

**Royalton Selectboard  
Royalton Selectboard Office  
March 12, 2013**

**Selectboard Present:** Larry Trottier, Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth, Phil Gates, Late arrival Joan Goldstein  
7:25 pm

**Public Present:** Mrs. Sandra Manouvelos, Mr. Stuart Levasseur, Gidget Lyman, Dan Kinney, Rose Hemond

Chairman Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

**Public Concerns**

**Mrs. Sandy Manouvelos** said she was interested in the Fox Stand Bridge and guardrails on the Oxbow Road. Sandy had expressed interest before to the Selectboard in having guard rails put up on the Oxbow Road. Sandy also reported her concern about VLS students walking at night and their safety. She suggested that the students should wear something visible in the dark. Larry recommended for Sandy to call Shirley Jefferson at the Vermont Law School. Rose Hemond gave Sandy contact information for Shirley Jefferson.

**Selectboard Re-Organization**

**P. Ainsworth made a motion, E. Amsden seconded, nominating Larry Trottier as Royalton Selectboard Chairman. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Larry thanked the Selectboard for their continued support.**

**P. Gates made a motion, P Ainsworth seconded, nominating Ernie Amsden as Royalton Selectboard Vice Chairman. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Ernie thanked the Selectboard for their continued support,**

**L. Trottier made a motion, P. Gates seconded, nominating Peggy Ainsworth as Royalton Selectboard Clerk. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Peggy thanked the Selectboard for their continued support,**

**E. Amsden made a motion, P. Gates seconded, to declare the Randolph Herald the official newspaper of record for the town. The motion passed 3-0.**

**E Amsden made a motion, P. Gates seconded, designating the public notice locations to be the bulletin board inside the South Royalton Post Office, as well as bulletin boards located by the Laundromat on Chelsea St., outside the Town Clerk's Office on Safford St, outside the Royalton Academy Building at 4266 VT Route 14, inside the Town Clerk's Office and inside the Selectboard office. The motion passed 3-0.**

**P. Gates made a motion, E Amsden seconded, designating regular Selectboard meetings to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to begin at 7:00 p.m. at Selectboard Office at 17 North Windsor Street. The motion passed 3-0.**

**E. Amsden made a motion, P. Gates seconded, to appoint Rose Hemond as the Town's Transportation Advisory Committee Representative The motion passed 3-0.**

**Commission/Committee Appointments**

**P. Gates made a motion, E. Amsden seconded, to appoint John Leighton as the Second Constable  
Motion passed 3-0**

**The Selectboard proceeded in appointing the following officers:**

Sandra Conrad as Town Service Officer.

Donald Lovejoy as Fire Warden

Paul Brock as Deputy Tree Warden

David Lyman as Inspector of Lumber

Sue Cain as Weightier of Coal

Country Animal Hospital as the Pound Keeper

David Lyman, Peter Chap and George Spaulding as Fence Viewers

**P. Gates motioned, P. Ainsworth seconded to appoint all of the above officers:**

**The motion passed 3-0.**

**Crawford Property Purchase and Bond Vote.** Larry Trottier discusses the possibility to make the Crawford purchase by using funds from the Betterment Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Sarnoff Property Sale, and Royalton Revolving Loan Fund. Ernie Amsden asked when the Revolving Loan Fund became part of the payment plan for the Crawford Property. Ernie is opposed to using the Revolving Loan fund for municipal purposes. Larry said he compiled the numbers and said he would not use all of the revolving loan funds for payment. Without using the Revolving Loan Fund the payment for the Crawford Property would be \$90K short. Phil Gates was hesitant using the Revolving Loan Fund. He was fine with it as long as the Selectboard pays it back within 5 years. Peggy said as far as short term loans, she did not see any difference from borrowing from the revolving loan fund or the bank. The town will save money by borrowing funds from the revolving loan fund.

Joan agrees she would rather borrow from RLF than go to a bank.

**The Selectboard asked Rose Hemond to contact** Paul Guiliani and consult with him regards to bond vote procedures. P. Gates asked Rose to contact private banks for interest rates. The Selectboard would like to conduct research on the best interest rate available.

Crawford Building Architect Invoice Discussion ensued about what fund to pay the bill from **P. Gates made a motion to have bill paid from the Capitol Improvement Fund  
E Amsden seconded Motion passed 4-0**

**Happy Hollow Alternate Project.** The state will not approve the temporary culvert at Urdstat and FEMA wants ANR to permit the temporary culvert and ANR will not issue a permit. The funds cannot be transferred to an alternate project

The project may cost more than FEMA obligated and will the \$75,918.00 threshold still apply? Rose will look into this. In the meantime Jeff Tucker from Dubois and King will engineer a culvert design that will meet permitting standards.

**I-89 Emergency Access** Larry spoke about his meeting in Montpelier about the Emergency access. He said everyone was in favor as long as everyone had their permits in order. National Guard will provide labor and the town needs to provide materials. Dubois and King will conduct a survey and come up with a cost estimate. This access would cut done response time for emergencies by 15 minutes.

**Fox Stand Bridge;** Larry spoke about a meeting with Jeff Tucker and Paul from VTrans to discuss some issues at the Fox Stand Bridge. There were two issues. The trusses are bent and the gusset was bent as well. There was also some rust. Jeff asked VTrans how long before this bridge is no longer usable? Paul thought up to

10years. The suggestion was to use the current Fox Stand Bridge as a temporary bridge while still able to and build a new one downstream. A third of the cost of bridge construction is traffic control. Jeff Tucker will work up and estimate for a new bridge and report back to the board.

**Fire Department requests for Knox Box for the Royalton Academy Building:** Royalton Fire Chief Paul Brock requested to have Knox Box installed on front of Academy Building to access it on off hours in case there is an emergency. **E. Amsden motioned and P Ainsworth seconded to install Knox Box on Academy Building. Motion passed 4-0**

**VLS Safety Issues: Larry Trottier and Chief Bob Hull met with Shirley Jefferson and Dennis Sterns from Vermont Law School** to discuss safety issues on campus. Possibly of using a siren to warn VLS students if there is an emergency on campus. Discussion ensued on possible other manners of warning the public in case of an emergency.

#### **Accounts Payable and Payroll**

Selectboard reviewed and approved the accounts payable and payroll vouchers as prepared by the Town Treasurer.

#### **Excess Weight Permits**

The Selectboard reviewed excess weight permit applications

Excess weight permits were approved for CSE Inc, Gillespie Fuels, Gage Lawn, Gurney Brothers, Newport Sand and Gravel, Camp Precast Concrete, L.E. Weed and Son. All were accepted as is except Gurney Brothers which was amended for 2 axles not to exceed 45k lbs. (original request was 60K lbs) **E Amsden motioned, P. Ainsworth seconded to approve excess weight permits except Gurney Brothers to be amended to 45,000 pounds.**

**The Selectboard decided to authorize Rose Hemond to sign Excess Weight Permits once the Selectboard has approved them. P Ainsworth motioned and E. Amsden seconded Motion passed 4-0.**

**Liquor License Renewal:** McShinsky Inc (M&N's Mini Mart) and Black Grape (DBA Crossroads Bar and Grill) **J. Goldstein moved to approve and E Amsden seconded. Motion passed 4-0**

**Suspend Liquor Ordinance on the Green for BALE and Farmers Market event on 06/13/13.**

Request came from Bushrod Powers. P. Ainsworth abstained from discussion and vote.

J Goldstein moved to approved. E. Amsden expressed the alcohol repeal requests are more frequent. If Selectboard continues to suspend ordinance they may as well repeal it. **Larry Seconded 2 in favor, 2 oppose and one recues. Motion dead.**

**Vermont Law School** requested to use the Royalton Town Green on 04/03/13 for an event called "Take Back the Night". **P Ainsworth moved. J. Goldstein Seconded. E. Amsden wants to make sure the fire is properly cleaned up and there is a contact in case it is not done properly. Motion passed 4-0**

**Royalton Hazard Mitigation Plan,** Gidget Lyman, Paul Brock and Dave Palmer will review and send revisions. Peggy Ainsworth offered to help as well. Rose Hemond will set up meeting in April or May to go over revisions.

**Delinquent Tax Update;** Rose Hemond reported \$49K was collected from the past two months (Jan-Feb 2013). Bonnie Kenyon will take over in regards to tax sales.

**Finance Manager Training:** Finance Manager Rose Hemond will be training on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington at the Town Clerks Office to learn in more detail the towns accounting procedures. Training will begin the week of 03/25/13. E Amsden mentioned to post a notice to make the public aware of the change in office hours. **E. Amsden motioned and J Goldstein seconded to allow Rose Hemond to train at the Town Clerks office until further notice. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Approve Selectboard Meeting minutes of February 12, 2013 P.** Ainsworth pointed out error in minutes. The cost of per capita for the Windsor County Court House was incorrect. Rose will amend minutes to correct. **P.Ainsworth motioned and E. Amsden seconded Motion passed to approve meeting minutes from 02/12/13. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Computer Problems:** The computer system at the Town Clerks Office is an old system as well as the software. It continues to cause problems in the day to day operations of the town. Rose Hemond spoke with Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington who suggested we should proceed with having the upgrade done sooner instead of waiting until the summer of 2013 and enter it as a prepaid expense. **E. Amsden motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to have the computer upgrade done as a prepaid expense. Motion passed 4-0**

**No Smoking Signs on Carpenter Field:** Discussion ensued about “No Smoking “signs on town property.

**Dan Kinney from Catamount Solar** requested to be put on the agenda for the 03/26/13 meeting.

**Larry spoke about a letter from the State of Vermont:** In the summer of 2014 the State of Vermont is planning to replace a bridge #25 on VT Route 12 in Barnard. The state would like to sign TH 4 (the North Road) as a detour. The VT Route 12 will be closed at the bridge for 28 days. The State of Vermont would inspect the North Road after this time period. Any deficiencies that were caused by excessive traffic, the state would repave at no cost to the town.

**P Gates made a motion to allow the detour on North Road and E Amsden seconded. Motion passed 4-0.**

### **Highway Issues**

Roger McCrillis is working on cleaning town culverts to allow water to pass clearly through.

### **Public Concerns**

**Sandy Manouvelos reported on the poor quality of PA** system during Town Meeting and mentioned perhaps the Royalton Alumni Committee may have funds for a better sound system Sandy asked if she needed a petition to have the Town Meeting and the School Meeting together on Tuesday. Ernie said yes she would need 5% of registered to sign the petition.

**Sandy Manouvelos inquired** as to the format of the delinquent tax report in the Royalton Town Report was different. Rose Hemond explained this report was in compliance with new state legislation in regards to the confidentiality of property tax information. Sandy mentioned the Tunbridge Town Report included property tax detail. Rose Hemond reported that she consulted with a VLCT lawyer and was advised to report only names and parcels in the town report. Sandy asked if the town was taking gravel from the Crawford Gravel pit. Larry Trottier responded that the town only purchased gravel from this pit after Storm Irene. Sandy brought up the cleaning of the kitchen hood at the Academy Building. Sandy will provide Rose a phone number of someone who provides this service,

**Peggy Ainsworth requested a balance sheet from the Royalton Bethel Transfer Station.** Peggy was wondering what assets the town owns at the transfer station and claimed they have never seen a balance sheet

for this operation. The Town of Bethel handles the management of the transfer station and The Town of Royalton owns the property. Larry will ask for financials for the next Royalton Bethel Transfer Station Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rose Hemond