

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

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 November 19, 2007 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The Constable's reports of November 18, 2007; November 25, 2007; and December 2, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file.

Delbert Cloud informed the Board that the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, through the local snowmachine club, would like to have permission to use the same Town Highways for trail purposes as had been approved the previous year, and subject to the same conditions of use. After due consideration, motion to approve the request was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried.

The minutes of the Bethel Planning Commission of November 14, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file, it being noted that the referral of amendments to the Bethel Zoning Ordinance was provided for under the subject meeting. Said proposed amendments are now subject to a Public Hearing by the Selectboard as an agenda item for this current meeting.

The regional planning commission minutes of October 10, 2007 and October 24, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file.

The Board then acknowledged receipt of a letter of resignation from Jonathan Hodgdon dated November 20, 2007 from his appointed position as the Town's representative to the White River Valley Ambulance's Board of Directors. The Board accepted Mr. Hodgdon's resignation with regret, and instructed Delbert Cloud to prepare a letter of appreciation for Mr. Hodgdon's many years of service to the Town. It was agreed that Neal Fox should serve as the Town's representative to the respective Board for a period of time until a successor can be appointed.

The Board then considered two requests for Town funds: (1) a request from the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for \$800.00 will be entered as a separate Article on the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting; (2) a request from the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council will be tabled until a budget is provided by that entity showing how funds are managed.

With respect to a survey being done by the Vermont Agency of Transportation re. Act 178 of the Vermont Legislature, it was agreed that the same responses as were made to the same survey last year should be resubmitted since there are no changes in circumstances surrounding the issue.

Delbert Cloud reported to the Board that some of the Town's employees are interested in obtaining vision insurance through an offering from the VLCT Health Trust. Individuals can obtain coverage without the inclusion of all employees. With the understanding that there would be no participation financially by the Town, the Board approved access to the "Vision Plan" option.

As the time was then 6:30 PM, Chairman Fox declared that a Public Hearing should commence, to receive public comment on amendments being proposed for the Bethel Zoning Ordinance. Chairman Fox read the following "Report to Accompany Proposed Bylaw Amendments" from the Bethel Planning Commission per V.S.A. Title 24 Section 4441: "These changes are being made to update Bethel's flood hazard regulations and to keep the Town of Bethel in good standing with the federal requirements contained within the National Flood Insurance Program. These changes conform with and further the goals and policies of the Town Plan in that they serve to ensure that housing will be both safe and affordable. These changes cause no impacts on the proposed future land uses and densities as set forth in the Town Plan, and are not applicable to any specific proposals for planned community facilities."

Since no public comment was forthcoming, Chairman Fox declared the Hearing closed at approximately 6:40 PM. Subsequently to the close of the Hearing, motion to adopt the proposed amendments as forwarded by the Bethel Planning Commission was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried. It is understood that the amendments will become effective in 21 days.

The Board members then discussed the draft "Selectmen's Report" for the year ended June 30, 2007. It was agreed that additional explanation should be inserted about the Vermont Legislature's role in necessitating

the on-going study of class 4 roads, and that some reference should be made to the budget implications of the July 11, 2007 flood event. The "Report" will be reviewed further at the meeting on December 17, 2007.

Per appointment, Chairman Fox invited Amy Bergamo to provide recommendations from the Town Hall Rehabilitation Committee. Ms. Bergamo provided two recommendations: (1) that the voters should be asked by a separate Article on the Annual Town Meeting Warning for appropriation of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Fund, and (2) that the Selectboard should review the Town's Ordinance regarding the use of alcoholic beverages as it applies to the Town Hall property and events held thereon. The Board members concurred with both recommendations, and will examine the subject Ordinance in the near future. Ms. Bergamo departed at approximately 7:05 PM.

The Board next discussed the Town's position regarding maintenance of certain roads during the Winter season. It was agreed that the entire class 3 portion of Woodland Road should be maintained as in the past as soon as repair work from the July 11, 2007 flood damage could be completed.

A memo dated November 16, 2007 from Kevin Geiger of the regional planning commission was reviewed re. "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans." By motion of Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, it was agreed that the regional planning commission should be asked to help the Town prepare such a plan.

The following communications were reviewed and placed on file: (1) notice of an educational workshop being held December 11, 2007 re. Bylaw issues, (2) a November 15, 2007 letter from the Vermont Dept. of Taxes re. the 2007 Equalization Study, (3) a November 14, 2007 letter from the VLCT Health Trust re. Health Trust Plan Changes, (4) various communications re. recreational use of class 4 roads, and (5) notices from the District Office of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation re. permit actions.

At 7:40 PM the motion was made by Eric Benson, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to enter executive session to discuss litigation in which the Town is a party. Delbert Cloud was the only person remaining with the Board during the executive session. No minutes were kept. Upon return to open meeting at 8:25 PM, the only motion was that to adjourn, this being made by Bill Richards, seconded by Eric Benson and unanimously carried, the next meeting to be on December 17, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Eric Benson