

Minutes of the December 17, 2007 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Eric Benson, Delbert Cloud, Paul Davis, John Kresser, Loredo Sola, and Mary Anderson for the "Herald of Randolph."

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Neal Fox, the Board initially reviewing and approving the weekly payroll and payables. The minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Neal Fox and thus carried. The Constable's reports of December 9 and 16, 2007 were reviewed and placed on file.

The November 2007 report of "Reserve Hydraulic Capacity" for the wastewater treatment system was then discussed. It was noted that this is the last such report which will be issued by the Agency of Natural Resources, in significant part due to changes in permitting requirements for connections to the system, these being approved solely by the Town henceforth.

The proposed budget for Windsor County has been received from the Assistant Judges, and the Board members concurred that the budget impact to the Town would not be much different than last year. It was noted that a Hearing will be held on the budget on January 9, 2008.

A 12-6-07 letter from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation was then reviewed, this advising that Old Christ Church will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No action was required or taken by the Board on this matter, which was informational in nature.

The "Budget Status Report" for the Town General Fund as of December 3, 2007 was next reviewed, in preparation for discussion of the fiscal '09 budget which will be considered at the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting. A December 8, 2007 letter from Heidi Nikolaidis was also reviewed, this regarding an appropriation for the Parks and Public Places Committee's purposes. The draft budget for FY '09 was then discussed, and comparisons made to prior year budgets and tax rate implications. It was agreed that the budget appeared to be reasonable, and that a couple of line items within the Public Works and Fire Department categories would be reviewed further before anticipated finalizing at the next meeting on January 14, 2008.

As the time was then 7:00 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Loredo Sola of the East Central Vermont Community Fiber Internet Project, Mr. Sola being present per appointment at the Board's request to clarify various matters associated with the proposed development of fiber optic communications in the central Vermont area. Mr. Sola gave a general update on the project and then turned to more specific questions which had been directed to him by the Board. The Board found the presentation to be most helpful and agreed that the project warranted discussion at Town Meeting, with the potential of a public vote in support of the initiative. Mr. Sola departed subsequent to this discussion.

The Board then turned to discussion of the "Warning" for the annual Town meeting. It was agreed that the voters should be asked to consider increasing the exemption on the residential tax appraisal value for veterans receiving disability compensation for at least 50% disability, from the present level of \$20,000 to the now allowed level of \$40,000. A final draft of the "Warning" will be considered for approval at the January 14, 2008 meeting of the Board.

A revised draft of the Selectmen's Report was then reviewed and found to be complete for publication in the Annual town Report.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) three documents as were the basis of an educational workshop held on Town bylaw administration, and (2) the VLCT News publication of December 2007.

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