

**Town of Royalton**  
**Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
**10/25/2022 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual / In-person Meeting**

**Royalton Selectboard:** John Dumville, Chris Noble (6:30), David Barker (6:04), Tim Murphy, Jerry Barcelow

**Town Staff & Committee Members:** Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Sarah Danly (Royalton Planning Commission), Stuart Levasseur (Planning Commission), Peter Anderson (Planning Commission)

**Public:** Eli Emmerson (Primmer Piper & Eggleston), Jo Levasseur, Hoyt Bingham, Pamela Vesilind, Kathy Hassey, Ron Cavanaugh

Meeting called to order @ 6:00 PM

**Approve the Agenda:** Jerry noted that Kevin Geiger is not available for this evening's meeting. The board will substitute a list of topics in place of the guided strategic planning. Jerry moved to approve the agenda as modified. John seconded and the motion carried.

**Meeting with Legal Council:** The board met with Eli Emmerson of Primmer Piper and Eggleston & Kramer to discuss legal aspects of the ATV Ordinance. The board inquired as to the town's legal liability as well as specific provisions that may be included in the ordinance. Eli reported that he believes the town would have sovereign immunity to any liability, but would look into the question further. It was noted that a lack of liability does not prevent someone from filing a lawsuit, and that the town should confer with our insurance company regarding coverage for this instance. Jerry inquired whether we can limit the use of the roads to local residents, we cannot because the statute regulates who can operate. The Town can determine the location and the manner of the operation, but not the individual operators. There was some discussion regarding the process by which the board could amend or repeal the ordinance. This process is the same as the initial ordinance adoption with the notice and the public opportunity to petition the repeal.

**Strategic Planning:** The board discussed the human resource needs of the town. We currently have two vacancies on the road crew. Discussion regarding wage scales and potential solutions to hiring difficulties. The board will have a special meeting to review wage scales ahead of beginning to budget for FY 24. There was some discussion regarding the town's management structure and whether a town manager might be appropriate. There was also discussion about future planning for the highway department including pavement replacement planning.

**Royalton Planning Commission:** Sarah Danly was present to answer remaining questions regarding the planning commissions request to apply for a municipal planning grant. The board discussed the request as well as the potential implications of a subdivision ordinance. Sarah explained that the purpose of the grant process is to explore the idea, not to necessarily adopt an ordinance. Jerry moved to grant the planning commission the authority to apply for a municipal

planning grant. John seconded. Chris noted that he was not comfortable with the idea, but was deferring to the rest of the board. The motion carried with three in favor and two opposed.

**Public Comment:** Peter Anderson requested that the board consider putting the question of ATV use on the ballot again at town meeting this year so that a petition does not need to be made. Victoria noted that the authority to adopt an ordinance rests with the board, and that the process by which the town can vote on an ordinance is for the board to adopt the ordinance and then the people can petition a vote.

Ron Cavanaugh made a complaint regarding the police department not performing their duties. Tim and David will schedule a meeting with him to address the issues.

**Approve Warrants:** Jerry moved to approve the warrants as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Chris moved to approve the minutes as presented. John seconded and the motion carried.

**Other Business:** David reports that the four town coalition has some funding which can be utilized for trail maps and bicycle repair stations, they are interested in installing one in Royalton, perhaps on the green. Victoria notes that a bulletin board is part of the plan with the Chelsea St. Sidewalk project. Victoria will work on coordinating the details.

Jerry reports that he is on the committee working on developing the rescue squad building project. Notes that they would like some time on an upcoming agenda to request a land lease.

Adjourned: 8:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Paquin  
Royalton Town Administrator