

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Meeting
December 9, 2014 7:00pm
Town Office Safford Street**

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

Public Present: Juan Carlos Vallejos, Planning Commission Chair Tim Dreisbach, Bob Slattery, Royalton Fire Chief Paul Brock, Cyndy Gates

Town Staff: Administration and Finance Manager Rose Hemond

Selectboard Chairman Larry Trottier opened the Selectboard Meeting at 7:10pm

A letter of Resignation from Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington was read to the Selectboard. Theresa will resign from her elected duties as Town Treasurer effective January 1, 2015. She will continue her elected duties as collector of delinquent taxes. **P. Ainsworth motioned to accept her resignation with much regret and P. Goldstein seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to appoint Luann Bingham as Treasurer from January 1, 2015 until Town Meeting Day March 3, 2015. Theresa wrote in her letter that “Luann has been my assistant for a very long time and is familiar with the treasurer and accounting duties. Motion passed 3-0.

Charter Amendment: The Resolution Certificate states:

BE IT RESOLVED, that a proposal to amend the charter of the Town of Royalton to provide for the appointment of a Town Treasurer should be submitted to the legal voters of the Town at a special meeting thereof to be duly called and held for that purpose on March 3, 2015, coincident with the annual meeting of the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts relating to the proposition of amending the charter of the Town of Royalton for the aforesaid purpose shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Warning and form of Ballot be adopted for use in connection with consideration of the proposition to amend the charter of the Town of Royalton.

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to duly approve and adopt the Resolution Certificate Motion passed 3-0.

Charter Amendment: The Warning for the Charter Amendment states:

The legal voters of the Town of Royalton, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the South Royalton School in the Town of Royalton on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, between the hours of eight o'clock (8:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE I

Shall the charter of the Town of Royalton be amended to authorize the Selectboard to fill the office of Town Treasurer by appointment for a term of up to three years?

The legal voters of the Town of Royalton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Royalton are further notified that informational hearings will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 and on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening, coincident with the regular meeting of the Town of Royalton Selectboard, for the purpose of discussing the proposed charter amendment.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Royalton duly called, noticed and held on December 9, 2014. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Royalton on December 10, 2014.

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Gates seconded to duly approve and adopt the Warning for the Charter Amendment. Motion passed 3-0.

Charter Amendment: The Notice of Informational Hearings reads as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public informational hearings regarding a proposed amendment to the Charter of the Town of Royalton will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Town Office on Safford Street and on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 7pm at the Royalton Academy Building, in the Town of Royalton.

J. Goldstein motioned and Ainsworth seconded to duly approve and adopt the dates for the informational hearings. Motion passed 3-0

P. Gates motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to duly approve and adopt the Official Ballot for use at the special meeting of the Town of Royalton on 03/03/2015 which reads as follows: Article 1 "Shall the Charter for the town of Royalton be amended to authorize the Selectboard to fill the office of Town Treasurer by appointment for a term of up to three years?" Motion passed 3-0

Juan Carlos Vallejos presented a final report for the South Royalton Train Stop Project. He has been in contact with the Vermont Railroad Action Network who will do a feasibility study in Royalton. He requested letters from the town be sent to surrounding towns to inform them of what Royalton is trying to accomplish. The Selectboard thanked Juan Carlos for his presentation.

Hire Town Attorney for bankruptcy issue. J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to hire Town Attorney, Tavian Mayer, to handle a bankruptcy filing by Royalton resident Marc Nemeth, which includes a large amount of delinquent's taxes the town is owed. Motion passed 3-0.

Deconstruction Works Proposal: The Selectboard reviewed a proposal by Deconstruction Works. Joan had some questions about the deposit payment and disposal of the materials. Those items will be looked into and reported back to the Selectboard.

Meeting with the South Royalton School Board on 12/16/14 at 6:45pm.

J. Goldstein motioned and P. Ainsworth seconded to sign the Lake Sunapee Bank Current Expense Note in the amount of \$750,000.00 for another year. This is an emergency line of credit taken out by the Town of Royalton after Storm Irene in 2011. There is still one more FEMA project outstanding. Motion passed 3-0

Tim Dreisbach, the Royalton Planning Commission Chairperson, handed out the most recent drafts of the Town Plan to the Selectboard and reviewed some of the additions and charges that were being made. He spoke about expanding the village designation for Royalton Village and South Royalton Village. He also mention an objective that states public facilities need to be located in the designated village area. Discussion

ensued about the location of the new town office building. Bob Slattery expressed displeasure about having the town office building located on the Crawford Property. Joan asked Bob whether or not the townspeople asked for the town building not to be located at the Crawford Property. Bob said that his idea is academic. Joan stated that the Selectboard needed to be practical. Bob suggested the Selectboard be prepared to explain why they chose the location they did for the new town office at Pre-Town Meeting. The Planning Commission will be having their Public Hearing about the town plan on Monday December 29, 2014 at 7pm at the Royalton Academy Building.

Royalton Fire Chief Paul Brock spoke about the FY 15/16 budget and their appropriation request. Due to increases in insurance and vehicle repair the Fire Department is requesting an increased appropriation amount of \$60,000.00. He said the fire department has decided to forgo the annual stipend in order to reduce their workers compensation insurance premium. The Selectboard thanked Paul for taking the time to meet with them and discuss the Fire Departments budget.

Meeting minutes for 11/25/14 P. Ainsworth motioned and J. Goldstein seconded to accept the 11/23/14 meeting minutes with corrections Motion passed 3-0

The Selectboard reviewed and signed Accounts Payable as prepared by Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington

Report from the Fire Marshall Landon Wheeler Landon Wheeler (Vermont Fire Marshall) received a complaint from someone who attended an evening event at the Royalton Memorial Library. This person's complaint was about the stairs that lead to the basement restroom. Landon Wheeler inspected the building on 12/01/14. There were nine violations cited in the results report. The Selectboard had until 12/16/14 to respond with a course of action. Options discussed ranged from not offering a public restroom to library patrons to moving the library temporarily to a new location. Cyndy Gates mentioned that the library has spent a great deal of time building up programs that the public enjoys attending. She stated that the library would need to cancel all these programs if they are not able to offer a public restroom. Larry and Phil will get in touch with Landon to discuss this matter in more detail. Joan will make some inquiries as to what space is available for the library to use.

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 pm
Respectfully submitted
By Rose Hemond