

Royalton Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office Safford Street
January 28, 2014

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

Public Present: Gidget Lyman, Tim Dreisbach, Tom Trottier, Rose Hemond
Stuart Levassuer

Chairman Larry Trotter called the Meeting to Order at 7pm

Chairman Trottier welcomed Planning Commission chair Tim Dreisbach to the meeting. Tim spoke of a survey for the Town Plan. He wanted to get input from various town organizations. He said the Selectboard will be invited to the Planning Commission meeting on 02/24/14.

Tim Dreisbach is a representative and Gidget Lyman is a chairperson of Stagecoach Transportation Services. Joan asked Tim for the steps that led to the departure of the executive director and what is the solvency of the organization? Tim spoke of the financial challenges and significant amount of debt the organization currently has. There are two loans totaling \$260,000.00 in debt.

The Stagecoach board has been very hands on and they will contract the services of an executive director to run the day to day operations. Tim mentioned how important it is for towns to continue supporting Stagecoach by appropriations. He pointed out when towns give \$1.00 in donations their organization receives \$5-\$6 in return from the state.

“How did we get here?” Cash flow has been an issue. A couple years Stagecoach started paying rent, an expense they had not previously had. They also stopped taking Medicaid contracts. Tim said revenue was reduced by not taking Medicaid contracts but the administrative costs associated with processing Medicaid payments were not cut.

He also spoke of certain accounting entries that would overstate assets on the balances sheet. This was not an accurate depiction of the organizations financial picture. He assured the Selectboard there was no malfeasance at all. No impropriety at all, just differences of opinion in regards to the financial standing of the organization.

The Selectboard asked Tim to be prepared at Town Meeting for any questions about what has been going on at Stagecoach

Tom Trottier asked for permission to use the Town Green for Old Home Days on 07/07/2014 and to lift the alcohol ban. P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to allow the Fire Department to use the town green on 07/07/2014 for Old Home Days and to lift the alcohol ban for this event. Motion passed 4-0.

Gidget spoke of a new emergency plan call LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan) She will also continue to plan some D-Lan training by combining towns and get the training session scheduled for the spring.

FEMA Update Rose updated the Selectboard on what is still outstanding for Storm Irene. She spoke about Perley Farm Road. Jeff Tucker continues to work with FEMA and the state to secure funding and move this project along. Jeff also is working on Happy Hollow and Urdstadt Culvert. The current expense note balance is currently \$293K. The Selectboard decided that since they know the town will be responsible for three cents on the grand list when all the FEMA projects and payments have been completed, they decided to pay down the line of credit the amount the town will have left to pay which is about \$76K. Phil mentioned that since the bond vote has not yet taken place, there will be funds that the highway will be paying the town for gravel that will go into the internal service fund and perhaps those first payments can go toward paying down the FEMA line of credit. Even if the town allowed the Selectboard to bond for the town office building the first payment may not be due for a year.

Fund Deficit Discussion Phil Gates spoke of the delinquent taxes balance which is currently around \$396K. (Check) Bonnie Kenyon, the delinquent tax collector has turned over a list of tax delinquencies to attorney Jeff Lewis who will start tax sale proceedings in the near future. A cash flow deficit due to tax delinquencies had a negative effect on the General Fund bottom line. Joan mentioned is important for the taxpayers to realize if taxes are not paid it forces the town to borrow to meet its financial obligations. Ernie said a good incentive is to have regular tax sales. Phil said outstanding taxes will diminish if they have annual tax sales.

Sign Angolano and Company CPA letter: A letter to Angolano and Company from the Town of Royalton signed by the Selectboard to acknowledge audit tasks by his firm were completed. **P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to authorize Larry Trottier and Joan Goldstein to sign the letter to the Angolano and Company regarding the FY 12-13 audit. Motion passed 4-0.**

Journey Church Email: Rose read an email from Pastor Brad Kellor to Joan Goldstein. Journey Church is selling the property on South Windsor Street. He asked if Joan can market the property. It now sits vacant and the congregation worships at the South Royalton School. The mold problem has been taken care of and he thought it would make a great community center or town offices. Ernie questioned whether Pastor Brad had the authority to sell the building. He seemed to think it is owned by 4 Square.

Phil Gates said it would be difficult to develop that piece land due to constraints on the nitrogen allocation. He said 4 houses would be fine but not much more.

Marx Closing the first home buyout closing from Storm Irene will take place at the Town office on Safford Street. P Ainsworth motioned and E. Amsden seconded to authorize Larry Trottier and Phil Gates as a backup to sign any papers necessary at the closing on 02/07/14.

Discuss petition for Vermont Bank: Peg Elmer submitted a petition with all the necessary signatures. The Selectboard decided since there was so much support for this article they wanted to include it on the annual warning for town meeting. They deliberated the appropriate wording and decided on: "Shall the voters of the Town of Royalton call on state legislature to explore the creation of a public bank for Vermont?" P. Gates motioned and E. Amsden seconded to allow this advisory article on the Annual town Meeting Warning. Motion passed 4-0.

Sign Annual Warning for Town Meeting Rose discussed the articles on the annual warning. The second one addressed the fact that last year the second constable portion was left off the warning yet appeared on the ballot. She was advised by Garrett Baxter at VLCT to put in an article this year to correct that.

Shall the action taken at the meeting of this town held on March 5, 2013 in spite of the fact that the second constable position was missing from Article I, and any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be readopted, ratified and confirmed?

P. Gates motioned and E. Amsden passed to approve and sign the Annual Warning for Town Meeting 2014 Motion passed 4-0

Set Sewer Rate: the sewer rate set for the 07/01/2013-12/31/2013 billing period is .022394 per gallon or \$2.2394 /100 gallons. An increase of .0036 per gallon over last sewer rate. **P.Ainsworth motioned and E., Amsden seconded to set the sewer rate at .022394 per gallon. Motion passed 4-0.**

Discuss Sewer rate Structure Phil discussed the latest sewer rate structure created by engineers Aldrich and Elliot. Phil said he is trying to look at the upgrades and do some work himself to save the taxpayers' money and review the overall project and do only what is necessary to be compliant with current WWTF standards.

Sewer Priority Project: P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the State Fiscal Year 2015 Pollution Control Priority List Application Project which includes for the Town of Royalton sewer collections

system and wastewater treatment facility improvements and authorize Rose to send approval on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion passed 4-0.

Health Connect Update. Rose informed the Selectboard on the latest changes to the Vermont Health Connect. The town will not be able to directly enroll in Vermont Health Connect for 2014. Instead the town can only choose two plans that were offered on the Health Connect website and offer them to employees. The town will be billed directly. Rose was informed the Town cannot keep their current insurance that they extended through 03/31/2014. They need to direct enroll with the insurance provider which in this case is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. The deadline to enroll is 02/28/14. Rose will bring the plan choices made by the employees to the next Selectboard meeting to be reviewed. The Selectboard will help compose a memo to employees addressing this issue.

ACT 250 Update There were some questions on the application that needed to be answered before the application moved forward. Rose spoke with Robert Townsend to answer these questions. The Act 250 hearing may take place the beginning of February 2014 for the gravel pit.

Personnel Policy Discussion: Downs Rachlin and Martin PLLC reviewed the Royalton Personnel policy and suggested many revisions to update the policy. The Selectboard reviewed and discussed these revisions. A final version will be presented at the next Selectboard meeting for adoption.

Brownfield Clean up Report The Selectboard reviewed a report prepared by KAS consulting detailing the Brownfield clean up. J. Goldstein motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve the KAS Consulting Report on the Brownfield clean up. Motion passed 4-0

VLCT Local Government Day 02/19/14: The Selectboard was informed of this event in Montpelier.

Resignation of Assistant Town Clerk Pam Levasseur. A letter to the Selectboard Office dated 01/28/14 from Pam Levasseur stated she is resigning as assistant town clerk, Her resignation is due to recent town clerk policy changes and inappropriate behavior directed toward her by the town clerk. Her resignation is effective immediately.

Peggy asked about Pam working the next month out of the Treasurers and Selectboard Office. Pam has already worked three out of the eight days the Selectboard approved and will spread the remaining days out to once a week. Cyndy Gates has hired Pam to work on Saturdays at the library. This will provide two days of work a week for Pam for the upcoming month. The Selectboard was fine with this arrangement. Ernie mentioned that there is currently no assistant town clerk. Ernie was informed that Lynn Irish was recently appointed as assistant Town Clerk.

Meeting Minutes 01/14/14 J. Goldstein approved with an adjustment P. Ainsworth seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Selectboard Report for Town report. Selectboard reviewed and edited the report for Town Report. Executive Session P. Gates motioned and E. Amsden seconded to enter into executive session at 10:10pm to discuss personnel issues. P. Gates motioned and E. Amsden seconded to come out of Executive session at 10:25pm No action taken

Meeting adjourned at 10:25pm
Respectfully Submitted
Rose Hemond