

**Town of Royalton
Regular Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Office
May 14 ,2013**

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

Public present: Robert Townsend, Sandy Manouvelos, Stuart Levassuer, Roger McCrillis, Caitlin Lovegrove, Justin McCourt, Michael Epchook, Frank Berk, Tim Murphy, Carol Burke, Shaun Judge, Rose Hemond

Chairman Larry Trottier opened the Regular Selectboard Meeting at 7:00pm

Robert Townsend from American Consulting Engineers spoke to the Selectboard about preparing the ACT 250 permit application to operate a gravel pit on the Crawford property. Robert asked the Selectboard specific information about the gravel pit to help complete the ACT 250 permit application. He wanted to know how long there will be gravel crushing. The Selectboard responded that there will be three weeks total of crushing between June and September time frame. There will be 10K yards of gravel crushed each year. 4k-5K yards of sand extracted each year. During peak extraction there will be a maximum of 30 truck trips per day.

Michael Epchook spoke to the Selectboard about an upcoming event at the South Royalton Skateboard Park on Saturday 05/25/13 from 2-6pm. Peggy expressed concern about liability for the town and signs are posted that you can skate at your own risk and the town is not responsible for any injuries incurred at the skateboard park. The Selectboard thanked Michael for stopping by.

Tim Murphy from the South Royalton School spoke about Encore Solar projects for the town and it was agreed that this type of Solar panel project was not a priority for the town or the school at this point. Larry asked Tim to touch base with the town in a year from now to see if anything has changed.

Carol Burke from Green Mountain Power informed the Selectboard of improvement projects along Waterman Road to Route 107 and upgrading everything that goes through the village of Royalton. GMP needs access to easement between Bethel and Royalton to take a line out in front of landfill and replace pole. Carol asked for easement to be signed by Royalton Selectboard for land co-owned with town of Bethel to do work on Waterman Road. Easement gives permission for Green Mountain Power to put line in and maintain it. **P. Gates motioned and J Goldstein seconded to sign easement to authorize Green Mountain Power to do upgrades on Waterman Road at landfill sight Motion passed 4-0.**

Caitlin Lovegrove and Justin McCourt spoke about the South Royalton Wi-Fi project. Caitlin and Justin provided details about the Vermont Digital Economy Wi-Fi Project. They presented the equipment that is to be installed in town to create a Wi-Fi zone. The equipment comes with a 5 year license and warranty. The only cost to the town is for the designated internet line. (\$80.00) Rose Hemond said once the Wi-Fi has been launched, she can ask local businesses if they would like to like to buy advertising space on the landing page. Ernie expressed concern about the town spending \$80.00 a month on a designated internet line for the Wi-Fi. It was also discussed if there was to be Wi-Fi at the Royalton Academy building which is to become a designated Red Cross Shelter for an additional \$80.00 a month. Caitlin suggested since the organizations that lease space at the Academy Building already have internet access the Digital Economy would donate a piece of equipment to create a Wi-Fi zone at the Academy by using one of the already existing internet lines. Rose said she would contact the White River Partnership to see if they were interested in this plan.

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded. Motion passed 3-1 to install Wi-Fi equipment and implement a Wi-Fi zone on the town green. E. Amsden voted no.

Frank Berk offered to sponsor the Royalton Wi-Fi landing page and pay \$80.00 a month to host the landing page for Wi-Fi Royalton. The Selectboard thanked him for doing this.

Public Concerns Sandy Manouvelos asked what is to be done by Pike in regards to the poor paving on the Oxbow Road. Roger McCrillis has not heard back from Pike.

Bridget Barry Chairperson of the Recreation Committee asked the Selectboard if the dugout project went over budget for FY 12/13, could they use funds from their FY 13/14 budget to finish their dugouts budget. Rose Hemond said they could continue with their projects and any expense would be recorded as a prepaid for the next budget season. Bridget mentioned they need another \$3K -\$5K to finish the project. Discussion ensued about the possibility of insuring the dugouts. Rose Hemond will inquire about how Town of Bethel insures their dugouts. **J. Goldstein moved and P.Gates seconded to give permission for recreation commission to use some of FY13/14 budget. Motion passed 4-0.**

Crawford Property: Larry asked Frank Berk for his thoughts on the Crawford Property. Frank expressed concern about the possibility of not getting the ACT 250 permit to extract gravel. He said it will take 3-4 months to get the permit. He said he is ready to move ahead if the Selectboard wants to. If the town cannot get an ACT 250 permit they will sell the property. Joan felt there was no urgency in buying the property. Phil said it was important to move forward to move ahead with the purchase because the Crawford's have already waited 2 years since this process has begun. **E Amsden motioned and P Gates seconded to move ahead with Crawford Property purchase immediately. Motion passed 3-1 J. Goldstein voted no.**

Academy Building Rental White River Partnership offered to lease the space vacated by the Royalton Preschool for \$5000.00 a year. The Selectboard requested Rose Hemond to counter-offer with \$5700.00 stating that is what the preschool paid. **P Gates moved and E. Amsden seconded to counter- offer White River Partnership with \$5700.00 per year. Motion passed 4-0.**

Transportation Enhancement Grant: This grant to perform a feasibility study for sidewalks in South Royalton was originally an 80% grant which was reduced to 50% grant. The Selectboard asked Rose Hemond to find out if the scope of work for the feasibility study was shortened would the state increase grant funds. The answer from Pattie Coburn from the State of Vermont was "no." **P. Gates motioned and E. Amsden seconded to let the grant go Motion passed 4-0.**

Funds Transfer for Town Clerks account. Karmen Bascom requested \$500.00 in buffer funds to be transferred to the Town Clerks account to cover a timing difference between when she submits information to the state about permits and licenses and the state of Vermont deducts the funds from her clerk bank account before she has deposited them. She does not make small deposits each week. These funds are just to keep the account from being overdrawn. **E. Amsden motioned and P.Gates seconded to authorize transfer of funds to Town Clerk Bank account motion passed 4-0.**

Excess weight Permits Eric Thorn, Harvey C. Ballou, Ronnie Johnson Landscaping, Limlaw Chipping and Landscaping, Richard Moses, and JJ and Sons Logging. **P.Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to approve weight permits as presented. Motion passed 4-0.**

State of Vermont to purchase right for Spaulding Bridge Project State of Vermont wants to purchase right of way. P. Ainsworth asked if the town needs to have a hearing to give up right of way. Will the state maintain the right of way? Rose will check with the state about these questions.

BALE request use of town green on 06/13/13 from 3pm-6pm. P. Gates moved and J. Goldstein seconded to approve BALEfest on the town green. Motion passed 4-0

Pamela Goldsborough owner of the SoRo House requested use of the bandstand on 06/22/13 from 6-10pm. **E. Amsden motioned and P. Gates seconded approval for Pamela Goldsborough to use town bandstand on 06/22/13.**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved Accounts payable.

Selectboard Meeting Minutes for 04/23/13 **P. Ainsworth moved to approve the 04/23/13 meeting minutes with corrections E Amsden seconded Motion passed 4-0.**

Letter to Royalton Selectboard from the Sharon Selectboard expressing support of reorganization of the Royalton Rescue Squad.

Office Space for the Administration and Finance Manager. It was mentioned that the possibility to build town offices could take 1.5 years and up to 3 years even under the best circumstances. Rose Hemond reported that working out of two offices was not productive and efficient for her position. She requested to be moved where the financial records are and where she can work more closely with the Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington. Rose also expressed safety concerns being located in the Police Department. She felt unprepared for those who stopped by the office with police matters. The Selectboard discussed options on how to move Rose to the Town Clerks office. The Listers office was suggested as an option. Jeff Barcelow, one of the Town Listers, suggested to Rose putting something (a trailer) in the space between the Fire Department and Town Clerks office. The Listers are currently in the office two days a week. Larry expressed the Selectboard to move the Listers and respond to a need the town currently has. **J. Goldstein motioned to move Rose Hemond to the current Listers located at the Town Clerks office and purchase a trailer to move the Listers into. Funds will be taken from the Building Reserve Fund. Potential places may be between the Fire Department or across the street from Town Clerks office. L. Trottier seconded Motion passed 4-0.**

Bloss Ballou Survey: According to Town Attorney Frank Berk: The Town of Royalton is not responsible for any further monumentation on Bloss Ballou Road. The surveyors (Lisa Ginet) will prepare a description and file the survey with the Royalton Town Clerk It will cost \$370.00 to complete the survey **P Gates motioned and E Amsden seconded for Sunwise Survey to complete survey work on Bloss Ballou Road. Motion passed 4-0.**

Lawrence Swanson Survey: Peggy suggested this invoice for a Survey for Gilman Road of \$4,610.00 be moved from Selectboard Miscellaneous to Highway legal fees; Selectboard will review budgets next meeting and decide.

Larry reported that Mark Corliss will mow the Branchview Cemetery two times.
Once the town takes over, the Cemetery Commissioners can take over.

Handicap Parking Roger McCrillis reported his recommendations of where to place handicap parking off the green.

Roger reported only 4 banners remain on the bridge. The Selectboard told Roger to hang more flags over the bridge. The banners are too costly to replace.

Peggy mentioned a stop sign that used to be located across from the Royalton Bethel Landfill exit.

Joan asked about the progress of enforcing the dog ordinance. Rose Hemond reminded the Selectboard that authorized Seth Stoddard from the Royalton Road crew to issue tickets to dog ordinance violators. Seth did not want to be responsible for enforcing this ordinance. John Leighton, the second constable, was contacted by Office Breault and said he would write tickets to enforce the ordinance

Phil Gates spoke about a nitrogen removal project and how to gather funds for this project. He said the EPA will mandate Royalton to do this and the cost will be \$500,000.00. Phil would like to proceed with planning for this project. Phil would like to proceed with applying for a planning grant. Larry asked for two weeks to think about all that Phil has discussed.

Phone line at the Pump Station is paid for by SOS which charges the town an additional 15% to the billing. Phil is asking the town to take over the phone line at the Pump station. Fairpoint can bill the town.

Roger McCrillis met with Jeff Tucker from Dubois and King to review the Johnson Hill Culvert Project. Jeff told Roger that FEMA is considering an alternate project for Perley Farm Road. He also told Roger he will be ready to put the Fox Stand Bridge approach work out to bid shortly.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by:
Rose Hemond