

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
10/24/2023 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: Stuart Levasseur, Chris Noble, Jerry Barcelow, Tim Murphy, John Dumville

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Walter Hastings (Lister), Karmen Bascom (Clerk), Demi Boles (Foreman), Geo Honigford (Planning Commission), Demi Boles (Road Foreman), David Barker (Health Officer)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Jon Tuller

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an alcohol permit and warrants. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment: Bea inquired about the Herald article about Broad Brook Road. She had several questions about the current status. Chris noted the need to request time on the agenda for a lengthy discussion, and reminded that questions could be relayed by email or phone at anytime.

Health Order: David previously had issued a draft of a health order for a property on Pleasant St to the selectboard. The property owner, Jon Tuller, was present to discuss the contents of the health order. Mr. Tuller noted that when he purchased the property, he was told that if the system failed he could connect to the municipal system. There was continued discussion on permitting, who to contact for assistance, and the need to have the system regularly pumped until the permanent repair is made. Victoria will contact Mr. Tuller with additional information on who to contact at the State for assistance. *Jerry moved to adopt the health order as presented. Tim seconded and the motion carried.*

Highway Department:

The parts have been ordered to repair the grader motor, replacing the head should solve the issue at a minimal cost. Stuart asked what the \$3,000 bill from CAT was. Demi reports that the exhaust on the grader was replaced.

Parking on Chelsea St was discussed. Demi noted that the road is not wide enough to pass large vehicles with parking on either side. Chris suggested a site visit – Thursday morning at 9:00 AM.

Contractors are moving along with their road repair work. We have made an agreement with Barnard to perform winter maintenance on the East Barnard side of Broad Brook Rd.

Committee Appointments:

Jerry moved to appoint Heather Leavitt to the Cemetery Commission. John seconded and the motion carried.

John moved to appoint Laura Romif to the Conservation Commission. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Land Donation: John requested that the planning commission meet & discuss the proposed donation of the former Eaton Lot to the town. Tim noted that the property should be surveyed. Geo added that the planning commission generally supports accepting the parcel and suggested the creation of a decision matrix to determine what uses might be most desirable for the property. ***Jerry moved to accept the donation of land, noting that the town has evaluated the cost benefit and needs to sell the land for some purpose. Tim seconded.*** John noted that the property owner needed to be advised of the decision. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** Chris and Victoria will determine who the legal council should be to work on behalf of the town through this process.

Warrants: The warrants were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Plan Town Manager Meeting: Chris asks what information we need to provide to have a sufficient basis for discussion. Suggested talking with some towns who have transitioned to this form of government. Perhaps someone who can answer legal questions. We would also need to determine what the budget would look like. It would be helpful to have a list of the things that would be delegated to the Town Manager.

Other / Old Business:

The board noted the importance of addressing the public safety concerns. There was continued discussion on the perceived problems and potential solutions.

Jerry moved to approve the liquor license renewal for D's Back Alley Eats. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel was made by Chris at 8:27 PM. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Executive session concluded at 9:16 PM.

Jerry moved to increase the wage of all employees by 6% with the exception of administrative positions in the police department and the assistant town clerk which shall be increased to \$16.00 per hour, retroactive to July 1, 2023. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Jerry moved to adjourn at 9:19 PM. John seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator