

**Town of Royalton**  
**Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
**1/24/2023 6:30 PM**  
**Virtual / In-person Meeting**

**Royalton Selectboard:** John Dumville, Tim Murphy, David Barker,

**Town Staff & Committee Members:** Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Stuart Levasseur (Planning Commission), Brad Salzman (Emergency Management Director), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Paul Brock (Fire Chief), Karmen Bascom (Town Clerk), John Leighton (Solid Waste Facility Manager)

**Public:** Jo Levasseur, Gidget Lyman, Pamela Vesilind, Sandy Conrad, Hoyt Bingham

Meeting called to order @ 6:30PM

**Approve the Agenda:** John moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a request to complete an Act 250 municipal impact assessment. David seconds and the motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Jo Levasseur requested time to speak on the petition when we reach that section of the agenda.

**Royalton Fire Dept:** Paul Brock requests that the Selectboard appropriate ARPA funds to replace fire department radios and purchase radios for the town trucks that will enable them to communicate with the fire department. David moved to allocate up to \$24,000 in ARPA funds for the purchase of radios. John seconds and the motion carries. Paul will have the quote prepared and sent to the town for final authorization and payment.

**Transfer Station:** John L. requests that the selectboard authorize additional personal time for the employees in lieu of the transfer station being closed for observation of non-major holidays. There was some discussion regarding Royalton's personnel policy needed to be updated. David moved to authorize the personal time for the transfer station employees as proposed. John D. seconded and the motion carried.

John L. noted a need to replace the dump hopper at a cost of \$4,590. The current hopper was previously damaged and welded, but the repair has reduced some of the functionality which results in hard use of the other equipment. David inquired about the equipment budget for the year and asked to ensure that there are funds available for the purchase.

John L. requested that the board approve an extension of credit to regular customers of the transfer station. Current practice allows only businesses to utilize credit. Allowing regular customers to create an account will create efficiencies at the transfer station by reducing transaction time and may be more convenient for customers as well. John D. moved to allow the extension of credit to regular customers. David seconded and the motion carried.

**Royalton police Department:** Loretta reports that the five year contract for Taser parts and maintenance is due for renewal. The cost of the contract is already in the budget. John moved to approve the renewal of the contract as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

The board reviewed the contract from Country Animal Hospital for the care of lost animals that are brought to the facility by an approved town representative. John moved to approve the contract as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

**Bridge 31:** After a preconstruction meeting the question was raised as to whether the contract should be adjusted to remove having wearing boards replaced by the contractor. The board discussed the options and determined to leave the contract as is.

The contractor will begin mobilizing on April 1<sup>st</sup> and anticipates closing the road and starting work on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The project will take roughly three months to complete, with the road being closed for the duration.

### **Town Meeting:**

A petition was received from the voters. Jo Levasseur notes that there was a question raised as to the language that was used on the petition. Jo has spoken with the petition organizers, who have agreed that the wording should be adjusted so that the article placed on the meeting warning asks for the voters to disapprove the ATV ordinance. David moved to accept the revision of the wording and include the article as aligned with state statutes. John seconded and the motion carried.

A bill (H. 42) has passed the house and the senate that would allow for an extension of the pandemic powers that allow the selectboard to decide to move town meeting from floor voting to Australian ballot voting. There was discussion regarding the necessity of the change, as well as a sentiment that the coming together of town meeting was valuable. It was clarified that the discussion of the articles would happen at pretown meeting, and then folks can vote by ballot on town meeting day. The board will work to ensure there are multiple opportunities to obtain information ahead of town meeting day. David moved to utilize Australian Balloting for town meeting if H. 42 becomes law. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

The finalization of the warning was postponed due to the previous motion and the need to wait for the bill to become law. A special meeting will be held to finalize the warning.

**Sewer Rate:** John moved to set the sewer rate at \$2.13 per 100 gallons. David seconded and the motion carried.

**Library Building – Baseline Documentation Report:** As part of the historic preservation grant agreement an assessment of the library building was conducted. The report was presented to the board for review and approval. John moved to accept and sign the report as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

**Approve Warrants:** the warrants were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Minutes:** John moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023. David seconded and the motion carried.

Adjourned 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Paquin  
Royalton Town Administrator

DRAFT