

**Town of Royalton  
Royalton Selectboard Meeting  
July 28, 2015 7:00 pm  
Town Office Safford Street**

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

**Regrets:** Peggy Ainsworth

**Public Present** Jojo Levasseur, Tom Johanson, CFO of GW Plastics, Brenan Riehl, CEO of GW Plastics, Bob Haynes, Executive Director of GMEDC, Rachel Bigelow, Kathleen Crowder, Mary Russ, Matt Muraswki,

**Town Staff:** Administration and Finance Manager; Rose Hemond, Town Clerk Karmen Bascom, Royalton Police Chief Bob Hull,

**Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7:10pm**

**Larry greeted Brenan Riehl from GW Plastics.** Brenan prepared a presentation for the Selectboard. He began by discussing a bit of the history of GW Plastics and why they were located in Vermont. He mentioned they are currently running out of manufacturing space in Royalton and Bethel and they would like to expand at the Royalton location, Brenan outlined some of the challenges doing business in Vermont compared to other GW Plastic locations in other states. The company is under a lot of pressure to save funds.

Tom Johanson presented a cost comparison between Vermont and other locations (Texas and Arizona). In Vermont they have a more difficult time filling open positions than at other GW Plastic locations. GW Plastics is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturer in Vermont and the 25<sup>th</sup> largest employer in Vermont. GW Plastics has invested over \$29 million in Vermont over the last 10 years. GW Plastics would like to stay and expand their facility in Royalton Vermont, This expansion will add 73 jobs over the next 5 years. GW Plastics partners with local schools for training and assists with paying for education for employees (future employees). Sandy discussed partnering with elder advocate agencies to build a mature workforce. Brenan spoke about some of their senior employees and their value to the company.

Brenan asked the Royalton Selectboard to enter into a property tax stabilization agreement for the next 10 years to help make the expansion viable for the company. He mentioned this was very important in the decision as whether to expand in Royalton Vermont.

Larry told Brenan that any tax stabilization has to be done by voter approval. Phil spoke about how the town is still responsible for education taxes regardless of agreement. Joan said the only issue being discussed is municipal property tax stabilization not education. GW Plastics would continue paying what they already pay for education and property taxes

**S. Conrad made a motion to propose to voters at 2016 Annual Town Meeting to allow the Royalton Selectboard to enter in a 10 year tax stabilization contract with GW Plastics for 10 years. P. Gates seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Mary Russ and Matt Murawski** spoke to the Selectboard about the Buyout Parks. Currently FEMA has approved the buyout park designs. Mary explained that more engineering for the parks would actually help FEMA approve the plans. The costs of the services are reimbursable through an \$85,000.00 grant the town was approved for. **S. Conrad motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve hiring Dubois and King for the contract price of \$13,000.00 for the Phase 2 engineering services for buyout parks. Motion passed 3-0**

Richard Dermody spoke to the Selectboard about the transition of EC Fiber to a new entity: East Central Vermont Telecommunications District. This will allow the district to attract investors. **P.Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the resolution requesting membership into the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District. Motion passed 3-0**

**P. Gates motioned to appoint Dick Dermody as representative to the new governing board of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District. J. Goldstein seconded. Motion passed 3- 0**

Rose Hemond informed the Selectboard about \$12,200.00 in USDA grant funds the town was approved for. Discussion ensued about what equipment was needed to move the contents of the old vault into the new vault. **P. Gates motioned and S. Conrad seconded to allow Town Clerk Karmen Bascom to spend up to \$8,000.00 of USDA grant funds to purchase shelving and a card catalog cabinet for the new vault. Motion passed 3-0.**

The Selectboard reviewed an email from Wayne Manning (Royalton Water Department Supervisor) about septic and electrical issues at a home in Royalton. The Selectboard would like the owner contacted first. Terry Shearer should be contacted in regards to leaking septic and Landon Wheeler in regards to electrical issues.

**J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad seconded to appoint Beth Willhite for another term on the Royalton Planning Commission. Motion passed 3-0.**

Perley Farm Road: Three paving bids were presented to the Selectboard for review. **P. Gates motioned and L. Trottier seconded to approve awarding the paving bid to Blaktop for 4 inch paving at a cost per ton not to exceed \$103.50 also to include \$11,000.00 for additional road prep work by Picketts. Motion passed 3-0**

**Royalton Village Pizza Liquor License P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein to approve the Liquor license for Royalton Village pizza. Motion passed 3-0**

**Chief Bob Hull was in attendance to discuss the over 200 parking tickets (from the past 6 years) that are outstanding.** Chief Hull said that parking ordinance is a tool. Overnight parking is not a problem in the summer. Sandy asked Bob what the solution is to the unpaid parking ticket problem. Bob responded by asking for a tiered system of parking ticket fines. Joan asked for some statistics on the 200 outstanding tickets. Bob said he recently mailed out letters to try and collect parking tickets fines. Bob is to come back with more information about parking ticket collections at a future meeting.

**J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad seconded to allow Ann Marie Zigmann use of the South Royalton Green for an event on 08/02/2015. Motion passed 3-0**

**911 Letter from Jeff Barcelow** explained Larry and Janet Brothers received a new driveway permit for their subdivision off Back River Road. There will be 4 additional driveways off this road and they would like permission to call it Satellite Lane. **P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the name of Satellite Lane. Motion passed 3-0.**

**J, Goldstein motion and P. Gates seconded to approve the Town of Royalton Appropriation Policy. Motion passed 3-0.**

Vermont Law School is installing another sink which will add 300 gallons of wastewater to the Royalton system. They were asked by the state to apply for a local permit for this change. **J. Goldstein motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve permit application. Motion passed 3-0**

**Aldrich and Elliot: J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad seconded to hire Aldrich and Eliot for the Environmental Review and consulting services for the Waste-water Facility Bond vote for a cost of \$8,000.00. Motion passed 3-0**

**Recycling bins.** The Selectboard reviewed choices for outside recycling bins. They expressed their preferences of what they would like to see around town... More research will be done in regards to pricing and presented at a later meeting.

**S. Conrad motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the meeting minutes with revisions for 7/14/2015. Motion passed 3-0**

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

**P. Gates motioned and S. Conrad seconded to enter into Executive Session at 10:25 pm to discuss a personnel matters. Motion passed 3-0**

**P. Gates motioned and S. Conrad seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:00pm. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Action taken in regards to personnel Matters**

**Meeting adjourned 11:15pm**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Rose Hemond**