

Minutes of the December 22, 2008 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: Neal Fox, Bill Richards, Joe DeFreitas, Delbert Cloud, and Joe Duncan of the engineering firm Forcier Aldrich & Associates.

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. Since Mr. Duncan was present and available as the evening's first appointment, Chairman Fox welcomed him and suggested that the business he needed to conduct should be addressed at this time. Mr. Duncan proceeded to explain the work his firm has done to date in preparing for the relocation of the water system main which is suspended from the River Street Bridge. His presentation outlined various alternatives/cost estimates, permitting considerations, and financing options. At this point, if the State Water Supply Division officials determine that the plans are appropriate, work can proceed to "final design" in anticipation of advancing the project to bidding during the 2009 construction season. After discussion concluded, motion was made by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried, to authorize Delbert Cloud to execute the final design "Engineering Services Agreement" subject to necessary State review and clearance of permitting and financing provisions. Mr. Duncan then departed, the time being 7:00 PM.

Since the time had arrived for the scheduled Public Hearing on proposed Bylaw amendments (Bethel Zoning Ordinance), Chairman Fox called the Public Hearing to be open. A review of the final draft of the amendments was conducted, as well as a review of: (1) the Public Hearing notice which had been placed in the December 4, 2008 edition of the "Herald of Randolph," (2) the December 1, 2008 memorandum transmitted on behalf of the Selectboard to the Planning Commission advising of certain changes being made by the Selectboard, and (3) the December 17, 2008 memorandum from the Planning Commission Chair in response to the proposed changes. After due discussion and review of the proposed amendments, and with note that no one was present from the public to provide input, Chairman Fox declared the Public Hearing to be concluded, the time being 7:08 PM. Subsequently, the motion was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried, to approve the amendments as they were set forth with changes by the Selectboard made at that Board's November 24, 2008 meeting.

The minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were then approved by motion of Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried. The October 15 and 22, 2008 meeting minutes of the regional planning commission were reviewed and placed on file, as were the August 21, 2008 minutes of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Constable's report of November 30, 2008.

In preparation for the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting, and publication of the Annual Town Report, drafts of the following were reviewed and discussed: the "Selectmen's Report" for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008; the General Fund Budget for fiscal year 2010; and the "Warning" for the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that the Human Services Advisory Committee should be asked to recommend appropriations up to an aggregate amount of \$17,500.00. It was also agreed that no appropriation would be entered for voter consideration of the November 28, 2008 request from Chandler Music Hall & Gallery. The drafts of the above will be left open for further consideration until final action may be taken at a forthcoming meeting of the Board.

The following communications were then reviewed and placed on file: (1) a December 12, 2008 response from Representative Peter Welch re. the weight limits applicable to the Interstate Highway system, (2) a December 8, 2008 "Performance Audit Inspection Report" re. the wastewater treatment system submitted by State of Vermont Laboratory Specialist Andrew Fish, and (3) various State of Vermont permit documents applicable to projects on private properties.

Delbert Cloud reported that the Bethel Snow Machine Club has requested approval to use the same Town Highways within its trail system as were approved last year, with addition of the portion of Fish Hill Road which lies within Bethel. After due consideration, motion to approve the request subject to the customary conditions was made by Joe DeFreitas, seconded by Bill Richards and unanimously carried.

With no further business to conduct, the motion to adjourn was made at 10:30 PM by Bill Richards, seconded by Joe DeFreitas and unanimously carried.

Neal Fox

Bill Richards

Joe De Freitas