

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Meeting
July 14, 2015 7:00 pm
Town Office Safford Street**

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

Public Present Jojo Levasseur, Heath Arnold, Meredith Boardman Tim Dreisbach and Sandy El Hage

Town Staff: Administration and Finance Manager; Rose Hemond

Selectboard Chairman Larry Trottier opened the Selectboard Meeting at 7:00 pm

Public Concerns: Meredith Boardman received a letter from the Selectboard in regards to debris from her property that was raked into a drainage ditch. Heath spoke about the debris and mentioned a tree fell in the embankment. He left it there thinking the town would clean it up. It was explained that Boardman owns the property and the town only has a “right of way”. Heath spoke about how he has been spending time cleaning up debris. He also mentioned people driving at excessive speeds down Pleasant Street. Meredith said she was not certain who to contact in regards to cleaning out ditches and culverts. Phil mentioned culverts under driveways are the homeowner’s responsibility. Phil said cleaning ditches is contracted out. It was agreed that Roger would pick up the root ball and bags of leaves. Heath is to contact the Selectboard office when he needs a pick up.

Traffic Plan Discussion ensued about moving the water trough. Phil mentioned he felt there is a lot of resistance in town to moving the water trough. He also mentioned one way traffic may be difficult to implement. Sandy would like a public meeting. Joan stated that all four alternatives in the traffic study suggest moving the water trough. The Selectboard will put the matter to vote at Annual Town Meeting in March 2016 after holding a public meeting prior to this vote where options will be discussed.

Request for use of the Ellis Bandstand on 07/19/2015 J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to approve use of the Ellis bandstand on Sunday 07/19/2015 from 1-2pm.

Motion passed 4-0

Recreation Commission Appointments: J. Goldstein motioned and P. Gates seconded to appoint Kim Hebard and Billie Jean Vesper for another term on the Royalton Recreation Committee. Motion passed 4-0

Planning Commission Appointments: P. Gates motioned and J Goldstein seconded to appoint Tim Dreisbach and Joshua “Bushrod” Powers to the Royalton Planning Commission for another term. Motion passed 4-0.

Hazard Mitigation Report: P.Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to adopt the Royalton Hazard Mitigation Report. Motion passed 4-0

Tim Dreisbach spoke about possibly applying for a grant from TRORC about master planning for the South Royalton Village. Chris Sargent will be consulted.

Royalton Publicity Committee: The Planning Commission drafted a request to the Selectboard to create a publicity Committee. Tim mentioned this committee will publicize the activities of the Town of Royalton. Sandy El Hage; secretary for the Planning Commission, has decided to lead this committee. Sandy Conrad and others supported the idea. Sandy El Hage will contact other Royalton boards and business members in

town to create this committee. **P. Gates a motioned to create a committee to publicize the events of Royalton. P. Ainsworth seconded. Motion passed 4-0**

Royalton Academy Lease for the Royalton Senior Center: Modifications to the Senior Center Royalton Academy Lease includes changing “cleaning on a daily basis” to cleaning only on Tuesdays and Thursday and removing “touching up bathrooms” since these are public bathrooms and should be cleaned by the landlord (town). **P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the changes to the Royalton Senior Center Academy lease. Motion passed 4-0.**

Parking tickets The Selectboard was informed that there are over 200 outstanding parking tickets in town that were written over the past few years. The Selectboard would like to invite Chief Hull to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss enforcing and collection of parking ticket fines.

Excess Weight Permit P. Ainsworth motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the excess weight permit for Harvey Ballou Motion passed 4-0

Driveway Access permit 15-08 has been tabled until another meeting

Liquor License P. Ainsworth motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the Liquor License for VT Gastronome Inc (Crossroads) Motion passed 4-0

Memo from Delinquent Tax Collector. The Selectboard decided to seek out further legal counsel in regards to this memo.

Review Buyout Site Construction engineering services proposal from Dubois and King. A Request for Proposals was advertised and the only response was form Dubois and King for engineering services in the amount of \$13,000.00. The Selectboard inquired as to FEMA approval of the project and they were informed that FEMA has not approved the park plans yet. The Selectboard decided to wait until the park plans were approved by FEMA before contracting engineering services.

Appropriation Discussion. The Royalton Fire Department requested a partial payment from the town of their FY 15/16 appropriation. The Selectboard refused this request. Currently the town does not have the funds to pay out any appropriations. Appropriations will be paid when property tax collection has been completed.

The Selectboard reviewed a Town Appropriation Policy. There were some revisions made and a final draft will be presented at the next Selectboard meeting.

Royalton 01/01/2015-06/30/2015 Sewer Rate: P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the Royalton Wastewater Sewer rate of .0208 per gallon for 01/01/2015-06/30/2015 billing cycle. Motion passed 4-0

P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to approve applying for Wastewater Facility funding though U.S. Department of Agriculture for a grant/ loan combination, a Community Development Block Grant through the States of Vermont and an Economic Development Administration Grant. Motion passed 4-0

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to allow Chairman Larry Trottier to sign all loan and grant documentation that relates to the Royalton Waste-Water Facility. Motion passed 4-0.

Sandy Conrad spoke about the Royalton Bethel Solid Waste Facility. She mentioned that the Randolph Herald incorrectly reported how the insurance proceeds from the Solid Waste Facility embezzlement claim were to be used. The newspaper stated they will be used to pay down Bethel FEMA debt. They will actually be used to pay back the Town of Bethel General Fund for funds that were spent to cover the Solid Waste Facility expenses during this period of embezzlement. The Bethel meeting minutes will be corrected at their next meeting. She also spoke about past due accounts at the SWF and how the Solid Waste Board will go about collecting funds. Peggy brought up that there needs to be recycling receptacles next to trash cans (ACT 148) in town. Invite Roger Vesper to a meeting to discuss recycling. Rose will research receptacles.

J. Goldstein Motioned and P. Gates seconded to remove Theresa Harrington as authorized individual for the town credit card and add Rose Hemond, Finance Manager, as authorized individual on the town credit card. Motion passed 4-0

A letter to the Selectboard from Royalton Memorial Library Director Greg Tisher was read. He complimented Kerri Rogers, Royalton Recreation Director, on her hard work on various town events. The library staff and volunteers are very impressed with Kerri and her efforts.

The Selectboard was updated on the Gilman Road project. The environmental clearance will be issued mid-August. The project will have to be split into two phases. A meeting will be set up to discuss the project.

P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to enter executive session at 9:50pm to discuss personnel matters. Motion passed 4-0. J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to exit executive session at 10:08pm Motion passed 4-0. No action taken.

Accounts Payable as prepared by the Town Treasurer LuAnn Bingham were reviewed and approved by the Selectboard.

A request from the Delinquent Tax Collector for a post office box and cell phone expenses were refused by the Selectboard.

Phil spoke about the Tri-Town Rescue Squad. He mentioned the only large asset for the Rescue Squad was the truck. Tunbridge will bring the issue of forming a Tri-Town Rescue Squad with Royalton and Sharon before the voters.

Joan mentioned Bob Haynes, from GMEDC, will attend the next Selectboard meeting on 07/28/2015 to discuss the possible expansion at the Royalton GW Plastics Facility.

Meeting adjourned 10:35

Respectfully Submitted

Rose Hemond