

Minutes of the August 14, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

This meeting was held in lieu of the meeting as would regularly have been held on Monday, August 13, 2007, due to scheduling conflicts.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Amy Bergamo, Geneva Gaiko, Joe De Freitas, Slavko Stanchak, Michael Bilodeau, and Janice Punger.

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 Constable's reports of August 5 and 12, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file. As miscellaneous business, the Board renewed a line of credit for the Water Department in the amount of \$50,000.00 for an additional one year term at a fixed rate of 3.960%; this was formalized by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. Delbert Cloud informed the Board that the Bethel Fire Department would like to hold a coin drop on Church Street on Saturday, September 1, 2007 between the approximate hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM for Department fund-raising purposes; the request was approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried. Three forthcoming meetings were then noted: (1) on August 21, 2007 there will be a FEMA briefing meeting at the White Church at 9:30 AM, (2) on August 23, 2007 there will be a pre-construction meeting with the architect and contractor for the Town Hall roofing project at 9:00 AM, commencing at the Town Office, and (3) there will be an Act 250 site visit and hearing for the Town's gravel pit application (Pratt/Placy Property) commencing at the site at 9:00 AM on September 4, 2007.

The minutes of the July 23, 2007 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were then reviewed and approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

The Board next reviewed a transmittal from the Planning Commission, this forwarding proposed amendments to the Town's bylaws for the Selectboard's consideration and action. It was noted that the transmittal is dated subsequently to the Planning Commission's August 1st meeting (specifically dated August 3, 2007) and that a Public Hearing for the Selectboard on the proposed amendments has been scheduled for August 27, 2007 at 6:30 PM.

The Board next reviewed a draft "Report and Order" re. the discontinuation of a public highway as may have connected Vermont Castings Road with Bridge Street. Certain questions became apparent, and the Board asked Delbert Cloud to seek clarification from the Town Agent before action is taken.

The Board then reviewed proposals which have been received for re-surfacing of the Christian Hill Road from Vermont State Route 107 to the Lake Ansel intersection. The lowest cost proposals were from the Gorman Group (\$52.60 per ton in place using cold mix) and Pike Industries (\$54.49 using hot mix). The Board asked Delbert Cloud to review certain questions with the District Transportation Administrator and the low bidders prior to making decisions on this matter, which hopefully can be done at the Board's next meeting on August 27, 2007. It was noted that this portion of Christian Hill Road carries a considerable amount of truck traffic, which may increase over time, and which must be taken into account as decisions are made regarding maintenance requirements. A letter dated July 29, 2007 from William H. Oren pertaining to matters associated with this portion of highway was also reviewed and placed on file.

As the time was then 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Janice Punger per appointment. Ms. Punger said she has one particular concern re. the Church Street Bridge project which she needs to discuss with the Selectboard, noting that she perceives a communication problem to exist between herself and the Town Manager on such matters. She requested that an assurance be given to her that the small area of Town-owned grassland adjacent to her own property be mowed by the Town during the subject season every two weeks ad infinitum. It was agreed that the area would be trimmed as soon as possible now that the site is under the Town's authority rather than the contractor's, and that the Town Manager would look into the best type of ground cover to be utilized in that location. However, the Board declined to commit to a specific maintenance schedule, noting that there are numerous Town sites that receive regular maintenance as circumstances require. Ms. Punger departed subsequently to this discussion.

Chairman Fox asked Amy Bergamo if she would like to speak with the Board re. the Town Hall since the appointment scheduled ahead of hers was not yet in attendance. Ms. Bergamo said she is still actively pursuing the possibility of incorporating a cellular communication feature within the Hall's bell tower. She then advised the Board that she would like to continue serving on the Town Hall Committee, but will step down as Chair as of the forthcoming Town Meeting Day in 2008. Discussion ensued regarding the

accomplishments to date, particularly with knowledge that the roof project is now contracted and work expected to begin around the end of August. The need for a successor to the Chair was noted also.

The Board then took up a few items of miscellaneous business, pending the arrival of Mr. Bilodeau. A memo dated August 8, 2007 from the Town Manager re. replacement of equipment at the transfer station was reviewed. After due discussion, motion was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to acquire the John Deere 120C per proposal from Nortrax, subject to concurrence from the Royalton Board of Selectmen. At this time, the Board also reviewed water quality reports for the area watersheds submitted by the White River Partnership for July 18 and 25, and August 1 and 8, 2007. A copy of a July 31, 2007 letter from the Town Manager to the Agency of Transportation Utilities & Permits Unit Project Supervisor, Tom Urell, was also reviewed and placed on file, this pertaining to the potential relocation of Town utility infrastructure when the River Street Bridge replacement project starts (anticipated in 2012).

Michael Bilodeau then arrived per appointment at 7:15 PM. He updated the Board on his plans for development of land he owns on Pleasant Street, intending at this time to construct and sell one single family residence on the property, for which he needs the Town's approval to connect to municipal water and wastewater service. Mr. Bilodeau's plans were reviewed, it being noted that he will need both local and state approvals since the land is in floodplain, applications for such approvals having been filed with the appropriate offices. Given that the Town has ample capacity available within both systems, a motion to approve an "Interim Permit" for connection to the Town's water and wastewater systems was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, the issuance of a "Final Permit" pending Mr. Bilodeau's receipt of all other necessary permits. Mr. Bilodeau thanked the Board for its attention to this matter, and departed at this time.

The Board next reviewed the following communications and placed them on file: (1) the BBA agenda for its 8-1-07 meeting, (2) notice of a workshop sponsored by the Census Bureau for the 2010 census, (3) a 7-27-07 letter from the Orton Family Foundation of a conference to be held in October re. "Community Matters", (4) a copy of an 8-9-07 e-mail received by the Chairman re. regional fiber-optic cable access, and (5) a 7-31-07 letter to Town Officials from the Vermont Water Quality Division re. the new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and the importance for property owners to check the status of their properties in relation to the new maps.

Discussion then turned to the subject of the July 11th flood event. Delbert Cloud updated the Board with information he has obtained from various state and federal sources, noting that much of the information is yet to be formalized by entities purportedly available to help accomplish reconstruction work. Joe De Freitas provided the Board with two letters he has obtained from state and federal sources on these matters. It was noted that Senator McCormack has been in continual contact with the Town to assist in learning necessary details pertaining to recovery efforts; it is not known if other legislators have been actively involved. Given what is thus far known, and the fact that a FEMA briefing session is scheduled for August 21, 2007, it was agreed that bids should be sought for most of the needed work. Delbert Cloud will provide contractors with bid information prior to the end of the current week.

A letter dated August 14, 2007 from William H. Oren pertaining to various matters will be taken up at the next meeting after the Board members have had the opportunity to review it.

With the time now being 9:10 PM, motion to adjourn was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson