

Minutes of the July 13, 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 June 22, 2009 and July 1, 2009 meetings of the Board were both approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried. The Constables' reports of July 1, 2009 and July 5, 2009 were reviewed and placed on file.

The Planning Commission minutes of June 24, 2009 were also reviewed and placed on file. The accompanying draft of a public survey being prepared in anticipation of the next required up-dating of the Town Plan was discussed; the Board voiced hope that the survey could adequately capture the public's sentiments pertaining to education issues, as these do absorb an enormous portion of the property taxes raised each year. It was also noted that the Planning Commission hopes to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant in the forthcoming application cycle.

By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, Robert Leister was re-appointed to the Development Review Board for a term ending June 30, 2012.

The Board next reviewed a June 29, 2009 letter from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation re. the "Forest Legacy Program." It was agreed that it would be helpful to the Board if the Director of Forests, Steven Sinclair, could attend a meeting of the Board in the near future to provide further information about the Program. Delbert Cloud will see if this can be scheduled.

Information about the "Vermont Significant Wetland Inventory" and associated maps was then discussed, it being noted that the maps may be continually updated by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and lands thus encompassed by the regulations will vary from time to time.

Budget Status Reports of the fiscal year just ended were next reviewed, these being for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise funds (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste). Due to the extensive number of "pass-through" revenues and expenses in the form of school tax payments, grants-in-aid, tax sales, etc., the Board asked Delbert Cloud to prepare an analysis based specifically on the revenues and expenses having direct impact upon the budgeted revenues and the tax rate, to be reviewed at a forthcoming meeting when such can be available.

A July 1, 2009 letter from the Vermont Department of Taxes was discussed next, this pertaining to the State education tax rates. Since the budget for the School District was not approved until June 16th, the Vermont Department of Education and the Vermont Department of taxes will not be able to provide the State tax rates until some time after July 20th. This will mean that the Town will not be able to use the date set by the voters for the first installment's due date because thirty days has to be given for payment from the date of billing. It was agreed that billing should proceed as expeditiously as possible as soon as the State tax rates become available, rather than sending interim bills which would have to be corrected by a second billing at a later time.

With respect to the Town's applications for financial assistance through use of the federal "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" (Economic Stimulus), the following projects and their current status were reviewed:

- a. The Town Hall rehabilitation project has now officially received a loan offering, but no determination has yet been made by the Rural Development program as to grant assistance which may be provided in conjunction with a loan. Approval to seek bids has not yet been issued by Rural Development.
- b. The Town's application for funding to resurface the majority of Camp Brook Road has been denied; aid was dispersed to regions considered to be "economically depressed", although consideration was given by the Vermont Agency of Transportation to "geographic dispersal" as well.

- c. The Town has been offered assistance to construct a new deck on bridge 48 on Town Highway 79 (Old Route 12). The Town's share of the cost would be at the level of 5%, which is about equal to temporary repair costs for which the Town recently received quotation. The Board members unanimously agreed to accept the offer, and signed the requisite response form.
- d. Bids for the relocation of the River Street Bridge Water Main are due on July 14, 2009 at 3:00 PM. It is not yet known if funds will be available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or not.
- e. Various improvements at the Solid Waste Facility have been designed and permits are being sought, but no commitments will be made for construction until both the Royalton and Bethel Selectboards approve the work and the costs. Funding is anticipated through Rural Development.

The Board then reviewed the following communications: (1) water quality reports from the White River Partnership, (2) the July 2009 issue of the VLCT News, and (3) notices from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation of permit reviews being currently conducted.

Neal Fox gave a brief report on the activities and financial standing of the White River Valley Ambulance Program. No action was required or taken by the Board.

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

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas