

## Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

### Meeting Minutes

#### Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room

July 29, 2013

Present: Chairman Blanchard, Selectman Culver, Selectman Laleme, Selectman Fiorentino, Selectman Glavac.

Chairman Blanchard opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Bethlehem Village District Commissioners, Dick Robie and Russell Mardin, came before the Board to discuss the bill for the cost of water repair on Millers Run Road. Mr. Robie said there are 15 homes down there and they own the water system. They produced an agreement from 1971 that says they (development) would put in a 6 inch water line and then the Town Village District would take it over. Mr. Robie said it still doesn't have the 6 inch water line so the agreement is null and void. Mr. Robie said the prior Select Board's have set a precedent by making numerous repairs over the years at the expense of the town. Selectman Laleme said in 2005 the state was involved and said the Town was responsible for under the road. Selectman Culver asked if the homeowners have been billed for the cost of the repairs. He was told no they haven't. Mr. Robie said they became involved this time because the Road Agent complained about the road and said he couldn't plow because of the water problem. Mr. Robie suggested the Town and the Village District split the bill then come up with a way to prevent this from happening again. There was discussion about inviting the homeowners to a meeting with the Select Board and the Commissioners. Selectman Culver said he doesn't think the Town should pay any of the bill because the Town doesn't receive any money from the homeowners but the Village District does receive money for water from the homeowners. Selectman Fiorentino moved that the Town pay ½ with the Village District so we can move forward and get positive resolution. Selectman Glavac seconded. Selectman Culver said again he doesn't think we should agree to this without getting legal advice. Chairman Blanchard suggested we have the meeting first. Motion failed 2-3. Chairman Blanchard moved to get together with the 15 homeowners and discuss with them the agreement that required 6 inch water line and explain to them if it breaks again it is their responsibility and at that time the Board would consider agreeing to pay 50% of the bill. Selectman Laleme seconded. Selectman Laleme said she thinks the Village District should get legal advice. It was determined that they would try to have the meeting 2 weeks from tonight (August 12<sup>th</sup>) and have it be a work session. Carried 5-0.

Cheryl Jensen came before the Board to share thank you notes from the students at Bethlehem Elementary School that were thanking the Conservation Commission for their contribution of \$500.00 towards their field trip to the Boston Museum of Science.

Cheryl also asked the Board about the Conservation Easements at North Country Environmental Services and the one near the former Transfer Station. She was told the one with NCES is being held by the Town and has been submitted to the Grafton County Registry of Deeds for recording. She was also told the

one by the Transfer Station is being held by Rebecca Brown and that Rebecca just submitted it to our attorney so we are still waiting on that one.

Cheryl Jensen asked how the easement will be monitored and if money is being put aside for legal defense for it. Chairman Blanchard said not at this time but probably in next year's budget.

Cheryl asked the Board if there is a Town surveyor. The Board understood it to be Kevin Morse but they do not know if that is official or not.

Rhienna came before the Board to request a price increase in the after school program. She called area programs and found that our rates are the lowest. She would like to increase the fee from \$5.00 a day to \$6.00 a day and increase the sibling cost from \$2.50 a day to \$4.00 a day. She would like this to be effective at the start of this school year. Selectman Laleme moved to approve the proposed increase. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Blanchard spoke of a letter that was written about concern with the library construction and the drainage. The Board referred this to George Brodeur.

The Board reviewed the minutes from 07/22/13. Selectman Laleme moved to approve the minutes as written. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Carried 3-0 (Selectmen Glavac and Fiorentino abstained).

The Board discussed the 98% ratio of our values and if they wanted to be at 98% or 100%. The Board wants some clarification from Rob about this.

Chairman Blanchard said that the Country Club may want to set fee for carts for a season pass.

At 8:00 Chairman Blanchard moved to go into non-public session per 91a for matters of personnel and reputation. Selectman Laleme seconded. Chairman Blanchard did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

The Board discussed deed waivers.

The Board discussed personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant