

Town of Royalton
Regular Selectboard Meeting
Royalton Selectboard Office

December 11, 2012

Royalton Selectboard: Chairman Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Ernie Amsden, Phil Gates, and Joan Goldstein

Public present: Administration and Finance Manager Rose Hemond, Flood Plain Administrator Walter Hastings, Assistant Town Clerk Pam Levasseur, Chief Bob Hull, Cathy Hazlett from Health Connections

Chairman Trottier opened the Regular Selectboard Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Appointments: Chairman Trottier welcomed Cathy Hazlett from Health Connections to the meeting. Cathy Hazlett informed the Selectboard that she works with area towns to develop smoke free areas. She spoke of Hartford and Woodstock having policies that designate public areas to be smoke or tobacco free. Cathy asked if the Selectboard would consider a smoke free policy for the Royalton Town Green. Joan Goldstein asked if this was a public concern or was Health Connections being proactive. Cathy said this was a proactive movement. Joan expressed concern how this would infringe on people's rights. There was further discussion about enforcing a policy as the police department is small and very busy with other issues. Cathy mentioned posting signs around town would be a form of self policing the policy. Ernie Amsden said he cannot support such a plan. He expressed the difficulty in enforcing such a policy. Ernie pointed out all a person needs to do is walk or move away from someone who is smoking in a public place. Joan mentioned that she would like the request to come from the community. Cathy Hazlett suggested a survey that would be handed out on town meeting day asking for feedback from the community about smoke free public places. The Selectboard said they would be interested in hearing the results of the survey.

Public Concerns

None

Selectboard Board

Motion by J. Goldstein, second by P. Ainsworth to approve amended Selectboard Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2012. Motion passed 4-0

Selectboard

Motion by P. Ainsworth seconded by J. Goldstein to appoint Pamela Levasseur as the Royalton 911 coordinator Motion passed 4-0

Accounts Payable reviewed and approved.

Walter Hastings is handling the FEMA buyouts located in Royalton. Walter reported Steve Lagasse is handling the appraisals for the buyout properties. He also reported that only one bid was received from Clay Point Associates for asbestos inspections for the 4 buyout properties. The bid was unclear as to the extent of the work that was included in the proposed cost. Walter will call Clay Point and find out more details. The question came up as to why 106 Bridge Street (where there is no structure) costs \$1195 to inspect. Walter will also find out when all the structures were built. Ernie Amsden pointed out this was not an estimate but a contract price. Walter reported two bids were received for legal services related to the buyouts. One from Frank Berk and the other from Alison Gravel. No decision was made. The Board requested Walter go back to each attorney and have each of them set a cap on legal fees. Each attorney will be asked on an individual basis as to the maximum charged for their services.

Contested parking ticket: Emily Berk contested parking ticket # 5552 dated 12/01/12.

The Selectboard decided not to waive the fee but since Emily is a full time student, offer her the option of working 10 hours for the town instead of paying the ticket. Rose Hemond will draft a letter to be mailed to Emily Berk and report her response back to the Selectboard.

Royalton Police Chief Bob Hull reported to the Selectboard on local crime stating there have been 1250 incidents this year so far. Chief Hull reported the Vermont State Police are pushing more responsibility onto the town police. Discussion ensued about area crime and drugs at the local school. Joan Goldstein asked if police activity for the town of Sharon has increased since they contract our services. Chief Hull reported it has not. Phil Gates asked if the enforcement budget for FY 13/14 needs to be increased due to the added incidents and Chief Hull said it was not necessary. Discussion about the need for a police station not just a police office when the department relocates to the Crawford Property. Chief Hull reported on grant money they received for equipment and funds for additional coverage for speeding and DWI. He reported that he spends half his time tending to civil matters and half his time on criminal matters. The Selectboard asked if the Royalton Police Department can resume publishing the police log in the local newspaper. This would allow the community to be informed of all the police matters that are being handled out of the department. He said he would ask John Breault to handle this.

Delinquent Taxes. Rose Hemond presented the Selectboard with a delinquent tax analysis report which reconciled Royalton delinquent tax totals to those of the delinquent tax collector Ilerdon Mayer.

Discussion ensued about the collection policy of the delinquent tax collector.

For 2012 there was over \$250,000.00 in delinquent taxes. The Selectboard would like to contact Ilerdon Mayer and request that he change his tax sale policy. Instead of waiting two years to conduct tax sales would he consider conducting tax sales every 90 days to 6 months? The Board discussed what to do with mobile homes that the town may buy up during tax sales. They agreed that this would be a way of getting them off the books. Ernie asked the possibility of exploring small claims court as an option to collect delinquent taxes. He expressed an interest in other forms of collection.

BRELLA Application for Crawford Property. The Selectboard would like to move forward in the BRELLA application process. Rose Hemond will compile the documentation necessary. A \$500.00 application fee is needed to apply.

Motion is passed 4-0 to apply for BRELLA funds and pay the \$500.00 fee

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rose Hemond