

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Regular Meeting
October 25, 2016 7:00pm
Town Office on Route 14**

Royalton Selectboard: Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Phil Gates

Late: Sandy Conrad 7:10pm

Regrets: Joan Goldstein

Public Present: Jojo Levasseur, Zac Halden, Lorraine Atwood, Andrew Wilson Margaret Galka, Christopher Meritt, Giselle Lopez, Sheila Jacobs

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

Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7:00pm

Zac Halden, a Royalton community member and a Vermont Law School student spoke to the Selectboard about community composting. Zac discussed Act 148, Vermont Universal Recycling Law. It will be required to compost all food scraps by July of 2020. He explained the research he had done in regards to composting systems that could be purchased with grant money. Sandy told Zac that the Royalton/Bethel Solid Waste Facility has been collecting food scraps. Local eateries have made arrangements with farmers to pick up their food scraps. Sandy invited Zac to the next Solid Waste Facility meeting on 11/09/2016 to discuss composting in more detail with the Solid Waste Facility Board.

Sheila Jacobs from Mascoma Savings Bank spoke to the Selectboard about insured cash sweeps. The town would deposit funds at Mascoma Bank. The town sets up a small business checking account for \$1,000,100.00 in funds. One hundred dollars remains in the business account and the remainder gets swept to a municipal savings. Funds are sent from our savings account into demand deposits at other banks in the insured cash deposit network. No more than \$250,000.00 in each bank at a time so the funds will have FDIC insurance coverage. Peggy asked why the town had so much money in the bank. It was explained the town has numerous restricted funds that are to be used only for specified purposes. The town can earn up to \$5,000.00 a year by participating in the insured cash sweeps program. There are no bank fees or risks associated with these transactions. The funds are always accessible to the town. **P. Gates motioned and S. Conrad seconded to enroll \$1,000,100.00 of town funds into the insured cash sweep savings account with Mascoma Savings Bank. Motion passed 3-0.**

Request Use of South Royalton Green 12/18/2016 United Church of South Royalton Christmas Pageant P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to authorize use of the South Royalton Green for the Christmas Pageant 12/18/2016. Motion passed 3-0.

Sign Lease agreement for Royalton Senior Citizens P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to authorize Larry Trottier to sign the revised lease agreement For the Royalton Senior Citizens. Motion passed 3-0.

Discuss match on Handy Memorial Grant \$250.00 P. Ainsworth motioned and S. Conrad seconded to allocate \$250.00 from the Community Betterment Fund as match for the Preservation Trust of Vermont Grant. Motion passed 3-0

Sandy discussed a violation letter addressed to the town from the State of Vermont about the Royalton Bethel Solid Waste Facility. There were a couple items that needed to be filed with the state and they are currently being addressed by the Solid Waste Facility Manager.

Move 11/08/2016 Selectboard Meeting to another date P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to move the 11/08/2016 Royalton Selectboard meeting to 11/07/2016 because of elections being held on 11/08/2016 Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Minutes P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve meeting minutes for 10/11/2016. Motion passed 3-0

P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve the meeting minutes for 10/13/2016 and 10/21/2016 Motion passed 3-0

FY 17/18 Budgets Royalton Police Chief Jim Beraldi presented a draft of the Royalton Law Enforcement budget to the Selectboard. He discussed a small increase in wages that would allow a part time officer to be hired to help cover weekend hours. There was also discussion of purchasing a new police vehicle. Currently the two older vehicles have cost the town over \$6,600.00 in repairs last year. Discussion ensued about how to pay for a new police vehicle without raising taxes.

FY Recreation Budget Recreation Chairperson Joe Decoteau presented the Royalton Recreation budget. Discussion ensued about upcoming projects for the Recreation Department. Joe informed the Selectboard that he had a person review the skateboard structure at Carpenter Field and was told that the structure is not safe for use. **P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to remove the skateboard structure at Carpenter Field due to liability issues for the town. Motion passed 3-0**

The town received a Recreational Facilities grant for \$6,000.00 from the State of Vermont which will be added to donations from a Carpenter Field Fund and the Community Betterment Fund totaling \$12,000.00. The Recreation Department will purchase a playground structure and place it at the same location where the skateboard park was located. They will leave the commemorative stone in place. They also would like to purchase a Carpenter Field sign to replace the old scoreboard that no longer works. There is also a need for a shed to store tools for the community garden.

Neal Roder from State and Main Mediation offered to meet with Royalton Police Chief Jim Beraldi and Royalton Police Officer John Breault on 10/26/2016. Neal asked the Selectboard to determine a time frame in which Officer Breault would attend the Vermont Police Academy.

Sandy suggested 18 months and Larry agreed this seemed reasonable. This would give the Selectboard time to put additional wages in the FY 18/19 budget for this purpose. Peggy asked why the Selectboard is requiring Officer Breault to attend the police academy when it was not a condition of his employment. It was mentioned that Officer Breault has said that he will attend the academy when he is ready. Sandy and Larry feel they are not forcing him to do anything he is not already willing to do. Peggy and Phil feel it is not necessary to make it a requirement of employment for Officer Breault to attend the police academy. The Selectboard could not come to a consensus and will table this discussion for a future meeting. Sandy will contact Neal to post-pone his meeting with the Royalton Police Department until a later date.

Sandy spoke with Jay Moody from Vermont Division of Fire Safety in Springfield Vermont. It was suggested the town hire a certified planner to design ADA access to the businesses on Chelsea Street. Once this has been completed the town can apply for grants through the Vermont Designated Downtown Program.

Larry and Sandy are meeting with the Royalton Senior Center Board to discuss potential interest in purchasing the Journey Church.

Phil mentioned the Rescue Squad Advisory Board is considering hiring a part time administrator and making Dave Palmer, Rescue Squad Director, a full time paramedic. The Advisory Board feels not all the administration work was being done properly.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm
Respectfully submitted
Rose Hemond
Royalton Town Administrator