

Minutes of the December 14, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe De Freitas, Delbert Cloud, David Aldrighetti, and Robert Hyde.

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 23, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved by motion of Joe De Freitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. A December 14, 2009 letter from Louise Ferris-Burt was noted as having been left for the Board's attention re. an appropriation of taxes. The Board reviewed and placed on file the Constable's report of December 1, 2009. Delbert Cloud provided each of the Board members with a copy of the Town Hall Committee minutes of December 10, 2009, and a copy of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns "Legislative Report" of December 10, 2009.

The Board then took up business under the order of the Agenda. The Planning Commission agenda of the meeting scheduled for December 16, 2009 was first reviewed, no action being required or taken. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee minutes of November 11, 2009 were also reviewed and placed on file. On a related matter, a memo from the Royalton Selectboard office was discussed, this pertaining to the matter of scheduling a joint meeting. It was agreed that the immediate weeks ahead have a number of scheduling conflicts such that it would be difficult to set a date at this time. Delbert Cloud will review matters with the Royalton Board in the interim.

At 6:25 PM, Chairman Fox welcomed Fire Chief David Aldrighetti, he being present to discuss matters associated with the Fire Department and the Fiscal 2011 budget for the Department. He also provided the Board members with an article re. liability issues to which Towns /Fire Departments are exposed. A draft of the 2011 budget was reviewed as were certain line items from the expenditures chart of accounts for the year ended June 30, 2009, and expenses to date in the current budget year. Of particular importance to all, it was agreed that provision should be made for upgrading of the Department's equipment fleet, and it was agreed that the voters should be asked to appropriate a larger amount of funding to the "Safety and Equipment Fund" for that purpose. Chief Aldrighetti also provided the Board with a record of responses made by the Department during the current (calendar) year, categorized in accordance with the nature of the response.

Chief Aldrighetti departed at approximately 7:30 PM, and Chairman Fox welcomed Robert Hyde, Town Crew Foreman, he being present to assist in review of public works projects and scheduled expenditures for the 2011 Fiscal Year. A lengthy review and discussion ensued, as there are numerous money demands which will need to be presented for the voters' consideration. Various adjustments were agreed upon in the draft budget(s) for the Public Works Department and the Town General Fund. Delbert Cloud will develop drafts of the revised budgets and the "Warning" for the Annual Town Meeting for the Board's review at its next scheduled meeting on December 28, 2009.

Mr. Hyde departed at approximately 9:00 PM, and the Board returned to the business of the Agenda. The regional planning commission minutes of October 14, 2009 and October 28, 2009 were reviewed and placed on file after a brief discussion.

"Semi-Final" plans for replacement of the River Street Bridge have been provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and these were examined by the Board. At this time, the Town is also in receipt of "Right-of-Way" plans for the State's bridge rehabilitation project on Vermont Route 12 toward Barnard, wherein the bridge over Locust Creek just before the junction with Town Highway #79 will be rehabbed. Neither of these projects require financial participation by the Town as they are State-owned bridges.

The following communications were next reviewed and placed on file: (1) a proposed budget for the White River Valley Ambulance for calendar year 2010, (2) a draft application submitted by the Town to the "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant" program for financial assistance in rehabilitation of the Town Hall, (3) notice of the "Warning for the Windsor County Preliminary Budget Hearing", (4) the regional

planning commission's newsletter for November 2009, (5) a copy of a letter sent to John Durfee by the Vermont Agency of Transportation re. the right-of-way for a segment of highway near the junction of Routes 12 and 107 near Locust Creek, and (6) various communications between committee members and others working on the so-called "Ancient Roads" identification and mapping projects around the State.

With no further business to attend, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM by motion of Bill Richards, seconded by Joe De Freitas and unanimously carried.

---

Neal Fox

---

Bill Richards

---

Joe De Freitas