

**Town of Royalton  
Royalton Selectboard Regular Meeting  
Tuesday February 26, 2018 at 6:30pm  
Royalton Academy Building**

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

Regrets: Tim Dreisbach

**Town Staff:** Town Administrator, Rose Hemond, Royalton Police Chief Loretta Stalnaker, Constable Marc Preston, Royalton Treasurer LuAnn Bingham, Royalton Town Clerk Karmen Bascom, Town Moderator Alison Fulcher

**Public:** See sign in sheet

***Please Note Meeting minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Minutes must give a "true indication of the business of the meeting" - which may require supplementing the following statutorily-required elements: members present; active participants at the meeting; motions, proposals, and resolutions made, offered, and considered and what disposition is made of the same; the result of any votes taken; and a record of individual votes if a roll call is taken. 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).***

**Chairman Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 6:30pm**

Larry informed the audience that the Royalton Memorial Library construction contract was not going to be signed tonight. He said the town will do the project. Larry presented the following list of items to the audience that needed to be completed before the Royalton Memorial Library renovation project can begin.

- Comprehensive budget with construction, permit, clerk of the works and insurance costs. Also \$7500.00 back to preservation trust and listing of all funding sources.
- Legal review of A1A contract
- Completion of MOU and signed by Selectboard Chair and Library Trustee
- Advertise, interview and hire a clerk of the works.
- Obtain construction insurance
- Verify grant awards and conditions have been met
- Obtain permits.
- Apply for bridge financing

Larry said Rose will work on these items. Larry mentioned in two weeks to meet with the library again and hopefully have the contract and MOU ready to sign. There were some in attendance who expressed frustration with more delays and Rose explained it takes time to get everything in place before construction begins. Rose explained that there is a process to follow and items must be completed in a sequential fashion. Rose will send a weekly progress reports to the library and Bridget Taylor so the public can stay informed. Concern was expressed about new Selectboard members taking time to get up to speed with the library project. Larry said current and potential new Selectboard members are all in agreement with getting this project completed.

Larry opened Pre-Town Meeting at 7:05pm

Moderator Alison Fulcher read the Town of Royalton 2019 Annual town meeting warning.

**Article IV:** It was explained the trailer on the food shelf parcel is NOT part of this request for tax exemption.

Larry spoke about the budget and read the following budget notes.

### **Budget News**

- The General Fund Budget request for FY 19/20 shows an increase in expenses of \$79,834.00 which is an increase of 7% from last fiscal year.
- Largest Increase in General Fund Department Budget Expenses are due to:
  - Appropriation requests Increase
    - Fire Department
    - Royalton Memorial Library
  - Transfer to capital improvement reserve
    - Capital Improvement reserve (Sidewalk Match)
  - Transfer to police vehicle reserve.
    - Purchase of new vehicle
- **The amount of revenue to be raised by taxes for the General Fund is \$1,135,585 a decrease of \$4,521 or less than half a percent.** The Selectboard is still addressing a small deficit in the General Fund which was due tax delinquencies.
- The Highway Fund budget request for FY 19/20 has an increase in expenses of \$96,450 or 10%.
- **The amount of revenue to be raised by taxes for the Highway Fund is \$794,050 which is an increase of \$146,450 or 23%.**
- This increase is due to the fact the equipment transfer reserve has been restored to its full amount.

Larry took this time to allow the Selectboard candidates to speak:

Phoebe Preston introduced herself to the audience and explained that many generation of her family has lived in the area. She has a son and daughter both currently in college. She works as a planner for Simon Pearce. Some of her job responsibilities include production, purchasing and collaborating with others. She will bring to the Selectboard her decisiveness and accountability to the residents of Royalton.

Bob Slattery introduced himself as a longtime resident and farm owner in Royalton for 26 years. He agreed with Phoebe about transparency and accountability on the Selectboard. His professional career consists of being an architect, planner and university professor. Bob said he looks forward to making his skills available to the town.

Gidget Lyman spoke to the audience and informed them she has been on the Selectboard for the past two years and was on the Royalton Police Chief Search Committee. She was instrumental in hiring our new chief of police. She is a member of the Royalton Rescue Squad Board and is also the Royalton Emergency Management Director. She also served on the Stagecoach Transportation Board for a number of years.

All candidates expressed support for the Royalton Memorial Library Project.

John O' Brian, State Representative for Royalton and Tunbridge gave an update about various state legislation. He is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture. He will not be in attendance at Royalton Town Meeting due to the fact he is on the Tunbridge Selectboard and will be at that meeting 03/05/2019. He encouraged all to get in touch with him with any concerns or ideas for bills they may have.

Discussion ensued about the sidewalk project. The next steps will include one more public meeting on the plans at the end of March and then rose will apply for grant funding for the design and implementation phase of this project.

The Royalton Listers created a map of what a one way South Royalton Village Center would look like and all the additional parking spaces that can be added.

Chief Loretta Stalnaker introduced herself and explained she currently has two part time officers and a time administrative assistant in her department. Her administrative assistance will be attending the part time Police Academy in March and the full time academy in August to become a full time officer. The money is already included in her budget for this full time officer.

Stuart Levasseur asked if there will be any discussion on Article 3 to change the town clerk term from one year to three years. Larry Trottier explained how other elected positions have openings each year to run for. If someone wanted to run for town clerk under this new article they would have to wait two or three years to do so. Jojo asked what the advantage is. It was suggested there is a learning curve and would provide time to learn the job. Fran Flannery mentioned that these town jobs are professional jobs that require certain skills and experience to do them well. Karmen said she has obtained town clerk certifications and attends town clerk workshops each year. David Ainsworth spoke in favor of it. Pam Levasseur expressed support for some day having this position be appointed (hired) so all who work at the town offices can work together.

**S. Conrad motioned and G. Lyman seconded to approve and sign Liquor Licenses for Worthy Burger and the Cornerstop Market. Motion passed 3-0**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved accounts payable as prepared by town treasurer LuAnn Bingham.

Rose was given authority to begin search for a clerk of the works for the Royalton Memorial Library project.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:45pm**  
**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Town Administrator Rose Hemond**