

Town of Royalton
Royalton Selectboard Special Meeting
Tuesday January 15, 2019 at 7pm
Town Office on Route 14

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

Town Staff: Town Administrator, Rose Hemond,

Public: Peter Chap, Bob Slattery

Chairman Larry Trottier opened the meeting at 7pm

Tim had some questions for Chris Noble about the library project in regards to the costs estimate. There were some questions as to the investments held by the library and how long they can continue subsidizing their budget with other income sources. Chris will make the necessary inquiries and get back to the board.

The Selectboard reviewed a draft of the FY 19/20 General Fund and Highway Budget. The board made numerous inquiries as to the detail of certain expense accounts. The Selectboard removed over \$21,000.00 in expenses from the General Fund budget and over \$70,000.00 in expenses from the Highway budget. These reductions were in several different departments. There was a brief discussion about the land record digitization project and the board felt that they could not afford it at this time.

The Selectboard discussed including the debt service for the library bond in the budget. Rose informed the board if funds were borrowed and disbursed for this year, the first interest only payment would be due in November 2019 and a full principal and interest would be due in May of 2020. The board decided to include both payments in the FY 19/20 budget.

Peter Chap asked the Selectboard about the Randolph Police Department disbanding and if that was a possibility for Royalton's Police Department. The Selectboard stated the voters of Royalton expressed need and support for a municipal police department. Gidget stated the most recent Royalton Police Department stats show how much the town needs its own police department.

Peter asked if the Selectboard was planning to change the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed. A general discussion ensued about the pros and cons of elected officials versus employees, town official responsiveness to citizens, and personnel accountability to various tasks. Elected officials with shorter terms are directly accountable to voters. Employees provide longer-term continuity yet with more immediate accountability.

The Selectboard will not be asking the voters to make any changes to the Town Clerk position at the upcoming Town Meeting. It was noted there is a petition from the Town Clerk asking voters to change the Clerk's elected term from one year to three.

Larry asked the board if he and Bob Slattery can meet with Royalton Memorial Library Trustee Cynthia Dalrymple and Library Project advisor Theron Manning to discuss the library renovation project in more detail. The board agreed this was a good idea.

Setting the July 1, 2018-December 3, 2018 Royalton Sewer Rate. S. Conrad motioned and C. Noble seconded to approve the sewer rate of .0137 per gallon or \$1.37 per 100 gallons. Motion passed 4-0

Larry stated a Royalton resident was interested in using the field outside the town office. Sandy asked Rose to find the notes from a prior meeting when this topic was discussed. Rose will follow up at a later date.

**Meeting Adjourned 10:15pm
Respectfully Submitted
By Royalton Town Administrator Rose Hemond**