

Royalton Fire District 1 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

Present: Paul Brock, Theron Manning, Corinne Ingraham, Don Lovejoy, John Dettwiler, and Judy Hayward via Zoom and in person at the Royalton Town Offices

Theron Manning, Prudential Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Agenda:

Judy Hayward made a motion to add work orders for fire and water to the agenda. John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes of Jan. 11, 2021: Paul Brock made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2021. Don Lovejoy made a second to the motion. **The minutes were approved unanimously.**

Paul Brock made a motion to elect Don Lovejoy for a term of 3 years- 2022- 2025. John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Chad Barnaby for a term of one year- 2022-2023. Don Lovejoy made a second to the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Don Lovejoy made a motion to elect Judy Hayward for a term of one year-2022-2023. John Dettwiler made a second to motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Theron Manning as moderator; Paul Brock made a second to the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Don Lovejoy for one year of clerk. John Dettwiler made a second to the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Theron Manning noted that we appointed Judy Hayward as acting treasurer this past year and that we will continue with her in this position until we find someone to fill the position permanently . No action needed.

We will continue to have Judy Hayward serve as delinquent tax collector as part of her administrative duties. We passed over the need for a motion.

Judy Hayward noted that RHR smith is the auditor. We passed over the need for a motion.

Judy Hayward made a motion to elect Paul Brock as Fire Chief/Chief Engineer with a second to the motion by Don Lovejoy. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Reports

2021 SOUTH ROYALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The South Royalton Fire Department had a total of 112 calls for the year 2021. The breakdown of calls was the following.

Structure Fires ----- 5

Motor Vehicle Accidents----43
 Wild Land-----6
 Hazmat-----1
 Chimney-----3
 Alarm Activation-----11
 Service call -----2
 Utility Problem-----7
 Water Rescue-----4
 Assist Ambulance-----16
 Illegal Burning-----1
 Other-----14

These calls totaled 658 volunteer man hours. We would also like to thank our neighboring towns department for assisting us when needed this year we called on Mutual aid 3 times and gave our neighboring towns mutual aid 6 times. 2021 was a difficult year for us to plan our training and meetings as with Covid 19 changing the way we went about doing much of our training outdoors or buy media. As we move into 2023, we are still in need of Volunteers and especially need of younger recruits anyone would like to volunteer to join the fire department all are welcome. South Royalton Fire Department meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7pm at the fire station.

Paul noted there were challenges with the Covid pandemic. They are conducting more training outside to be safer. Over 25 members are on the roster now. Still could use some younger people

Paul presented his budget. There is a big increase in fuel, electricity, and repairs for trucks. The aging fleet will need more repair and maintenance.

The last payment for the utility truck will be made in 2022 so he hopes to add to the capital reserve for future purchases for a total of \$20,000.

Many more alarm activations in private homes.

Don Lovejoy made a motion to accept Paul's report and budget. John Dettwiler made a second to the motion and **the motion passed unanimously.**

Rescue Squad

Rescue Report was presented by Corinne Ingraham since Stephen got called out on a call.

They hold monthly advisory meetings. They hired Stephen Sanborn- new admin in April part-time. New advisory board members include Chris Noble and Mary Gavin.

There were 461 calls in the last fiscal year. There is an increase in calls every year of around 20 calls.

Increases in expense due to increased use of personal protective equipment due to Covid pandemic.

They have participated in Covid clinics throughout the State. This work has generated \$34,000 in revenue, netting \$18,472 for Rescue. They are gearing up again for the Covid clinics.

Increase of \$14,000 about 5 percent increase in revenue overall.

Don Lovejoy made a motion to approve the report that includes the budget with a second by John Dettwiler. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Theron asked if there are there limits to how long you can stay on duty? No more than 36 hours straight- they can sleep. We have one shift from Friday night to Sunday morning. There have been no issues with fatigue. They do get sick time and insurance coverage is under review. Pay increase has taken effect. Newest members are making \$15 per hour. Deputy administrator Rebecca Owen is away for 30 days in KY working on tornado recovery.

Theron gave the water department report.

The bid has gone out for the water treatment plant. There will be a site visit on January 27 at the plant.

February 10 at 2 pm is the due date for bids. We went up to \$3.750 Million; if it comes in higher, it will be a challenge to afford it. Delaying the tank installation is the only way we could defer \$500,000 but there would be a permit change.

The Disadvantaged subsidy is \$ 2.78 Million and is essential to underwrite the projec. Theron will reach out to the town to see if it can assist with the funds. We plan to complete a survey of the water system to assess our risks. We are going to put that on hold to apply for an asset management grant. The water plant has experienced some real problems with power surges. We ran on Lake John water for a week.

Rental units are at capacity in South Royalton and enrollment at the Law School is up .

We don't have a lot of growth potential for water. We can only incur so much debt because our capacity to grow is limited. We need to supplement Wayne- so there will be a growth of wages or contracting fees.

Don Lovejoy made a motion to approve the water department budget with a second by John Dettwiler. Judy abstained from the motion and **the motion was approved.**

Paul Brock made a motion to set the tax rate at zero; Judy Hayward made a second to the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Theron Manning noted that we need to keep the water rate as is until we know what the project is going to cost. Theron made a motion to leave the rate at \$2.33 per 100 gallons. Paul Brock made a second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The work orders were reviewed, and John Dettwiler made a motion to pay the bills. Don Lovejoy made a second to the motion and **the motion passed unanimously.**

There is no other business to review at this time.

Paul Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

January 9, 2023, will be the date for the next annual meeting.

Adjourn the meeting 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy L. Hayward

Administrative Assistant

DRAFT