

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Meeting
September 22, 2015 7:00pm
Town Office Safford Street**

Royalton Selectboard: Larry Trottier, Phil Gates, Peggy Ainsworth Sandy Conrad, Joan Goldstein arrived 7:44pm

Town Staff: Administration and Finance Manager; Rose Hemond, Royalton Police Officer, John Breault

Public: Royalton School Board Members Laurie Smith and Tim Murphy, Royalton Emergency Management Coordinator Gidget Lyman

Larry Trottier opened the Selectboard Meeting at 7:00 pm

Royalton Emergency Management Coordinator Gidget Lyman spoke about attending the Vermont Emergency Conference 10/19-10/21 at Jay Peak. She discussed expenses she will incur attending this conference on behalf of the Town of Royalton. She was only asking for partial reimbursement, but the Selectboard expressed gratitude for all that Gidget does for the town in regards to emergency management. They decided she should get full reimbursement. **S. Conrad motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to approve reimbursing Gidget \$528.71 for her expenses to attend the VT Emergency Conference. Motion passed 3-0**

The Royalton Selectboard reviewed the mowing contract for Spring/ Summer 2016. The Selectboard added the option to extend the mowing contract for up to 3 years. They also want to ask if contractors carry workers comp insurance. Additional areas to be mowed will also be included in the request for proposals. The Selectboard agreed Carpenter Field should not need to be mowed more than twice a week if necessary.

P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to award the Gilman Road Project that is to be paid for with grant money from the Community Development Block Grant from the State of Vermont, to Griffin and Griffin Inc. for \$568,679.00 and bid alternate for \$98,250.00. Motion passed 3-0

P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded move forward in finalizing the draft of the easements to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for easements on the FEMA buyout Properties. Motion passed 3-0.

Jonathan Martel spoke to the Selectboard about the changes he has made since becoming owner of Eaton's Trailer Park. Potential residents are screened and he mentioned that people from out of town are moving here. He asked the Selectboard if the

roads in the park can be maintained by the town. Peggy explained that typically the town maintains through roads. The roads in the park do not fit this criteria. Jonathan thanked the Selectboard for their time.

Larry spoke about the timber on the Crawford property. He said he knew someone who would harvest the timber and clear some roads. It was also make the saleable lots more attractive. Joan suggested the Selectboard create a plan for the Crawford Property. Phil said the funds from the sale of land and timber can go back into the capital project fund. Peggy suggested some funds from the sale of timber go toward conservation and recreation and maintenance of the trails. Brent and Logger Fred will be contacted in November to walk the land and assist the Selectboard in in creating a plan for the property.

Officer John spoke to the Selectboard about the security for the new town office building. He said he got 4 estimates for a video, audio alarm intrusion system. Security video can be viewed on a computer or smart phone. **P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to hire Royal Group to install the security system for the new town office building. Motion passed 4-0.**

Royalton resident, Laurie Smith voiced her concerns about the Gilman Road project. She presented a petition to the Selectboard signed by residents of Back River Road protesting the dump truck traffic on Back River Road. Due to the Gilman Road Project, there will be increased dump truck traffic on the Back River Road. These trucks will be hauling material to the town pit. Laurie asked if the trucks can be rerouted and the Selectboard said this was not possible. It would drive up the costs of the project. She suggested the dump trucks can complete their deliveries before 3 pm when there is a lot of the riding lessons. The Selectboard listened to her suggestion and informed Laurie that the project was on a tight schedule. The Selectboard suggested they will drop the speed temporarily to 25 mph. and have enforcement of this on Back River Road. Larry explained truck traffic will only be going one way. Phil said he can inform the contractor to keep the speed down. There is a small window when the project can be completed. The Royalton Road Crew will repair Back River Road once the project has been completed. The Selectboard asked Laurie to get in touch with them after the project has started to keep them informed of how the residents were doing.

School Board Issues: Laurie Smith updated the Selectboard on South Royalton School issues. This year they hired 12 new faculty members to replace those who have left. Tim Murphy informed the Selectboard that over 400 students are attending South Royalton School this year. Laurie Smith spoke about an event called "ED Talk", which will be held Sunday, October 4, 2015 at the Vermont Law School. It will include all 10 towns represented in the SU. They will share the results of the school survey and explain ACT 46. They encouraged all to attend.

J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad to apply to a State of Vermont Community Development grant for the Royalton Wastewater Facility for the maximum allowable amount. Motion passed 4-0.

P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to allow Fraser Walsh (Royalton Farms) permission to use the former Thomas Property (FEMA Buyout Property) at 840 Vermont Route 14 for sheep grazing. Motion passed 4-0.

Tax Stabilization Discussion. The Selectboard discussed an email from Attorney Paul Giuliani. They decided to ask Paul about the wording of the tax stabilization ballot. Sandy suggested ballot wording that will give general authority to the Selectboard to enter into tax stabilizations agreement on behalf of the town with GW Plastics for the next 10 years. Rose will consult with Paul.

The Selectboard reviewed the FY 16/17 Budget Schedule

The Selectboard agreed to change the Regular Selectboard meeting on Tuesday 11/10/2015 to Monday 11/09/2015.

J. Goldstein Motioned and S. Conrad seconded to approve the Value System Payment agreement for new credit card, e check and debit card services that can be used to pay property taxes. Motion passed 4-0.

P. Ainsworth motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to approve the Royalton Wastewater Facility Special Hearing minutes from 09/08/2015. Motion passed 4-0.

P. Ainsworth motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve the Selectboard Regular Meeting minutes form 09/08/2015. Motion passed 4-0.

Highway Snow Blower that goes on the back of tractor .J. Goldstein motioned and Ainsworth seconded to purchase a snow blower for the Highway Department. Motion passed 4-0

Phil spoke about the Towns of Sharon and Royalton creating a board to run the Royalton Rescue Squad. Phil will move forward with this proposal. Peggy expressed an interest in seeing an agreement. Phil will consult with Paul Giuliani. The new rescue squad building has been put on hold for the time being.

Sandy said informed the Selectboard that the Royalton Solid Waste Facility has a surplus of \$60K. She also discussed how a large account will be paying down their debt owed to the facility

Meeting Adjourned 10:15

**Respectfully Submitted by
Rose Hemond**