

**Town of Royalton
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019
White River Valley School, Royalton Campus**

Moderator Allison Fulcher headed up Royalton's town meeting. Prior to the meeting, Sharon Boy Scout Troop #205, organized by Scout Master Norm Hebard and Team Leader Alex Madden, led the townspeople in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting began at 10:05 a.m. with Fulcher reminding everyone that as she proceeded with reading the Articles, Vermont Law and Roberts Rules of Order would be followed.

Article I: To elect by Australian ballot the following officers: Town Moderator for one year, Town Clerk for one year, Selectboard for three years, Selectboard for two years, Lister for three years, Lister for two years remaining of a three-year-term, Second Constable for two years, Collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Cemetery Commissioner for two years remaining of a three-year-term, 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, Trustee of Public Funds for one year remaining of a three-year-term, School Director for White River Valley Unified School District (Royalton) for three years, School Director for White River Valley Unified School District (Bethel) for three years and Library Trustee for two years.

Article II: To Receive the reports of the Town Officers? David Ainsworth moved to accept Alison Gravel seconded. Moderator Fulcher called for discussion. Peg Ainsworth asked to have Collector of Delinquent Taxes report totals and noted that just for clarification, highway fund report on page 19, under 122 Equipment Rental was transposed. It should read "Transfer to Fund #24 for Equipment Reserve, not Fund #42." So noted. Vote called. **Motion carried.**

Article III: Shall the Town of Royalton make the elected office of municipal clerk a 3-year term beginning March 3rd, 2020 pursuant 17 V.S.A. §2646(2)? Toby Ferris motioned, David Ainsworth seconded. Theresa Harrington called for paper ballot after being recognized. Fulcher asked if there were seven voters who wanted a paper ballot. More than seven voters raised their cards. No discussion. Board of Civil Authority organized paper ballot vote. **Vote results: Yes: 74, No: 40. Motion carried.**

Article IV: Shall the voters exempt from taxation 1.5 acres and dwelling of the Royalton Area Food Shelf owned by the United Church of South Royalton at 2955 VT Route 14 South Royalton, VT 05068, for the period of 5 years pursuant to V.S.A. 32 §3840? John Dumville motion, David Ainsworth second. Robert Eddy asked what the tax rate was for the property. Pastor Josh Moore spoke, asking for roughly \$2,500 per year in tax relief for their services to the local communities and thanked the townspeople for their generosity. Total tax burden is \$3,100 with the food shelf resting on 1.5 acres. Jonathan Ranney asked if town was being asked for tax relief on entire property. Pastor Moore explained only the food shelf building and surrounding land, not the existing rental property, which includes .3 acres and a trailer, which would continue to generate tax revenue to town. Vote called for in favor, and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Article V: Shall the voters appropriate \$347,236 to the following Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? Toby Ferris motioned, and David Ainsworth seconded.

Community Food Shelf: Approved 2018, \$10,000; Requested 2019, \$10,000? Questions: Suzanne Long asked for food shelf budget in town report next year. Vote called. **Motion carried**

Health Hub School Clinic (p.47): Approved 2018, \$1,000; Requested 2019, \$1,000? David Ainsworth motioned, John Dumville seconded. **Motion carried.** Dr. Becky Foulk shared appreciation for health hub funds granted to them. 60 medical visits, 3 dental work cases and other services were given to area people. Vote called. **Motion carried.**

South Royalton Fire District #1(p.49): Approved 2018, \$78,000; Requested 2019, \$96,325? Toby Ferris motioned and David Ainsworth seconded. Discussion: Jim Hewitt asked if increase was a necessity. Paul Brock explained the cost of repairs on aging fleet and an average of \$10,000 per person protective equipment needed to place an individual in a burning building to make sure our firefighters come home safely was essential. Vote called. **Motion carried.**

Royalton Memorial Library (p.44): Approved 2018, \$72,855; Requested 2019, \$74,405? Lincoln Clark motioned and John Dumville seconded. No discussion. Moderator Fulcher called for vote. **Motion carried.**

South Royalton Rescue Squad (p.56): Approved 2018, \$155,210; Requested 2019, \$151,906? Parker motioned, Jeff Knudsen carried. Discussion: Corinne Ingraham, with good news, said the new ambulance was ordered all with grants. No money asked from town. Applause. Vote called in favor and opposed. **Motion carried.**

Royalton Town Band (p.57): Approved 2018, \$2,400; Requested 2019, \$2,900? John Dumville motioned and David Ainsworth seconded. No questions. Vote called. **Motion carried.**

South Royalton One Planet Program (p.48): Approved 2018, \$6,000; Requested 2019, \$6,000? John Dumville motioned and David Ainsworth seconded. Harry Dodge questioned, "What is this outfit?" Robert Eddy, unofficially commenting as a former staffer for them, answered that they offer summer programs, swimming lessons and meals to kids. Allison Fulcher noted a report could be found on page 48 of report. Vote called: **Motion carried.**

Fuller Sterns Post #51 (Memorial Day): Approved 2018, \$700; Requested 2019, \$700? Jeff Knudsen motioned and Steve Ball seconded. Discussion: Steve Ball said they would welcome veterans to offer their support for this organization. Funding goes towards new flags and Royalton's Memorial Day service. Vote called. **Motion carried.**

South Royalton Area Senior Citizens (p.57): Approved 2018, \$4,000; Requested 2019, \$4,000? Motion made by John Dumville and seconded by Jim Hewitt. No discussion. **Total approved 2018, \$330,165; Requested 2019 \$347,236?** Vote called. **Motion carried.**

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

	Approved 2018	Requested 2019
Capstone Community Action (p.58)	\$400	\$400

CV Council on Aging (p.59)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Clara Martin Center (p.59)	\$4,180	\$4,180
The Family Place (p.60)	\$200	\$200
HCRS (p.61)	\$2,689	\$2,689
HIV/HCV Resource Center (p.62)	\$500	\$500
Orange County Parent Child Center (p.62)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Vermont Assoc. of Conservation Districts (p.64)	\$100	\$100
Safeline (p.62)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Stagecoach (p.63)	\$3,800	\$3,800
Vermont Adult Learning (p.64)	\$500	\$500
VT Assoc. of the Blind (p.64)	\$750	\$750
VT Ctr. for Independent Living (p.65)	\$305	\$305
Visiting Nurses (p.66)	\$7,000	\$7,000
WR Partnership (p.66)	\$500	\$500
WC Partners (p.67)	\$500	\$500
WC Youth Services (p.67)	\$400	\$400
Total	\$25,324	\$25,324

Moderator Fulcher asked permission to read agencies inclusively. No objection. Fulcher reads list with the understanding that people may question any line item after reading article. Motion made by John Dumville and seconded by Hoyt Bingham. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Article VII: Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,271,985 of which \$1,135,585 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664? John Dumville motioned and seconded by Toby Ferris. No discussion. Vote called. Motion carried.

Article VIII: Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,039,050 of which \$794,050 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664? Motion made by Toby Ferris and seconded by John Dumville. No discussion. Vote called. Motion carried.

Article IX: Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect property taxes on or before November 5, 2019 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? John Dumville motioned and Toby Ferris seconded. No discussion. Vote called. Motion carried.

Article X: To transact any non-binding business proper to be brought before said meeting.
 Del Thurston thanked Selectboard Chair Larry Trottier for his many years of service to the town followed by much applause. Selectboard Member Tim Dreisbach also thanked Larry Trottier for his many years of service, followed by more applause. Larry spoke about how much he appreciated working for our town during his last four terms and original term as a member and chair of the selectboard. He encouraged everyone to continue to ask him questions as he planned to remain in the background throughout the new board's transition and thanked everyone for their support over the years. Suzanne Long asked what the Town Betterment fund was for and how it worked. The Selectboard's Town Administrator Rose Hemond said the town receives money from Vermont Law School to help with town projects. The Selectboard allocates as seen fit. This year the food shelves and ambulance services were among some of the recipients. Roughly \$38,000 is added to this fund every year. Bushrod Powers double-thanked our road crew. Tim Dreisbach gave a shout-out to Chief Loretta Stalnaker, followed by applause. Geo Honigford asked to remove individual tax names on delinquencies and leave just the totals. Trottier pointed out sidewalk project display and asked everyone to review plans and come to public meetings, noting the one-way traffic would be an important measure. The \$1.2 million looks like it could be funded primarily with grants, leaving 20% remaining as town portion of payment. Sue Cain expressed cleanliness concerns about the Bethel-Royalton Transfer Station and asked how many other towns use it. Chair Trottier spoke for their liaison, Sandy Conrad, who was not available. They are aware of the cleanliness issue and other towns are assessed at a per head fee. Selectboard Clerk, Gidget Lyman urged folks to please come to the meetings. David Barker enthusiastically reminded us that our town was coming up on its 250th birthday and that a celebration and fireworks party was in the works. He plans to meet with the selectboard to get a committee organized and urged everyone interested in planning to attend the meeting and stay tuned. David Ainsworth suggested that perhaps the town consider combining the Collector of Delinquent Taxes and Treasurer position in order to offer someone a full-time position in our town. Hemond noted at this time the Collector of Delinquent Taxes was elected and the Treasurer was appointed. Townsperson suggested the dump should be open more Saturdays. Mary Sue Turner introduced herself as the new representative for Stagecoach, adding she had previously used the coach for many years herself.

Moderator Allison Fulcher asked for adjournment. David Ainsworth motioned, and Bill Ballou seconded. **Motion carried.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Registered voters in attendance: 135 Registered voters on checklist: 2,318

Respectfully submitted:
 Karmen M. Bascom, clerk: Karmen M. Bascom
 Allison N. Fulcher, moderator: Allison N. Fulcher
 David Ainsworth, board of civil authority chair: David Ainsworth

ROYALTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 This 21st day of March 2019
 at 2 o'clock and 45 minutes PM
 Received for record the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.
 Attest: Peta Hurl
Peta Hurl Town Clerk