

Minutes of the September 28, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Deborah Richards, Ola O'Dell, Geneva Gaiko, Roberta Dean, Linda Orr, Jerome Orr, Jesse Orr, and the following members of the Bethel Fire Department: Fire Chief David Aldrighetti, Assistant Chiefs Robert Dean and Scott Taylor, Kaleb Orr, and Jesse Richards.

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.

Chairman Fox asked Ola O'Dell if she had particular matters of business she wished to discuss with the Board before the business of the agenda might be taken up. Ms. O'Dell said she would like to have the Selectboard's approval to relocate the "Parks and Public Spaces" coin drop, which will be held on October 3rd from 10AM to 3PM, from Main Street to Church Street. She believed the set-up space would be more favorable on Church Street. The Board members concurred that the change would be acceptable. Ms. O'Dell also spoke of some erosion occurring on the northerly edge of Church Street which she thought needs attention; Delbert Cloud will have the Town Crew foreman look at the area. Lastly, Ms. O'Dell advised that Dandelion Acres has offered assistance in both planting and maintaining the triangle between the intersection of Routes 12 and 107, this being regarded by all as a highly desirable and beneficial arrangement in order to verify that the "gate-way" environment would be aesthetically kept.

The minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were then approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Development Review Board minutes of August 4, 2009 were reviewed and placed on file. Delbert Cloud offered detail to the minutes of the September 8, 2009 job meeting for the water system improvements project which is now on-going; various points of information regarding completion of the project were discussed including the clean-up and finish at individual properties. It was also noted that the next meeting of the Selectboard will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 and that a portion of the meeting will be dedicated to an informational meeting for the bond vote to seek voter approval of an additional \$150,000.00 as could allow another portion of work to be done within the water system.

The Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of September 3, 2009 were reviewed and placed on file, as were the Regional Planning Commission minutes of June 24, 2009 and July 11, 2009. In review of the financial statements accompanying the Regional Planning Commission minutes, it appeared that revenues for the preceding year had exceeded expenses and that there appeared to be investment funds earning interest. Given such, motion was made by Joe De Freitas, seconded by Neal Fox and unanimously carried, to ask the Commission if a reduction in annual dues should be anticipated.

At this time, Chairman Fox asked Roberta Dean if she would like to speak with the Board, it being noted that Mrs. Dean had submitted a letter dated September 12, 2009 to the Selectboard regarding the placement of artificial ornaments at cemeteries. Mrs. Dean voiced her concern over the treatment of artificial flowers under the Town's cemetery rules, and asked if the Selectboard would re-visit the subject in order to more fully determine the public's sentiments on this matter. Bob Dean suggested that if clean-up were a concern, that some provision might be possible to put in place to alleviate that. David Aldrighetti cautioned against using the "old" system of clean-up wherein all forms of debris were dumped over the bank and became visible when the leaves fell in the Autumn. Chairman Fox suggested that if there is a group of people who would like to meet to talk about this subject and develop some recommendations, the Board would welcome those. He offered that one of the Selectboard members might be able to meet with the group to facilitate communications back to the full Selectboard.

Chairman Fox then stated that he would like to again depart from the order of the agenda to address a very important matter while everyone were present. He called Fire Chief David Aldrighetti to step forth to the front of the room, and read the following "Letter of Commendation" to the Chief:

"It is a great pleasure to learn about the Letter of Recognition received by you from White River Valley Ambulance, Inc. resulting from the outstanding performance of the Bethel Fire Department at a recent automobile accident scene in East Bethel.

In view of your outstanding performance the Bethel Selectboard is pleased to present you with this Letter of Commendation. Your direction of this operation and the performance of your staff was truly a life saving event. Good, positive leadership results in exceptional staff performance. The Selectboard is proud of the Bethel Fire Department and the residents of Bethel need to be aware of the professionalism demonstrated during this recent event.

Again, our congratulations and encouragement to you in the continued professional development of your staff.”

He then presented Chief Aldrighetti with a framed copy of the referenced letters. He then called Kaleb Orr and Jesse Richards to come forth, and read the following “Letter(s) of Recognition” which he presented in framed format to them:

“It is a pleasure to present you with this Letter of Recognition for your outstanding performance during a recent event in East Bethel. Your attention to duty, acknowledgement of training and instruction resulted in a life saving situation.

Your performance has been recognized by your fire department leadership, the White River Valley Ambulance staff and the Bethel Selectboard. Our community is fortunate to have people with your talent, skills and commitment to serve in these times of need.

We are very proud of your performance and look forward to your continued service to the Town of Bethel.”

After applause from the people present in recognition of the Firemens’ noteworthy service, the public departed from the meeting and the Board returned to the order of the agenda.

Delbert Cloud reviewed the work envisioned to be done on Church Street, Main Street, and North Main Street in the forthcoming year under an Agency of Transportation enhancement grant. The currently planned work will consist of new sidewalks on Church Street and a portion of North Main Street, with new granite curbing and lighting, the latter possibly to be of the LED type with fixtures replicating those in the downtown. He suggested that the Town should budget for certain work to be done in conjunction, specifically: replacing/repairing storm drainage in the vicinity of the Post Office, and re-surfacing Church Street. Cloud emphasized that the re-surfacing of Church Street is a State of Vermont responsibility, but that it may not be scheduled in the near future by the State, as was the case on Pleasant Street (which was re-surfaced at Town expense this summer at a cost of \$45,192.18.) The Board members agreed that Cloud should obtain estimates for the suggested work, with the hope being that the expense would be approved by the voters at the forthcoming Town Meeting.

Cloud then provided the Board with an update on the plan for replacement of the deck on Bridge #48 over Locust Creek. The Board members unanimously approved the “Cooperative Agreement” with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and authorized Delbert Cloud to sign this, and any other necessary documents to allow the project to proceed.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a September 14, 2009 letter from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs advising that the Town has successfully completed all tasks under the “2007 Ancient Roads Research and Mapping Grant,” (2) the September 23, 2009 report of streamwater quality submitted by the White River Partnership, (3) exam scores for the Second Constable submitted by the Criminal Justice Training Council, and (4) various notices of permit applications being reviewed by the District 3 Environmental Commission, no action being required or taken by the Board on these.

With no further business to attend, the motion to adjourn was made at 9:45 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas