

Minutes of the June 23, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Phil Gates, Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph," and the following members of the Royalton Selectboard: Peggy Ainsworth, Ernie Amsden, and Peg Trombly.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox. The Constable's reports of May 18, 2008 and June 1, 15, and 22, 2008 were received and placed on file. The minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting of the Selectboard were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Planning Commission minutes of June 18, 2008 were next reviewed. The Board noted the subject matter of potential amendments being considered for the Zoning Ordinance, no action being required or taken at this time. The Regional Planning Commission minutes of May 28, 2008 were also reviewed and placed on file.

A draft "Railroad Derailment Annex" submitted by Kevin Geiger of the regional planning commission was then discussed, and it was agreed a map of the railroad corridor showing access locations and potential clear areas for helicopter landing zones might be a helpful reference that should be a part of the above. Delbert Cloud will reschedule this subject on a future meeting agenda when such a map can be considered for inclusion.

The Board then examined cost-of-living statistics obtained from the federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics, and the latest publishing of such data by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Since this was in reference to the employee pay schedule, and it was considered that some discussion might include reference to individual employee merit, the Board members agreed to table this discussion until it could be taken up later in the evening under executive session.

Information from Arnold and Scangas Architects re. the Town Hall rehabilitation project was discussed next. It was agreed that Delbert Cloud should discuss the extent of work envisioned by Mr. Scangas within his review of current site conditions, to ensure everyone holds the same understanding of its value to the project. Mr. Scangas' input on the "Project Information Form" was also reviewed and found to be favorable, subject to confirmation of a couple of factual points. Delbert Cloud will discuss this with Amy Bergamo and prepare the final submittal to the "Save America's Treasures" program.

The Board then took up the "Cemetery Rules and Regulations of Bethel, Vermont" and evaluated various matters such as adequacy of definitions, funds, and rates. After due consideration, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to: (1) add specified definitions for "Resident" and "Non-Resident" within the regulations, (2) establish a fund from 10 % of future lot sales to be dedicated to development of an improved record-keeping system and acquisition of future new cemetery area(s), and (3) adjust lot sale rates as follows:

	Resident:*	Non-Resident:*
1 grave lot	200.00	400.00
2 grave lot	400.00	800.00
4 grave lot	800.00	1,600.00
8 grave lot	1,600.00	3,200.00

* Corner markers to be required within all sales at an additional value of \$125.00.

Delbert Cloud will prepare a revised format of the "Rules and Regulations" and provide it for the Board's review and endorsement.

A report on stream water quality in the White River watershed was received from the "White River Partnership," setting forth the bacterial testing results for June 4, 11, and 18, 2008. This report is informational only, and no action was required or taken.

A set of pages consisting of both text and maps was received from the Royalton Fire District #1, this being relative to the water source protection area for "Lake John and the White River intake." The cover letter was dated May 31, 2008. This information was placed on file, no action being required at this time.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) the June 2008 newsletter from the George D. Aiken RC&D Council, (2) a June 9, 2008 memo from Environmental Products & Services

of Vermont re. the cleanup of kerosene at a Pleasant Street property, (3) a June 9, 2008 memo from Trevor Lashua at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns re. the potential of a coalition of municipalities jointly contracting for the purchase of road salt, and (4) a June 23, 2008 letter from Joann S. Wood re. the Bethel Council on the Arts. Regarding the latter, the Board asked Delbert Cloud to prepare a letter to set forth the Board's response.

Chairman Fox next welcomed the members of the Royalton Selectboard, who were present per appointment to discuss business associated with the Alliance Solid Waste Program. The time was 7:35 PM.

After introductions were exchanged, Chairman Fox asked Delbert Cloud to provide explanation of the agenda topics. Cloud commenced with a year to date "budget status report" to show the financial standing of the program; with the year ending June 30, 2008, it is evident that a deficit will occur, which Cloud attributed to certain specific line items. He then referenced a data sheet showing comparison of rates charged at other facilities around the State and suggested that: (1) the Alliance rates are low, (2) such circumstance contributes to the presently adverse financial standing of the program, and (3) prevents accumulation of adequate capital improvement funds to maintain and upgrade equipment and facilities to the level desired. He recommended increases in the transfer station disposal rates as follows: 15-gallon bag @ \$1.75, 30-gallon bag @ \$3.25, 45-gallon bag @ \$5.00, and weight base of \$135 per ton. It was agreed that the two Boards will separately consider the recommendation, and if a concurrence is reached, the rate schedule will subsequently be adjusted.

The "Miscellaneous Matters Associated with Program Operations" were taken up next. Monitoring requirements for the closed landfill were reviewed, with specific reference to lab reports on water quality from Endyne, Inc. for sampling done May 6, 2008, and to a June 9, 2008 report from the Johnson Company on the physical integrity of the closure/capping system; both of these reports showed favorable trends and overall conditions.

A brief evaluation was made of "Green Up Day" and "Household Hazardous Waste" events. In both instances, the events have been well received by the public, but it was agreed effort needs to be made to increase participation in the hazardous waste events.

Cloud informed the Board of equipment repairs recently completed on the 906 loader, and spoke of further repairs which would be prudent to do in the near future (center hitch) if the unit were to be kept in good condition. It was agreed that the center hitch repair should be done during the ensuing year since the loader is practical for operations it is now used for.

Attention then turned to the State of Vermont's recent "pre-approval" of the Alliance's "Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)." Cloud explained the adoption process which Alliance Towns must now undertake in order to ultimately obtain the State's full approval of the SWIP. Two public hearings are required for each of the member Towns; one of those can be a common hearing which would be warned for attendance by all Town Selectboards and the public. Cloud proposed that such a common hearing be held on July 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Whitcomb High School cafeteria on Pleasant Street in Bethel. He provided information as would be distributed to each of the Alliance Towns as explanation of the SWIP and the prescribed adoption process. The Selectboards agreed that the process needed to be undertaken, and that the proposed common hearing should be warned as proposed.

A brief discussion then ensued regarding staffing at the facility, and the general condition of the grounds. No further action was required or taken and the joint meeting concluded at 9:50 PM. The Royalton Selectboard members departed shortly thereafter, and the Bethel Selectboard returned to its meeting.

At 9:55 PM, the motion was made by Bill Richards to enter executive session to discuss employee performance matters, and potential real estate acquisition issues; 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 10:29 PM, motion was made by Neal Fox to adjust the wage compensation schedule upward by 5% effective July 1, 2008; this motion was seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. At 10:30 PM, with no further business to attend, motion was made by Bill Richards to adjourn to July 7, 2008, this motion being seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas