

Minutes of the August 27, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, and Gary Slack.

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 August 14, 2007 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Board next reviewed minutes from the Bethel Planning Commission, these being for meetings of June 20, 2007, August 1, 2007 and August 15, 2007. It was noted that the Planning Commission is seeking feedback from the Selectboard re. the data sheet on emergency preparedness which was to be made available to citizens for direction on emergency planning matters. The Board asked Delbert Cloud to follow up with the Chairperson of the Planning Commission to express the Selectboard's thought that some of the text should be eliminated because a lengthy "statement of the purpose" is not necessary – the data sheet should be a succinct, quick-to-read set of information points in a format which would invite the public to keep it on file as a handy reference in time of need, or reminder of recommended procedures.

The Board also reviewed the Development Review Board minutes of August 7, 2007, the Health Officer's report for the second quarter, the Pre-construction Meeting minutes of August 22, 2007 for the Town Hall roof project, and the June 21, 2007 minutes of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. It was noted that the Town Hall roof project is scheduled to start immediately, with significant work to be initiated on the week of September 3, 2007.

As the local Board of Liquor Control Commissioners the Board approved issuance of a 1st Class/Restaurant license for The Creek House Diner, LLC.

With the time being 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox then called for the commencement of a Public Hearing to receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Town's "Zoning Ordinance" and "Land Subdivision Regulations." The subject amendments have been recommended by the Bethel Planning Commission, and formally warned for the conduct of the Public Hearing now at hand. Hearing no public comments, the Board members discussed the various amendments to the bylaws. It was noted that there is duplicative wording in the text of the Zoning Ordinance Section 920 – 1, which may already be edited in the Planning Commission's final draft. With no public comment forthcoming, Chairman Fox declared the Public Hearing to be closed at 6:45 PM. After due consideration, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried, to adopt the proposed amendments as prepared by the Bethel Commission per the provisions of Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 24 Section 4442, said amendments to be effective upon passage of 21 days from today's date of adoption.

A July 20, 2007 memo from the VLCT Board of Directors re. the VLCT Annual Business Meeting and Town Fair was reviewed. By motion of Neal Fox, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried, Delbert Cloud was designated as the Town's "Voting Delegate."

A draft "Report and Order" for the potential discontinuance of a purported public right-of-way near the Royalton Town Line in the vicinity of Vermont Castings Road was reviewed. It was noted that the final Public Hearing for consideration of this matter was held on July 23, 2007 and that the Board must record its action with the Town Clerk on or before September 22, 2007 per Vermont Statutes Title 19 Section 711.

Chairman Fox next welcomed Road Foreman Gary Slack, he being present to discuss the status of road repairs stemming from the flood event of July 11, 2007. Delbert Cloud provided an update on the only program which may be available for private property assistance, this being the "Emergency Watershed Protection" program; it appears that three property owners may qualify for assistance under that program. Proposals have been obtained from private contractors for reparation of several highways. A map was used to evaluate sites which will be presented to the FEMA inspection team at such time as inspections may be scheduled. The Board concurred that the Town crew should continue to do repairs on certain highways for which proposals have not been sought from private contractors, and that Delbert Cloud and Gary Slack should evaluate those proposals which have been obtained to establish priorities and make awards once costs have been carefully compared. It was agreed that no award should be made for contracted repair of Camp Brook Road at this time since that highway is not eligible for FEMA assistance and the Federal Highway Administration has not yet determined if a disaster will be declared whereby financial assistance can be requested. Delbert Cloud provided the Board with information he has obtained from lending institutions re. temporary borrowing to cover expenses on the flood repairs pending reimbursements which will be sought from State/federal sources. By motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and

unanimously carried, a \$400,000.00 line of credit will be opened with Mascoma Savings Bank at the rate of 3.9%.

The bids received for resurfacing the lower end of Christian Hill Road were discussed next. The proposal received from the Gorman Group to place a cold mix system was noted to be lower cost than others, the other proposals all being for placement of "hot mix." It has been learned that the Agency of Transportation now considers the "cold mix" system to be a suitable treatment, the Town of Randolph having used it on the Chelsea Mountain Road in 2006; the weather cycles have not seemed to effect that installation. Subject to confirmation that the Agency of Transportation financial assistance will be available for the contemplated installation, it was agreed that the Gorman Group's proposal should be accepted. The Town's share of the cost under the subject grant program will be 10%. Final cost will be based on actual tons in place, but the anticipated cost is in the magnitude of \$144,000.00, for which the Town's share would thus be \$14,400.00.

The following communications were then reviewed: (1) water quality test report from the White River Partnership for August 15, (2) the RC&D newsletter for August 2007, and (3) an August 3, 2007 letter from Vicki Williams asking if the Town might be able to pay for the repair of an underground dog control fence which had been damaged while flood repair work was being done. With regard to the latter, the Board determined that it would not be consistent with established policy to pay for any private property which is situated in the public right-of-way. Delbert Cloud will discuss this with Ms. Williams.

With no further business to attend, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson