

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
10/27/2020 6:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: Jerry Barcelow, David Barker, Tim Murphy, John Dumville, Chris Noble

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Marc Preston (Constable), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Brad Salzmann (EMD), Nell Gwin (Planning Commission), Sarah Danly (Planning Commission)

Public: Jo Levasseur,

Meeting called to order @ 6:32 PM

Approve the Agenda: The agenda was approved with the addition of an update from Chief Stalnaker

Public Comments: There were no public comments this evening.

Chief Update: Loretta reports that there was an arrest made on Harlow road and that federal charges are pending. Discussion continued regarding whether the amount of traffic on the road has decreased and any possible continued solutions.

Loretta has ordered the new car, but it will not be ready until about four months from now.

Loretta is still working on gathering options and costs for dispatching. VSP is phasing in the billing for dispatching. We will be sure to add these new costs to the budget.

Vermont Law School: Caitlin Kennedy is a first-year law student who has been elected to serve as the town liaison. The board asked Caitlin to work on addressing recycling and composting with the student population so that all can be better informed about the changes to the law and how to properly utilize the transfer station.

VLS has tentatively scheduled 2021 commencement for May 15th.

Highway Department: Victoria reports that there was an incident on I-89 involving a town dump truck in which two personal vehicles were allegedly damaged. The board requested that Victoria seek input from our insurance company.

The town right of way on Rix Rd was discussed. Marc will consult with Demi and make a visit to the area in question.

Planning Commission (Arts Grant): Nell and Sarah discussed the progress that has been made on the planning of the art installation on the Safford St underpass. They requested that the board approve their Request for Qualification to be published. Nell also requested that the board allow Tavian to review the proposed Artist Contract.

Jerry motioned to allow Tavian to review the artist contract. David seconded and the motion carried.

Jerry moved to approve the Request for Qualification as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

Conservation Commission: Brad reports that the conservation commission decided not to seek additional bids for the phase one logging. The State Forester suggested that if conditions are appropriate, the logging may be done in the summer. If conditions do not allow for summer logging the phase one logging will take place next winter.

Emergency Management: Brad gave the board an update on current conditions within the state and status of town departments and events. Overall, COVID cases are on the rise, and it is essential that individuals continue to take appropriate precautions including mask wearing and frequent hand washing. Grafton County New Hampshire is now in a yellow status, which means Vermonters should only travel there for essential business such as medical care and essential shopping. On Saturday, the Rec Department will host a Trunk-or-Treat event at Hope Field (signup is required) and the Co-op will hold a lantern lighting event on the Town Green.

The PPE and other supplies that Brad had ordered have come in. These will be marked and distributed as needed, with some supplies being stored for use at the shelter in the event it needs to be opened.

Brad noted that purchasing communication radios is in this year's budget. Chris Noble will work on finding our best options.

Tim inquired about the practices of the Town office Building and asked Brad for recommendations. Discussion continued regarding current practices and areas for improvement.

Chris motioned that all within the town office building shall wear a mask, sanitize their hands on the way in, surfaces shall be cleaned regularly, individuals using the conference room shall adhere to all policies and gather information needed for contact tracing, Selectboard meetings shall return to a zoom only format with no public allowed to physically attend, and that Brad Salzmann shall have the authority to make changes to our practices, including closing the town office building, as necessary. John seconded and the motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds: Victoria noted that the leases for the current tenants of the Academy Building were due for renewal on July 1st. Walter would like to extend the leases through June 30, 2021 with no changes. John moved to renew the Academy Building Leases. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Selectboard: The town has an easement over the Lovejoy property which allows the town trucks to turn around. The written description of the easement has an error and needs to be corrected. Jerry moved to waive any conflict of interest and allow Tavian Mayer (Town Agent) to correct the easement for and on behalf of the Town'

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[. David seconded and the motion carried.

The Selectboard discussed possible topics for their retreat. Topics included climate and culture, infrastructure, and a trail system. The group discussed if a facilitator was needed. The board will meet for this retreat on Friday, November 20 at 10:30 AM at the Royalton Academy Building.

A staff luncheon is not possible to plan due to COVID restrictions. The board discussed the possibility of buying lunch for staff instead.

Solid Waste Budget: Jerry and David presented the budget for the BRTS. The solid waste board feels that the budget represents an accurate portrayal of revenues and expenses. Discussion was had regarding changes to the fee structure at the transfer station. Chris Noble left the meeting at this time. Jerry motioned to accept the BRTS budget as presented. David seconded and the motion carried. Chris Noble was not present to vote.

Other Business:

Chris Noble rejoined the meeting.

John Dumville presented an article that discusses Hartford Dollars and asked Victoria to investigate how these were funded. John also presented Bethel's "operators manual" and suggested that we might develop something similar for Royalton Residents. John reports that the Lafayette marker is placed and had a small dedication ceremony.

Jerry moved to enter executive session at 8:35 to discuss a contract and a personnel issue. Time seconded and the motion carried. Victoria was invited to stay.

Executive session concluded at 9:10 PM, no action was taken.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Victoria Paquin