

**Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Special Meeting
May 2, 2018 7pm
South Royalton School Cafeteria**

Royalton Selectboard: Larry Trottier, Tim Dreisbach, Chris Noble, Gidget Lyman
Sandy Conrad,

Royalton Memorial Library Trustees: Cynthia Dalrymple, Theresa Manning, Louise Clark,
John Dumville, Phoebe Roda, Bonnie Kenyon, Yuliya Ballou,

Town Staff: Town Lister, Jeff Barcelow, Royalton Town Treasurer LuAnn Bingham, Town
Administrator Rose Hemond

Library Staff: Marianne Pysarchyk, Pam Levasseur

Public: See Attached sign in sheet

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Selectboard Chairman Larry Trottier who introduced Frank “Jay Barrett Architect and Attorney Paul Giuliani:

Larry stated that all who were in attendance supported the library including the Selectboard.

Architect Frank “Jay” Barrett began speaking about the Royalton Memorial Library Renovation Project. He reviewed the history of the library building. Jay discussed the bids and the costs associated with this project. He said Jay Whites drawings are thorough. The bids are close which represents a fair cost estimate. Jay offered three alternatives that can be considered. Build new on the Hope Property, build new on the Crawford property or stay the course. His recommendation was to stay the course with the current plan to renovate the building.

Attorney Paul Giuliani explained the bond vote was specific to the purpose of renovating the building and any other use of the funds would be called into question. The Selectboard does have bonding authority up to \$750K. The costs associated with the library renovation are more than the funds that are available. There is a funding gap. This will create a problem when the town applies for financing. The town needs to prove that there is 100% funding available before the bond bank will commit funds, and that certain representations have to be made at the time of issuance. The town needs to enter into binding commitments (contracts) to make the library improvements within six months of the date of issue of the bond and that the Town will expend all bond proceeds on the project within three years of issue. Paul stated this cannot be done until 100% of project funding is in place.

Town Lister Jeff Barcelow spoke about the tax impact of the bond payment would be about \$45.00 a year on a \$200K home. Mr. Barcelow also noted that even before a tax increase, 487 out of the 678 taxpaying residences in town already receive public aid to help pay their property taxes.

Cynthia Dalrymple, Royalton Memorial Library Trustee Chair, spoke about the project and how much funds were raised. It was agreed the library trustees and staff has worked hard to secure funding for this project (\$460K in donations and grants.) Pam Levasseur passed out a project budget that showed a gap in funding. It was not clear whether this was a comprehensive budget

as it had not been reviewed by the Selectboard. Cynthia mentioned the library has retained legal counsel who will be in contact with town Attorney Paul Giuliani.

Many in attendance voiced their support for the renovation project. They said they voted in favor of the bond knowing that the full \$750k would be available for the project.

In regards to financing, the Royalton Memorial Library mailed a letter to Royalton voter prior to the bond vote in October of 2017, claiming only \$290K would be borrowed out of the \$750K. Vermont Bond Bank Executive Director Michael Gaughan informed the town that this letter *“makes it pretty clear that the anticipated borrowing is only \$290k—very susceptible to challenge”*

There were those in attendance that questioned why Architect Jay Whites contract with the town was terminated. The audience was also concerned about the public meetings that were being held that they felt excluded from. (Executive Sessions)

It was explained that all meetings are open to the public. They are posted in 5 places around town and on the town website and town Facebook. Every meeting opens in a public session and has a public concerns item on the agenda.

More discussion ensued about the future of the project. The bids are going to expire on 05/05/2018. It was agreed that the Royalton Selectboard and the Royalton Memorial Library Trustees will meet to discuss the library project and attempt to improve the relationship between the two boards.

Meeting Adjourned 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted by

Town Administrator Rose Hemond