

Minutes of the November 12, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Geneva Gaiko, and Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox. The minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were reviewed, these being approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Constables' reports of October 28, 2007; November 4, 2007; and November 5, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file. In association with old business from prior meetings, the Board briefly discussed the November 1, 2007 memo from the regional planning commission which dealt with the procedure to be used to notify member Towns of changes as they may be made to the Regional Plan. An October 12, 2007 memo from Ned Swanberg of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation was also reviewed and placed on file, this being further acknowledgement that the Town of Bethel has enforceable flood plain management regulations in place.

The minutes of the Class 4 Road Committee were next discussed, these being for meetings of October 28, 2007 and November 5, 2007. Note was made that the field work being done prior to winter seems to be progressing well. It is hoped that further Land Records research during the winter will bring the Committee's work to completion, with resulting recommendations submitted to the Board.

The Agency of Transportation has now transmitted the 2007 Town Highway Map. The Board examined a copy, confirming that the changes requested in February were in fact made, these changes being relevant to the class 4 road inventory. The AOT Mapping Unit has coded some of the newly added roads as being "impassable or untraveled" which is not correct in each case. Notes of corrections needed will be sent to the AOT prior to the February 2008 deadline.

A November 7, 2007 letter from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs was next discussed, this advising that the Town has been awarded a "Municipal Education Grant" which will be used to conduct a workshop on December 11, 2007 for committee members involved with administration of the Town's bylaws. The workshop will be directed most specifically toward the needs of the Development Review Board, Planning Commission, and Selectboard.

The initiative whereby fiber optic cables are proposed to be installed through the Central Vermont area to provide superior communication service was taken up next. It is anticipated that the sponsoring group will be asking the Town to incorporate an Article on the Warning for the forthcoming Town Meeting asking for voter support of the initiative; the wording of the proposed Article is not yet available. Delbert Cloud will try to have representative(s) of the initiative attend a meeting of the Selectboard prior to the Warning being finalized.

Delbert Cloud provided the Board with an update on repair work being done on highways and bridges which were damaged in the July 11th flood event. FEMA assessments of damage are now completed, and most of the project work sites have been "written up" and the corresponding repair costs are established. Bridge 25 on Lilliesville Brook Road is still not repaired, and additional bids for repair are now being sought with the hope that the bridge can still be usable again before winter.

The "Highway Equipment Fund" trade cycle was reviewed with the recent acquisition of a new plow truck in mind. As was intended, the cost for acquiring and equipping the truck will be spread over two years; the Fund will be drawn upon for the amount of \$72,348.00, and a loan will be obtained from a commercial lender in the amount of \$28,000.00 which will be re-paid from the Fund in fiscal year 2009.

The Board next reviewed draft FY '09 budgets for the Solid Waste Program, the Water Department, and the Wastewater Department. These will be reviewed further prior to final approval, for inclusion in the Annual Town Report.

The following communications were reviewed and placed on file: (1) an October 23, 2007 letter from Frances Rhynhart re. her concerns over the sharp edges on the pavement of Christian Hill Road, (2) a copy of an October 22, 2007 letter from Robert Leister to the District 3 Environmental Commission re. the Town's application to open a gravel pit on Sand Hill Road, (3) an October 25, 2007 memo from the VLCT Health Trust re. the "New Vision Plan," (4) an October 18, 2007 letter from the Enhanced 911 Board re. procedural matters associated with that program, and (5) a November 2007 transmittal from the Vermont Land Trust re. the Trust's Annual Report.

At 8:08 PM, the motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss: (1) litigation in which the Town is a party, and (2) matters associated with contract negotiations on rights to real estate. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 8:45 PM, motion to adjourn to 6:00 PM on Monday, November 19, 2007 was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson