

**Town of Royalton**  
**Royalton Selectboard Special Meeting**  
**May 31, 2017 7:00pm**  
**Royalton Academy Building**

**Royalton Selectboard:** Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Gidget Lyman, Tim Dreisbach  
**Regrets:** Sandy Conrad

**Public Present:** Phoebe Lambert, Patricia Dreisbach, Harry Dodge

**Town Staff:** Town Administrator Rose Hemond, Royalton Police Department: Officer John Breault, Officer Gary Rogler and Constable Marc Preston, Town Moderator Alison Fulcher

**Selectboard member Tim Dreisbach opened the special meeting at 7:05pm**

Tim reviewed the Royalton Police Department events over the past couple of months. The purpose of this special meeting was to hear from the Royalton residents about policing needs of the community.

Tim was appointed by the Selectboard to be the liaison between the Royalton Police Department and the Selectboard. He sees the police department split into two factions. One being community policing and the other is crime prevention and protection. The Selectboard also must be mindful of the costs of such services. The Selectboard is considering hiring another full time officer.

Officer John Breault spoke about the volume of calls received each day by the Royalton Police Department. He also presented a graph showing the various types of calls. Pat asked Officer Breault what the state police offer for Royalton coverage. The Royalton Barrack State Troopers cover 22 Vermont towns. They will make an arrest and offer after hour's service. Sometimes it may take longer for a response since they cover such a large area.

Harry asked about how many calls involve Vermont Law students. Tim said the students are Royalton residents and deserve our protection.

Harry mentioned he remembers a time when town constables could handle most community policing needs. Officer Breault responded that the constables are limited in their duties. The state restricts what constables can do. Tim noted community policing needs are much different than years ago.

Royalton Town Constable, Marc Preston, spoke of what constables used to be. Legislative rules change because some constables would create liability for the town. Marc has offered over 45 hours of service to the town for free over the past month. Officer Breault is pleased with the work he is doing.

Phoebe commented on the value of police service for those in crisis. You cannot place a value on what it means to have a police officer respond when there is crime or a person is in danger.

A brief discussion ensued about the cost benefit of contracting services. This was not a consideration based on the needs of the Royalton community.

Use of police vehicles was discussed. The public must be made aware that police work involves court appearances that require traveling to other towns with the town police vehicles.

Special Meeting ended at 8:05.

Selectboard continued meeting to go over a couple of administrative items.

**Tables and Benches for the Carpenter Field Playground: G. Lyman motioned and T. Dreisbach seconded to buy two commercial grade steel picnic tables and a steel bench for the Carpenter Field Playground. Funding will be as follows: \$670.00 from grant, \$600.00 for recreation budget and \$102.81 from the Community Betterment Fund. Motion passed 3-0.**

**P. Ainsworth motioned and G. Lyman seconded to enter executive session at 8:10pm to discuss personal matters. Motion passed 3-0**

**P. Ainsworth motioned and G. Lyman seconded to exit executive session at 8:20pm. Motion passed 3-0**

**No action take**

**Meeting Adjourned 8:25pm**

**Respectfully Submitted By**

**Rose Hemond Town Administrator**