

**Town of Royalton  
Royalton Selectboard Meeting  
June 27, 2017 7:00pm  
Town Office on Route 14**

**Royalton Selectboard:** Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Sandy Conrad, Tim Dreisbach, Gidget Lyman  
**Public Present:** Jojo Levasseur, Harry Dodge, Chris Hudson, Laurie Hudson, Peter Chap, Phil Gates  
**Town Staff:** Town Administrator Rose Hemond

Chairman Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7:00pm

**Chris Hudson spoke to the Selectboard about speed limit on Back River Road.** According to the Royalton Traffic Ordinance, the speed along the entire length of Back River Road is 30mph. There is a sign on Back River Road near the train tracks that says 35mph. The Royalton Highway Department will be contacted to make this sign change. Tim will speak with Officer Breault about setting up a portable speed sign on Back River Road.

Laurie and Chris also mentioned that large trucks use this road as a thruway because they cannot fit under the Vesper underpass. They also travel at fast speeds and the Selectboard offered more police patrolling in this area.

**Contract for Royalton Wastewater Services** the Selectboard reviewed the annual contract and requested some changes. The revised contract will be presented at the next Selectboard meeting in July.

**Vermont Municipal Employee Pension Plan Information** was presented to the Selectboard. Concerns about unfunded pensions were discussed. The Selectboard agreed to review the town retirement benefits and consider some other options that may serve the employees better than what is currently being offered.

Tim would like to inquire to VLCT offers to speak with the Selectboard about town benefits.

**Update on the Royalton Wastewater Project.** Phil Gates lead operator from SOS updated the Selectboard on the progress of the project. Phil requested the baffling for lagoon one to be added back into the project. The Selectboard informed Phil, if there were funds available at the end of the project they would consider this purchase.

**State of Vermont Municipal Road Pilot Grant.** This grant will help Royalton address roads that are hydro connected. Road erosion inventories will be documented and \$14,100.00 grant with a \$2820.00 match will help with road maintenance that the town should already be doing under Act 64. **S. Conrad Motioned and G Lyman seconded to apply for the State of Vermont Municipal Road Pilot Grant and the match be paid out of the Royalton Highway Budget. Motion passed 4-0**

**Application for the Vermont Bike Pedestrian Planning Grant:** The Selectboard reviewed the Vermont Bike Pedestrian Planning Grant Application for \$35,000.00. This is a 50-50 grant. The match for this grant will be \$17,500.00. The Selectboard decided not to hire Two Rivers Planning Commission to manage this grant. Instead Royalton Town Administrator Rose Hemond will manage the grant. **S. Conrad motioned and G. Lyman seconded to approve the application of the Vermont Bike Pedestrian Planning Grant for \$35,000.00 and provide a letter of support signed by Selectboard Chairman Larry Trottier and to pay the matching funds out of the Community Betterment Fund. Motion passed 4-0**

**Town Office Building Discussion T. Dreisbach motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to rescind the motion regarding a refrigerator in the Town Office, adopted at the last Selectboard meeting, one recusal (Peggy) Motion passed 3-1.**

Gidget said she would like to table the issue of reorganizing the entryway to be discussed at a later meeting.

**Otto Merrill Road** Larry and Sandy visited the Otto Merrill Road to review the culvert situation. It was observed that water runs along the driveway of a landowner. It was also mentioned that a neighbor was threatened for unclogging a culvert on a road that leads up to their property. Larry will visit Paul Kelley with Royalton Road Crew member Demi Boles to address the ongoing situation. The Selectboard expressed interest in coming up with a compromise to address this situation.

Roadside mowing: Larry discussed two residents who did not want any roadside mowing near their properties due to the likely spread of chervil.

**Gee Hill Road** Larry and Demi will visit a homeowner who may have interest in constructing a stone wall and the town would like to make certain it is not in the towns right of way.

**Royalton Road Foreman and Road Crew Job Opening:** The Selectboard reviewed job descriptions for both positions. Sandy had worked on the Royalton Road foreman position. Minor edits are to be made. Peggy wanted more time to review. Both positions will be advertised in the newspaper and online.

**Accounts Payable was reviewed and approved by the Selectboard**

**S. Conrad motioned and T. Dreisbach seconded to approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes 06/20/2017 Motion passed 3-0 One recusal.**

**T. Dreisbach motioned and L. Trottier seconded** that, in recognition of Officer Breault' accepting responsibilities beyond those of his regular duties in response to a leaderless police department, Officer Breault be awarded a onetime bonus of \$750. These duties, additional to his regular police work, have included scheduling and overseeing the police staff; coordinating police department coverage of town events; representing the police force in relations with the state police, other towns, and our own community; leading the search for new staff; briefing the Selectboard and townspeople on department activities; initiating personnel reviews of other police department members; and generally serving as overseer to all department functions. Funds for this bonus are available from the approximately \$14.5k underrun in annual department expenses, including \$8.5k in budgeted salary expense. Motion passed 3-0 1 abstention.

Sandy asked if there was no new hire in three months would Tim give John another bonus. Tim said this was a onetime item. Sandy asked about the status of the search for another Royalton police officer. Tim said there was no response to the ad online. It was suggested that the town start advertising in more publications and online.

Larry mentioned the Royalton Food Shelf was closed because they no longer have a location for it. He suggested a building that was for sale in South Royalton that may be a good location.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:50pm**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

**Town Administrator Rose Hemond**