

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Regular Selectboard Meeting
June 10, 2014
Town Office Safford Street**

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

Public present: Stuart Levasseur, Taylor Ralph, Dan Kinney, Alison Gravel, Bob Slattery, Joshua "Bushroad" Powers, Peggy Bruce, Flora Quillia, Geraldine Carrier, Marge Caron, Elsie Maynard

Town Staff: Administration and Finance Manager Rose Hemond, Lister Walter Hastings, Chief Bob Hull

Chairman Larry Trottier opened the Regular Selectboard Meeting at 7:05pm

Taylor Ralph from Suncommon spoke to the Selectboard about her company which promotes residential solar power. They have a team of people at Suncommon that will inform homeowners if solar power is right for their homes. If they do not have roofs suitable for solar panels they can lease space in an array. She left literature and business cards at the Town office for those who may be interested. The Selectboard thanked Taylor for coming to the meeting.

David Gray was not in attendance so Chairman Trottier informed the Selectboard of a telephone conversation he had with Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray's wife was riding a horse on Mill Road and a speeding car caused her to fall and get injured. Chief Hull said it is against the law to harass horses and said he will put the speed cart on this section of Mill Road to monitor the speed limits.

Elsie Maynard from the 1st Congregational Church of Royalton spoke about issues regarding the Royalton Academy Building. She spoke of an agreement between the town and the church to allow 3 free suppers a year at the Academy Building in exchange for use of the church parking lot. The church was asked for a deposit to use the building and they had concerns about getting the funds returned if the building manager felt they did not leave the common area clean. There was also the matter of the date which had to be changed due to a conflict with Old Homes Day. The Selectboard listened to their concerns and made some suggestions that may help, such as creating cleaning guidelines and posting a floor plan on where everything goes when an event is over. The Selectboard will speak with the building manager and inform the church of the outcome. They were all thanked for coming to the Selectboard with their concerns.

Dan Kinney spoke to the Selectboard about getting electricity and water under his road to his house. Larry informed Dan to speak with Royalton Road Foreman Roger McCrillis.

Award bid for Culverts: Five bids were received for each Happy Hollow Culvert and Urstadt Culvert. The lowest bidder was Hebert Excavation. The Selectboard has asked Dubois and King to check the references of Hebert Excavation since the town was unfamiliar with this contractor. Dubos and King wrote back to the Selectboard:

"I spoke with Larry Hebert of Hebert Excavation Corporation and feel that he is very capable of providing the quality of work required to complete this project. Mr. Hebert provided the locations and reference contacts for several example projects similar to the Broad Brook Road culvert replacement including concrete box culvert projects in Washington and Plainfield and a metal arch culvert project in Williamstown. I contacted Patrick Ross, a River Management Engineer with the State of Vermont and Bernie Chenette of Chenette Engineering Associates who have both worked with Mr. Hebert. Both strongly endorsed his quality of work and experience. In addition, Mr. Jeffery Tucker of DuBois & King has personally worked with Mr. Hebert on dam projects and also endorsed his work. Based on this information and a review of their bid, it is our opinion that Hebert Excavation

Corporation is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for this project.”

The bid for Happy Hollow Culvert was \$81,183.00 and the bid for Broad Brook Culvert was \$69,330.00. **P, Gates motioned to award the bids to Hebert Excavation for both culverts and J. Goldstein seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0**

Town Band Summer Concert Schedule Approval for use of the large Gazebo. J. Goldstein motioned and P. Gates seconded to approve Dick Ellis’s request for use of the gazebo for the Royalton Summer Band series. Motion passed 4-0.

Harrington Family request for bench donation for the Carpenter Field. J. Goldstein motioned and S. Conrad seconded to approve the donated bench for Carpenter field. Motioned passed 4-0

Berk Family bench donation request for South Royalton Green: J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to approve bench for the South Royalton Green. Rose will inquire as to the placement of the bench. Motion passed 4-0

Request from the Royalton Senior Center: A letter from the Royalton Senior Center Director Susan Pirie asked the Selectboard if the town would purchase new plates for the Royalton Academy Building. She informed them that the plates they are currently using are in poor condition. **P. Ainsworth motioned and J. Goldstein seconded approval for the town to purchase plates for the Royalton Academy Building with payment coming from the Community Betterment Fund. Motion passed 4-0.**

Highway Department Uniform Contract. P. Goldstein motioned and L. Trottier seconded to approve the Foley Uniform contract. Motion passed 4-0.

Kathy Benson discussed bridge repair work needed in the Royalton Town Forest. There is much damage caused by jeeps driving over these bridges. Sandy Conrad informed her the Civics Club would help pay for these repairs and perhaps other town clubs would like to help out or contribute to the materials for repair.

Set site for town office building: The Selectboard listened to various suggestions for the site of the new town office building. Sandy Conrad suggested considering the Hope Property as a possible site for the town building. She thought this location was more feasible due to the fact that there is town water and town sewer already available and that an ACT 250 permit was not required. Later in the meeting Walter Hastings brought in documentation to support this claim. Since the ruling was dated 2004, the Selectboard felt that it may not be valid.

Larry said the former Crawford Property allowed for expansion for other municipal departments offices. Dan Kinney agreed the Crawford site would be more in line with the vision of a municipal complex for all town departments in the future. Joan suggested that a master plan was needed for Crawford Property. Bob Slattery cautioned the Selectboard in choosing one site and not analyzing the benefits of two sites. He suggested that if they are going to build on the former Crawford property, the new building should be placed in front of the already existing building, not on the already existing site. Walter expressed his support for building on the Hope Property. Bushrod stated the Royalton voters were against the selling of the Hope Property. Joan said the town should not own so much property. The Fire Department informed the Selectboard (via letter) that they were not interested in building on the Hope Property. Joan felt it was careless to continue holding onto the Hope Property. Phil spoke of the Rescue Squad and how the Crawford Property would be an ideal location for an inter-municipal rescue squad.

Sandy stated the Hope Property was purchased for the purpose of building the town office building. Bob Slattery emphasized the importance of choosing the building site wisely and consider how small towns work. Joan mentioned the brownfield clean up at the Crawford Property was designed to eventually build a town office building at Crawford site. Joan said doing analysis for two sites will spend money the town does not have and she is not sure after all the data is presented what will make Selectboard members change their mind. Joan questioned what the "actionable items" were that would change the Selectboard members decision to build on one site and not another. Is it time, cost, or vision? Phil said the parameters are unclear. Discussion ensued in regards to the site of the building. Larry said he felt the Royalton voters trusted the Selectboard to make the right decision. He said the Selectboard has the best interests of the town in mind, otherwise he felt the voters would attend their meetings and voice their opposition.

David Laurin Architect submitted a proposal for architectural services. The Selectboard decided to mail out an RFP for services to several different architects. They felt this would be the most responsible and prudent option to pursue.

S. Conrad motioned to send out a RFP's (Request for Proposals) for Architected Services to analyze 2 sites (Hope Property and Crawford Property) as a location for the new town office building P. Gates seconded. Motion defeated 1-3.

P. Gates motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to send out RFP's (Request for Proposal's) for constructing the new town office on the same location of the already existing building located at Crawford Auto Lane. Discussion: Larry stated that the town could place the new building in front of the old building and not have to spend the money to tear down the old building. The old building can be used for storage. Phil and Joan explained that money would have to be spent to reinforce the old building to become adequate storage. Building on the original site simplifies the Act 250 process. **Motion passed 3-1.**

Discussion ensued about applying for an ACT 250 permit for the town office building. The Selectboard considered applying for the permit to tear down the old building, construct the new building and subdivide land for saleable lots. Phil also wanted to include the Rescue Squad building on this permit as well. Joan disagreed with this particular point. She felt there was too much uncertainty that remained with the Royalton Rescue Squad and this may delay the town plans by including it in the permitting process. Joan asked to table Rescue Squad for the time being.

Phil Gates asked the Selectboard if there could be a handicapped parking space across the street from the Royalton Memorial Library. The Selectboard felt since the library building was not handicapped accessible there was no need for this parking space. No action taken.

Phil Gates presented monthly Royalton Wastewater Facility Reports.

The Selectboard reviewed and approved account payables as prepared by the Town Treasurer.

L. Trottier motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to enter in executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 10:15pm. L. Trottier motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to exit executive session at 10:30pm
No action taken.

Meeting Adjourned 10:40pm
Respectfully submitted
By Rose Hemond