

**Town of Royalton  
Royalton Selectboard Regular Meeting  
September 27, 2016 7:00pm  
Town Office on Route 14**

**Royalton Selectboard:** Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Sandy Conrad, Phil Gates

**Late** Joan Goldstein 8:00pm

**Public Present:** Jojo Levasseur, Vermont State Police Lt. Jenkins, Carmen Gonier, Jose Lazo, Carol Monroe, Jess Rumberg and Evangeline Williams

**Town Staff:** Rose Hemond Town Administrator, Police Chief Jim Beraldi

**Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7:05pm**

**Jose Lazo and Carmen Gonier spoke about the Vital Communities Upper Valley Weatherization Project.** Jose spoke about a pilot program through Vital Communities to do residential energy audits. Peggy asked once the energy plan is done does the resident have to implement the plan. Jose said no. **P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to support the Upper Valley Weatherization Project. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Vermont State Trooper Lt Jenkins** spoke to the Selectboard about the Royalton Police Department. He asked the Selectboard to consider the future of the Royalton Police Department. He spoke about the number of cases (417 cases per year) that the VSP responded to in Royalton. He told the Selectboard, Royalton was one of the busier towns for the state troopers. Lt Jenkins understood money was a factor in planning. He told the Selectboard he felt Chief Beraldi was taking the department to another level.

**Carol Monroe EC Fiber CEO** spoke to the Selectboard about placing a hub on the town office building. The Selectboard will have the Town Attorney review the hub lease agreement before taking any further action on this matter.

**Beth Wilhite, Royalton Planning Commission Chairperson,** spoke to the Selectboard about the cancellation of the New Vista forum with David Hall. The Planning Commission will still have a meeting on 10/04/2016 without David Hall and discuss ideas for Royalton planning and development. The Royalton Planning Commission is also working on a plan for the Crawford property which they will present to the Selectboard at a later date. The Planning commission will also have someone from Bethel, at a future meeting, to explain the Better Block Project.

Jess Rumberg newly appointed Royalton Constable, introduced himself to the Selectboard. He discussed his availability and inquired as to the duties he would perform as constable.

Jojo Levasseur informed the Selectboard she was an artist selected to paint a storm-water drain in Burlington Vermont. The purpose is to bring attention to storm-water run-off. She showed pictures of her project. She had paint leftover and would like to paint something near the South Royalton School in the street with students from Gaylynn Huyghebaert's art class. The Selectboard agreed this sounded like a nice project for the town.

**Royalton Senior Center request approval to use Town of Royalton bulk mail permit for future mailing. S. Conrad motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve use of the bulk mailing permit for the Royalton Senior Center mailing. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Lake Sunapee Bank 90 day extension of FEMA Line of Credit for \$275K. J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad seconded to sign the extension for the Lake Sunapee Line of Credit for \$275K. Motion passed 4-0.**

2017 Mowing contract. The Selectboard included an option in last year's mowing contract to renew with current contractor for up to 3 years. The Selectboard would like to inquire if the current contractor will raise their price for the 2017 mowing season before they make any decision.

**Approval to hire lawyer to research ownership of the sidewalk in front of the business block on Chelsea Street in South Royalton.** Discussion ensued whether it was important to determine ownership of the sidewalks first or determine the interest of the building owners for a sidewalk renovation project. Joan felt ownership did not matter if the building owners were not interested in making their businesses handicap (ADA) assessable. **P. Gates motioned to hire Attorney William Donoghue to research the sidewalk ownership and mail a letter to the building owners on Chelsea Street to inquire their interest in this project. P. Ainsworth seconded. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Meeting Minutes P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve the meeting minutes for 09/13/2016 and 09/26/2016 with changes Motion passed 4-0.**

**Chief Jim Beraldi** provided Royalton Police Department case information for the months of August 2016 and September 2016 to the Selectboard. Chief Beraldi discussed the Royalton Police Department and compared it to the Randolph Police Department. All understood that it takes money to grow a police department. Further discussion on the role of constable and how Jess may be of assistance to the Royalton Police Department.

Rose departed at 9:19pm

**Discuss Personnel Issue: Phil Gates moved and Joan Goldstein seconded to enter into executive session at 9:19pm to discuss personnel issues with the Chief of Police. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Phil Gates moved and Joan Goldstein seconded to exit executive session at 10:31pm. Motion passed 4-0**

**Action Taken:** The Chair of the Selectboard will look into the Town's budget to see if it can afford to hire a part-time, weekend officer either Level II or Level III.

A Selectboard person will meet each week with the police staff.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:35pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Rose Hemond and Sandy Conrad**

**Royalton Town Administrator and Selectboard Clerk**