the Grand List as prepared by the Board of Listers. Although the present Grand List value is slightly less than the estimated value used for budgeting purposes and reference at the Annual Town Meeting, it nonetheless appeared to the Board members as being sufficient to support the financial needs of the Town with the same tax rate as previously estimated. Motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to set the Municipal Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2010 at \$.56.

With respect to the annual review of the Town's compensation schedule, it was agreed that additional information should be sought from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns before taking any action on this matter.

Financial demands for close-out of FY09 and support of programs/expenses occurring early in FY10 were then reviewed. After due consideration, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to open a "Line of Credit" with Mascoma Savings Bank in the amount of \$500,000.00 bearing an interest rate of 2.21% with a maturity date of June 30, 2010.

David Eddy offered his thoughts re. recent grading on Town Highways, citing various deficiencies which he would like to see corrected. Delbert Cloud replied that the portions of highway spoken about were only smoothed out to eliminate some bad washboarding when the Town crew had a short interval wherein winter sand

hauling/stockpiling could not be done. Cloud concurred with the suggestions made by Mr. Eddy, and assured him that road grading would be resumed in the near future.

At 9:25 PM motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to make further review of bidders' qualifications for the Town Hall Rehabilitation project. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. The Board returned to open meeting at 10:12 PM, but no motion for action was made.

The Board discussed how to provide greater public awareness of the many projects undertaken, both at the Board level and by the Town crew. Although activity is reported to the news media and placed on the Bethel website, it often seems that the public does not realize the extent of work that is involved. The members will continue to consider how to best address this concern.

Discussion then turned to business of the Board of Water and Sewage Disposal Commissioners, specifically with respect to obligations for payment of utilities as well as taxes at abandoned properties. Delbert Cloud will prepare a letter setting forth provisions of the local Ordinances which speak to this matter.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 11:10 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas