

Town of Royalton
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2018
South Royalton School Gymnasium

Once again, Moderator Alison Fulcher coordinated Royalton's town meeting this year, starting with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Boy Scouts. The meeting began at 10 a.m. with Fulcher requesting a five minute limit on questions and comments. Jim Hudson objected. Fulcher acquiesced. The meeting moved forward.

Article I: To elect by Australian ballot the following officers: Town Moderator for one year, School District Moderator for one year, Town Clerk for one year, Selectboard for three years, Selectboard for two years, Lister for three years, First Constable for two years, Second Constable for one year remaining of a two year term, 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, Trustee of Public Funds for two years remaining of a three year term, School Director for Royalton Town School District for three years, School Director for Royalton Town School District for two years and Library Trustee for two years. Motion made by Jerry Barcelow and seconded by Alison Gravel: discussion? Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article II: To receive the reports of the Town Officers? Motion made by Larry Trottier and seconded by Susan Cain: discussion? Larry Trottier noted ongoing library renovations, waste water facility upgrades to be completed in April, multiple grants awarded for road ditches, preserving the Handy Memorial (thanks to John Dumville), VTrans \$140,000 culvert, sidewalk upgrades and both Oxbow and Broad Brook road repairs. Gidget Lyman said the Selectboard would be increasing the police budget again to include additional wages and a benefits package in hopes of securing a police chief for Royalton. Susan Cain questioned the sidewalk project. Larry Trottier said the town owns the sidewalk and would pay for repairs while ideally, the business owners would be responsible for other renovations. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article III: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$6,000 per year for the support of The Community Food Shelf to provide services to the residents of Royalton pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? Motion made by Sue Trottier and seconded by Alison Gravel. Discussion? Suzanne Trottier explained that matching grant monies and teaming up with the Red Door Church had brought the long awaited project to fruition. Christine Hudson asked why the food shelf was open so few hours. Trottier noted supplies dwindle quickly. Jim Hudson requested the appropriation sum be amended to \$10,000, from \$6,000, in hopes it would translate into more open hours. **Motion to amend moved and seconded.** Discussion? None. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.** Original motion amended to read: **Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$10,000 per year for the support of The Community Food Shelf to provide services to the residents of Royalton pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?** Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article IV: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 per year for the support of the South Royalton School Based Health Clinic (Health Hub) to provide Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? Motion made by Susan Cain and seconded by Nick Thornton: discussion? Becky Foulk said the independent non-profit was looking to increase adult dental services amongst other needs. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Moderator Fulcher requested V and VI be read as a lump sum, giving townspeople the option to discuss organizations separately. Motion moved and seconded: discussion? Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article V: Shall the voters appropriate \$319,165 to the following Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

| | Approved 2017 | Requested 2018 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| South Royalton Fire District #1 | \$77,250 | \$78,000 |
| Royalton Memorial Library | \$58,855 | \$72,855 |
| South Royalton Rescue Squad | \$152,553 | \$155,210 |
| Royalton Town Band | \$2,400 | \$2,400 |
| South Royalton One Planet Program | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
| Fuller Stearn Post #51 (Memorial Day) | \$700 | \$700 |
| South Royalton Area Senior Citizens | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| Total | \$301,758 | \$319,165 |

Motion made by Toby Ferris and seconded by Charlie Bascom: discussion? Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article VI: Shall the voters appropriate \$25,324 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

| | Approved 2017 | Requested 2018 |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Capstone Community Action (Formerly CV Community Action Council) | \$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 |
| Vermont Association of Conservation Districts | \$100 | \$100 |
| Safeline | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Stagecoach | \$3,318 | \$3,800 |
| Vermont Adult Learning | \$500 | \$500 |
| VT Assoc. of the Blind | \$750 | \$750 |
| VT Ctr. for Independent Living | \$305 | \$305 |
| Visiting Nurses | \$5,876 | \$7,000 |
| WR Partnership | \$500 | \$500 |
| WC Partners | \$500 | \$500 |
| WC Youth Services | \$400 | \$400 |
| Total | \$23,718 | \$25,324 |

Motion made by Toby Ferris and seconded by Carrie Ballou: discussion? Pam Frary asked where the money was coming from to fund these increases. Larry Trotter reminded all that it comes from our taxes. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article VII: Shall the voters approve the total general fund expenditures of \$1,188,151 of which \$1,136,106 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2644? Moderator Fulcher noted the \$4,000 budget increase and edited the general fund to expenditures to read: **Shall the voters approve the total general fund expenditures of \$1,192,151 of which \$1,140,106 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2644?** Motion made by Toby Ferris and seconded by Hoyt Bingham: discussion? Charlie Bascom motioned for an amendment to add \$500 to the elections budget to continue the town's longtime practice of paying ballot clerks for their service, in opposition to the Board of Civil Authority's recent vote to mandate they volunteer their service, motion seconded. Tim Dreisbach stated that the Board of Civil Authority vote carried, but that the Selectboard had specific line item funds budgeted for that purpose and perhaps it could be revisited at a future meeting. He also reminded everyone that the meetings were public and encouraged folks to attend. Jerry Barcelow moved question. **Shall the voters add \$500 to GFE/Elections Fund for ballot clerks?** Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion defeated.** Moderator Fulcher then returned to the main motion.

Shall the voters approve the total general fund expenditures of \$1,192,151 of which \$1,140,106 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2644? Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article VIII: Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$942,600 of which \$647,600 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2644? Motion made by Toby Ferris and seconded by Jim Hudson: questions? None. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article IX: Shall the voters exempt from taxation, the 2.9 acre Paine's Beach recreation area owned by the Heartland Lions Club for a period of five years pursuant to V.S.A. 32 § 3840? Motion made by Walter Hastings and seconded by Alison Gravel: questions? None. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article X: Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect property taxes on or before November 1, 2018 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 made by Alison Gravel and seconded by Toby Ferris: questions? Pam Frary asked if there was a way to help taxpayers make their payments. LuAnn Bingham, treasurer said the delinquent tax collector accepts partial payments and that most importantly, people need to make sure to file their Vermont homestead exemptions every year with the state. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article XI: To transact any other non-binding business proper to be brought before said meeting? Motion made and seconded. Both Chris Hudson and Sandy Conrad voiced concerns about our community drug problem. Jeff Barcelow asked for clarification regarding the breakdown of \$50,000 in appropriations transfers that resulted in a \$22,158 budget increase. He also maintained the importance of filing the Vermont homestead forms and that the listers would be available for assistance in filing. Jo Levasseur invited everyone to the Community Thaw event and Pam Levasseur asked what the betterment fund was for. Peg Ainsworth noted is was funded by Vermont Law School and assists with new parks and the food shelf. Barcelow reassured townspeople the common level of appraisal in Royalton was accurate. Jim Hudson thanked road crew. Larry Trotter presented Peg Ainsworth, selectboard member, with chocolates. Ainsworth thanked everyone for allowing her to serve them throughout her joys and sorrows and received her Simon Pierce vase, as she was stepping down from serving for 12 years as a selectboard member.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. **Motion carried.**
Meeting adjourned at: 11:50 a.m.

Registered voters in attendance: 135. Registered voters on checklist: 2,250.
Respectfully submitted:

Karmen M. Bascom, clerk:

Karmen M. Bascom

Allison N. Fulcher, moderator:

Allison N. Fulcher

Alison S. Gravel, justice of the peace:

Alison S. Gravel

ROYALTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
This 22nd day of March 2018
at 2 o'clock and 00 minutes PM
Received for record the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.
Attest: *Rita Hull* Asst. Town Clerk