

**Town of Royalton  
Annual Town Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2017  
South Royalton School Gymnasium**

Moderator Allison Fulcher orchestrated Royalton's town meeting this year, starting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Boy Scouts, followed by Peg Ainsworth noting that her husband, David Ainsworth, local representative, would be focusing on our water control legislation and subsequent funding needs.

The meeting began 10 a.m. with Moderator Fulcher reading:

**Article I: To elect by Australian ballot the following officers: Town Moderator for one year, School Moderator for one year, Town Clerk for one year, Selectboard for three years, Selectboard for two years, Lister for three years, First Constable for one year remaining of two years, Second Constable for two years, Collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Town Agent for one year, Grand Juror for one year, Trustee of Public Funds for three years, School Director for three years, School Director for two years, School Director for one year remaining of two years and Library Trustee for two years. Questions? Motion carried**

**Article II: to receive the reports of the town officers. Motion moved, seconded: discussion?**

Floor: Del Thurston asked not to accept report; lack of financial data. Selectman Larry Trottier said all data is available at the Selectboard's office and on the town website. Voters polled. **Motion carried.**

**Article III: Shall the voters appropriate \$301,758 to the following Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691?**

	Approved 2016	Requested 2017
South Royalton Fire District #1	\$70,000	\$77,250
Royalton Memorial Library	\$58,855	\$58,855
South Royalton Rescue Squad	\$146,858	\$152,553
Royalton Town Band	\$2,400	\$2,400
South Royalton One Planet Program	\$6,000	\$6,000
Fuller Stearn Post #51	\$700	\$700
<u>South Royalton Area Senior Center</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$287,813</b>	<b>\$301,758</b>

Fire District moved and seconded. No discussion; voters polled. **Motion carried.**

Library motion moved and seconded. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Rescue squad motion moved and seconded. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Band motion moved, seconded, no discussion. **Motion carried.**

One Planet Program, moved and seconded.

Floor: Suzanne Milord asked what the One Planet Program was. Peg Ainsworth explained that is an after-school program for the supervisory union with scholarships available. Vote to appropriate. **Motion carried.**

Fuller Stern motion moved and seconded. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Senior Center motion moved and seconded. Corinne Ingraham explained the additional funding request was for Meals on Wheels. **Motion carried.**

**Article IV: Shall the voters appropriate \$23,718 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691?**

	Approved 2016	Requested 2017
Capstone Community Action	\$400	\$400
CV Council on Aging	\$1,500	\$1,500
Clara Martin Center	\$4,180	\$4,180
The Family Place	\$200	\$200
HCRS	\$2,689	\$2,689
HIV/HCV Resource Center	\$500	\$500
Orange County Parent Child Center	\$1,000	\$1,000
VT Assoc. of Conservation Dist.	\$100	\$100
Safeline	\$1,000	\$1,000
Stagecoach	\$3,318	\$3,318
Vermont Adult Learning	\$500	\$500
VT Assoc. of the Blind	\$750	\$750
VT Ctr. for Independent Living	\$305	\$305
Visiting Nurses	\$5,876	\$5,876

WR Partnership	\$500	\$500
WC Partners	\$500	\$500
WC Youth Services	\$400	\$400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,718</b>	<b>\$23,718</b>

Capstone motion moved and seconded. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Request to vote all, not individually. Motion moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**

Moderator Fulcher restated Article IV as such. Motion moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Article V: Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,165,926 of which \$1,036,192 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664?** Motion moved seconded, discussion?

Floor: Paul Brock: There is no line for Sharon police contract. Larry Trottier explained that the Sharon Selectboard has not yet given Royalton a definitive answer and their contract expires in June. Benefit: if they do not renew, extra hours could be used for patrolling Royalton. Voters polled. **Motion carried.**

**VI: Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$870,650 of which \$725,650 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664** Motion moved, seconded with call for discussion.

Selectman Trottier informed townspeople that highway department was currently well-funded so they were able to allow a one-year reduction of \$183,000 in taxable funding requests. Also, water trough will not be fixed at this time until the sidewalks on Chelsea Street are addressed for repairs. Motion moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**

**VII: Shall the voters authorize the treasurer to collect property taxes on or before November 1, 2017 with delinquent taxes subject to interest charges of one percent per month or fraction thereof and eight percent penalty charged against them from the due date?** Motion moved and seconded with no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**VIII: Shall the voters oppose the NewVistas development?** Moved, seconded; discussion followed.

Floor: Randy Leavitt declared the planned, private and gated community threatens our way of life. He understood the vote would be nonbinding, but asked for support from Royalton, neighboring towns and state legislature to oppose NewVistas. Harry Dodge asked what would Mr. Leavitt or anyone else proposed we do, noting all of the property purchased from Hall was up for sale. LuAnn Bingham, treasurer added that the foundation had currently paid all of the taxes owed. Walter Hastings, lister, backed up Bingham, saying the project appeared sound.

Floor: Jo Levasseur thanked Peg Ainsworth for her previous report on Representative Ainsworth's legislative endeavors regarding water quality and other natural resources, saying that she feels Hall's hilltop designs would require drilling sure to affect all of us. Beth Willhite, planning commission, suggested we use NewVistas as a catalyst in asking ourselves: where do we want to be in 50 years? They would welcome all points of view in hopes townspeople would come together to discuss town issues such as solar arrays, agri-tourism for generation capital and how the Crawford property could be developed in order to help ensure the town's financial stability. Del Thurston suggested the state of Utah was welcoming NewVistas developments and we might consider them as an opportunity to grow. Stuart Ketcham questioned the negative effect of breaking large land portions into smaller developed parcels, suggesting cluster housing communities would indeed concentrate residences and leave large amount of land for people to farm, walk and snowshoe. That should at least allow for some reflection. Suzanne Long suggested The Alliance for Vermont Communities would help work on solutions for people who want to sell their land, but not to Hall. Jeff Barcelow, lister, reminded the voters that as a community, while we have discussed zoning regulations, we don't currently have it. Barcelow cautioned that generally, he would be opposed to telling someone what they could do with their land. In addition, NewVistas land purchases had been fairly conducted with reasonable sale value, not excessive force or excessive cash incentives to entice sellers. Continuing, speaking from personal experience as a business owner in town, Act 250 is very difficult to get through. John Dumville wrapped up the floor commentary urging all vote yes. **Request to call question, motion carried.**

Request from floor to use paper ballots. Moderator Fulcher asked if at least seven townspeople supported a paper ballot request. Request conformed. Moderator Fulcher called up Board of Civil Authority to distribute a non-binding paper ballot vote. All residents interested in pursuing the vote and in possession of their floor vote cards were offered paper ballots. Results: 123 yes, in opposition; 16 no, in favor and one blank.

Senator Richard McCormack asked to speak. Moderator Fulcher polled townspeople with no opposition. Senator McCormack discussed the state's budget projection act, the state's \$52 million dollar deficit and Act 46 concerns. Laurie Smith once again urged voters to choose the new school consolidation model in the upcoming school vote.

**Article IX To transact any other non-binding business proper to be brought before the meeting.**

Floor: Dan Kinney suggested surplus town funds be made available for ECFiber internet. Tim Murphy invited all to join him at Crossroads for a night of remembering Alex Boles. Karmen Bascom, clerk noted a correction to town vital report: Phil Paini passed away in Royalton, not Randolph. Ross Hudson suggested we combine school and town meeting in same day. Toni Hover asked board to please place arrows or guides around water trough for safety. Nick Manovelous, held up his grandson's 1000 point basketball shirt, noting he is proud of Royalton's school and worries that there would be hidden costs forced consolidation.

Larry Trottier, on behalf of Royalton, thanked Joan Goldstein, Selectwoman, for her eight years of service. She was presented a Simon Pearce vase during the applause.

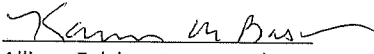
Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**

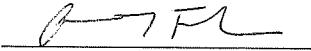
Registered voters in attendance: 162

Registered voters on checklist: 2,166

Respectfully submitted:  
Karmen M. Bascom, Clerk



Allison Fulcher, town moderator



Joshua "Bushrod" Powers, justice of the peace



ROYALTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

This 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017  
at 12 o'clock and 00 minutes P M

Received for record the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Rita Hull  
Asst - Town Clerk