

**Town of Royalton
Pre-Town Meeting
February 23, 2016 8:00
Royalton Academy Building**

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

Royalton School Board: Christine Hudson, Laurie Smith, Tim Murphy, Chris Mabey, Geo Honigford.

Public Present: See sign in Sheet

Pre Town Meeting began at 8:00pm

Larry Trottier explained that he will be the moderator for the evening. David Ainsworth has health issues that prevent him from attending the meeting. Peggy Ainsworth will assist Larry. Peggy Ainsworth read the warning and the ballot for the GW Plastics tax stabilization proposition.

Peggy read the annual meeting warning from the town report.

Larry Trottier explained a flyer that was passed out at the beginning of the meeting. One of the topics was how the town is going to address the deficit in the General Fund.

Tim Murphy asked about the Royalton Wastewater project. Phil Gates explained the USDA grant may be as much as 40% up from around 30%. Once the funding has been finalized, the project will begin the design phase.

Alison asked about the library building renovation project. Will there be a bond? Cyndy Gates, Royalton Memorial Library Trustee president responded there will be no bond. They are conducting a capitol campaign to raise funds for the renovation.

Delbert Thurston said the current town report does not give enough information about how funds are spent. He suggested looking at the Tunbridge Town Report. He is asking for payment detail.

Jeff Barcelow, Royalton Town Lister, passed out charts that he created and other documents. He proceeded to explain his theory about general fund deficits and delinquent taxes. Jeff is upset about a memo from the Selectboard that requires all

departmental purchases get prior approval from the Selectboard. He indicated it was the Selectboard overspending the budget not the general fund departments.

Peggy Ainsworth explained how revenue from annual tax collection is allocated. The school receives 100% of their funds. The Royalton Highway department is funded 100%. The General Fund receives what is left. Peggy mentioned she reviewed 10 years of budget data and reported that overall the Selectboard has not overspent their budget. She stated that budget overages happen on occasion and the Selectboard is moving in a direction to address these issues and get a better understanding of town finances.

Town Clerk Karmen Bascom read the local election ballot. The only contested race was between incumbent Selectboard member Sandy Conrad and Ernie Amsden. Each was allowed to speak.

Royalton School Board began their pre-town discussion at 9:10pm

Tim Murphy announced he is leaving the school board. Tim reviewed a flyer that was passed out before the meeting. He spoke about the South Royalton School budget. Peggy Ainsworth asked questions about the budget. There were also some questions about special education costs. The school board asked if there was any interest in discussing the supervisee union consolidation. More detail will be presented at the annual school meeting.

Pre Town Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose Hemond

Royalton Administration and Finance Manager