

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
12/13/2022 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting
Recording available: <https://youtu.be/n98JP-45WEI>

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Stuart Levasseur (Planning Commission), Peter Anderson (Planning Commission), Brad Salzmann (Emergency Management Director), John Dettwiler (Conservation Commission)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Dorothy Rikert, Hoyt Bingham, Kathy Hassey, Sue Cain, Ron Cavanaugh, Ed Castner, Joan Hoffman, James Horn, Pamela Vesilind, Brad Sick, Ian MacKenzie, Gene Paige, Kathy Lawson,

Meeting called to order @ 6:30PM

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comments: A number of public comments were offered regarding an ATV ordinance. Inquiries were raised regarding the availability of a map of the private trails, a report from the Selectboard regarding road evaluations, whether there had been thought given to allowing atv's on all roads rather than a select few, and whether the town had spoken with the insurance company. Public concerns expressed included safety of ATV's on the road, a need to protect and care for the land, availability of the draft ordinance, departure from the original question asked at town meeting, and adverse impacts on quality of life in the areas where atv's may be allowed to operate.

Ron Cavanaugh presented a complaint to the board regarding the Royalton Police Department and his perception of a lack of action on several issues he has had.

Jo Levasseur noted that during the last snow the plowed section of the road was quite narrow and hopes the crew plows wider with the upcoming storm. Asked for clarification that the ordinance was on the agenda this evening so that if adopted and petitioned the timing would line up to be addressed at town meeting in 2023. The answer was Yes – the ordinance is being addressed to try and coordinate the timing if a vote on the ordinance is required.

Pamela Vesilind asked if there is a vote if it will be conducted by Australian ballot. The answer is no – if a petition is filed for a vote on an ordinance, it is a considered a public question. The Town of Royalton votes on public questions from the floor as a voice vote during a regular or special town meeting. Attendees of the meeting may make a motion to vote by ballot and, if that motion carries, a paper ballot would be distributed to all who were present so that they may vote the question by ballot rather than a voice vote or count of hands.

ATV Ordinance: David reports that he has driven the roads that are being proposed for access but that there will not be any official report. He recommends that the ATV club be responsible for adding appropriate signage to any approved road segments such as speed, stop and yield signs where appropriate. Discussion continued regarding who would be responsible for signage, and whether a list of roads with specific sections was available. Jerry moved to table the discussion of the ATV ordinance until the next meeting when a road list would be available. David seconded and the motion carried.

Easement Authorization: The Chelsea St Sidewalk project calls for adding sidewalk on the town green side of the street. This addition will necessitate conversion of a few feet of the grass to sidewalk. An easement is required to allow this to take place. John moved to approve the easement as presented. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

SRRS Land Lease Request: Victoria reports that Chris Noble spoke with legal council regarding the land lease request. The lawyer indicated that the selectboard has full authority to lease the land and that there is no added liability to the town by doing so. David feels strongly that the rescue squad and the fire department should work together, and that by not doing so they are limiting their opportunity to receive grant funding. David moved to direct our representative to the SRRS advisory board to bring forward to the advisory board the need for the rescue squad to work with the fire department. The motion received no second. The discussion was tabled until a later meeting when Chris will be in attendance.

Highway Department: Demi requests that the Selectboard reimburse an employee for the costs of a CDL training course and that the employee be hired on as a permanent full time member. David moved to reimburse Brett Lewis up to \$2,000 for CDL licensure expenses provided that he successfully obtains the license and completes his probationary period. John seconded and the motion carried.

David moved to hire Brett Lewis as a full time permanent employee. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Demi raised a concern regarding the town's structure for contributing to health insurance premiums. Discussion was had regarding how the structure was developed. No action taken.

Approve Warrants: The warrants were reviewed and approved as presented.

Approve minutes: Jerry moved to approve the minutes of November 22 and December 6 as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business: Jo Levasseur notes that the planning commission agendas are not consistently posted to the website.

Jerry shared that he recently went to a Prudential Committee meeting regarding the Rescue Squad building project and that Theron Manning suggested the advisory board inquire as to whether the Town of Royalton would construct the building for the rescue squad and lease it

back to them. There was some continued discussion regarding the structure of the two municipalities.

Tim reports that the contractor will be pouring the concrete wall at the transfer station on Thursday and removing the forms on Friday – hoping to complete before the snowstorm.

The board extends thanks to the South Royalton Volunteer Fire Department for putting on the Holiday Parade.

David moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:05PM. Jerry seconded, and the motion carried. Victoria and Demi were invited to stay.

Executive session concluded at 8:35 PM. No Action taken.

Adjourned: 8:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator