

Minutes of the November 9, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, Mary Ann Batcheller, Tim Mills, and John Dutton.

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 October 26, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Board approved a draft of a "letter to the editor" on the subject of class 4 roads, and instructed Delbert Cloud to have the letter transmitted for publication. The subject of "Economic Development Districts" had been tabled at the previous meeting, and this was taken up by the Board at this time. By motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was approved:

"WHEREAS, the member governments recognize that planning, problems and opportunities often transcend local boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development District is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members within the District, and

WHEREAS, State and federal programs are organized to promote the concept of expanded regional cooperation and active participation in decision making, and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Vermont has recognized this group of 40 towns within parts of Addison, Orange, Rutland, and Windsor Counties as an Economic Development Division, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, has recognized this group of 40 towns within parts of Addison, Orange, Rutland, and Windsor Counties as an economic development planning unit, and

WHEREAS, the member governments realize the value of cooperative planning, development and problem solving efforts on a regional basis and that economies can be realized and decision making on matters can best be made by officials and citizens within their own region, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Selectboard enthusiastically supports the formation of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District."

The Constable's report of November 1, 2009 was reviewed and placed on file.

Business pertaining to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project was then addressed. Delbert Cloud relayed the most recent information he had received from the architect on the status of bid invitation documents, it still being anticipated that the project will be released for bidding in the immediate future. The minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting of the Town Hall Committee were reviewed and placed on file. Mary Ann Batcheller provided the Board with a data sheet on the "Food Shelf" program which set forth the program's purpose and the essence of its operations, and a list of the appliances and furniture used to deliver its services. Consideration will be given as to how the program might be incorporated with other uses envisioned as part of the Town Hall's future utilization. Delbert Cloud also provided the Board members with a preliminary proposal from the Preservation Trust of Vermont whereby that entity might be able to assist the project by holding a "preservation easement" as is required by the Save America's Treasures program; consideration will be given to this and other potential options, no action being required at this time.

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Tim Mills and John Dutton, they being present per appointment to discuss the work of the Class 4 Road Committee. Mr. Mills provided a list of roads still being researched, and an evaluation of the Committee's progress which had been prepared by Dick Adams. Various of the roads on the subject list were

discussed as to their present purpose, their historic significance, and the relative priority each should be given in terms of the limited amount of time remaining for research and mapping. It was agreed that more time should be given to Towns within the State to complete the onerous task of documenting and mapping these roads, and that Delbert Cloud should draft a letter to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to see if a consortium of support could be developed and used to seek Legislative action to extend the allotted time for this work to be completed. It was noted that a failure to confirm and preserve the inventory of roads could very well be regretted in the future when their significance and value might become more apparent. At approximately 8:10 PM Mr. Mills and Mr. Dutton departed. A form which had been submitted to the Town by the Vermont Agency of Transportation relating to the width of right-of-way for Town Highway 79 (which is part of the historic Woodstock to Middlebury Turnpike) was reviewed by the Board, this being relevant to replacement of the deck on Bridge #48 which is located on this corridor. It was agreed that an assumed 3 rod right-of-way should be certified, and the Board members accordingly signed the subject form for return to the Agency. The Board then returned to the order of the Agenda.

Report of motorized vehicle usage and other activities on the Branlierre Town Forest land was discussed. The Board members decided that further insight should be made to see if the public's interests are being adversely affected.

Budget Status Reports as of October 30, 2009 for the Town General Fund and the Enterprise Funds were next reviewed, no action being required or taken as these were for informational purposes at this time. The subject of local appropriations to be presented to the voters for approval at the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting was discussed; it was agreed that the methodology for presenting the requests should be as per the prior year.

The water system project whereby the main suspended from the River Street Bridge has been relocated to a new below stream channel crossing has now been completed, and the bridge replacement project planned by the Agency of Transportation can now proceed without compromising the Town's water system. Delbert Cloud gave the Board a brief over-view of the federal regulations which will apply to drinking water supply systems drawing from "groundwater" sources after December 1, 2009. No change from present operations will be required, unless Coliform may be detected during routine samplings.

A "Solid Waste Facility Inspection Form" submitted by Barb Schwendtner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation was discussed, as were groundwater quality reports submitted by Endyne Environmental Laboratories, both of these pertaining to solid waste program operations; no action was required or taken by the board on these matters. Delbert Cloud gave a brief update on the work presently being done by Engineering Ventures to install a new set of scales at the facility.

The Board then made review of a recent decision from the Environmental Court whereby a Zoning Permit issued by the Town was found to have been incorrectly issued because the Variance approved by the Development Review Board did not represent the minimum variance that would afford the Applicant relief from the restrictions imposed by the Zoning Ordinance. The Board took no action on this matter.

A November 4, 2009 request from Central Vermont Public Service Corporation for permission to place poles and apparatus along the roadside by the Town Garage on Sand Hill Road was examined. The Board found the plans to be acceptable, and the requested easement was approved.

The Board next reviewed and placed on file the "Windsor County Courthouse" newsletter dated October 25, 2009.

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

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Neal Fox

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Bill Richards

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Joe De Freitas