

Town of Royalton

Selectboard Meeting Minutes 3-11-25

Recording Available: www.youtube.com/@townofroyalton6012

Royalton Selectboard: Stuart Levasseur, Patrick Dakin, Nell Gwin, Bob Gray, Larry Trottier

Town Staff & Officials: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Karmen Bascom (Town Clerk), Brad Salzman (EMD), Beth Willhite (Public Safety Committee), John Leighton (Transfer Station Manager),

Members of Public: Tom Wells, Kirt Mayland, Marley Weist, Kathryn (...), Gene Kraus, John Dumville, Jo Levasseur, Dylan McCullough

Call to Order: Called to order at 6:30 PM

Approve the agenda: Patrick moved to approve the agenda. Larry seconded. Stuart noted the request from Transfer Station Manager John Leighton to have a few minutes of time. The agenda was approved as amended.

Public Comment: Tom stated that he was looking to find more information that he was not able to learn at town meeting last week regarding the North Rd Project and the Foxstand Bridge Project. There was discussion on the status of the two projects and the associated costs.

John Leighton reported that the repair of the excavator took longer than expected, which requires another month of excavator rental. Patrick moved to approve the additional month of equipment rental. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Selectboard Reorganization: Stuart nominated Patrick as the board chair. Nell seconded the motion. Bob nominated Larry Trottier as the board chair. Stuart, Nell and Patrick voted for Patrick as the chair. Bob and Larry voted for Larry as the chair. Patrick is the board chair.

Nell nominated Stuart as vice chair. Stuart declined. Nell nominated Larry as Vice Chair. Patrick seconded. The motion carried and Larry is the Vice chair.

Larry nominated Nell as the clerk. Patrick seconded. The motion carried and Nell is the clerk.

Royalton Constable: The first constable was absent this evening. Stuart passed along that the first constable would be out on leave for a time. Patrick will reach out to the first constable.

VLGS / 350 VT – Grant Opportunity: Marley and Kathryn were present to discuss a grant opportunity with the board that would allow for a study of a Thermal Energy Network for South Royalton Village. There was discussion regarding the source of the funding and the grant requirements. The energy clinic will work with the students to manage the grant and reporting requirements. Nell moved to approve the grant application. Stuart seconded. It was noted that

there will be an informational meeting about Thermal Energy Networks on April 10th. The motion to apply for the grant carried.

Selectboard Meeting Policy: Bob thinks that agendas should be published in the newspaper. There was discussion on the practicality of the idea. Bob moved to publish the meeting agendas in The Herald. Larry seconded. Nell moved to amend the motion to a trial period of three months. Stuart seconded the amendment. The amendment carried with Bob opposed. The motion as amended was voted on, and carried with Stuart and Patrick opposed.

The board began amending the meeting policy in sequential order, making adjustments to where agendas are posted to include being published on the Royalton Listserv. When discussing the amount of notice required to place items on the agenda, it was determined that the eight day lead time required to place the agenda in the newspaper may not be attainable. Nell motioned to readdress the section of the document regarding agendas. Bob seconded. There was a suggestion to post notice of the meetings in the paper, but not post the agenda. There was additional discussion regarding open meeting law requirements. Stuart moved to accept the selectboard meeting policy as amended. Nell seconded and the motion carried with Bob opposed.

Selectboard Liaisons to Depts & Orgs: Selectboard members discussed who should be the liaison to various departments and organizations and settled on the below:

Patrick – Royalton Police Department, Constables, Town Administrator, Royalton Planning Commission,

Larry – Highway, Wastewater, Listers,

Nell – Recreation, Trustees of Public Funds, Library, Buildings & Grounds, help with highway

Stuart – Treasurer, Transfer Station, Town Clerk, Public Safety Committee, Royalton Fire District #1

Bob – Conservation Commission, Cemetery Commission, WRVSU, VLGS

Warrants: Stuart moved to approve the warrants. Nell seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Overweight Permits: Nell moved to authorize Larry to sign the overweight permits. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Vtrans TA-60: Stuart moved to approve the TA-60 for submission to Vtrans. Nell seconded and the motion carried.

Vtrans Certification of Codes & Standards: Larry moved to approve the certification of codes & standards. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Vtrans Contact Information Worksheet: Victoria noted that she needed contact information from the board.

Vtrans Pavement Marking Letter: Larry moved to approve Victoria to submit the pavement marking letter.

Vtrans Financing Agreement Foxstand Bridge: Patrick moved to authorize Stuart to sign the financing agreement for the installation of the temporary bridge on Royalton Hill Rd. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Vacant Offices: There are vacancies in the office of the lister and the trustees of public funds. Nell moved to authorize Victoria to publish an advertisement of vacancy. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Follow-up Needs, Town Meeting: Stuart noted that the town meeting agenda did not have the item of “other business” and that residents were unhappy with the omission. Noted that it should be included next year.

Nell expressed that it would be helpful to have a calendar that laid out when different activities need to take place, so that there is not a close call with the town report etc.

Other Business: Stuart noted that we have several suppliers for fuel and that we should look at consolidating them for cost savings.

Nell noted that we should make plans for street sweeping and sidewalk painting soon. Nell also suggested that the board set aside time on an agenda for goal setting / long term planning.

Bob stated that we do not have any gravel and that mud season is right around the corner. Inquired about the status of the Act 250 permit. Bob stated that there is an opportunity to purchase gravel in Bethel for \$10/yard and asked what the board is going to do?

There was discussion on the town’s new truck. Part of the truck is at Lucky’s awaiting the body. There was discussion on the process of ordering a vehicle, and that the lead time on finished vehicles is long. Bob expressed concern that Lucky’s is carrying costs on the truck. Bob will have a conversation with Lucky’s.

Bob noted that North Rd needs to have some maintenance work done while waiting for the project to get underway – potholes filled in particular.

Bob would like to know what the hours are of the people that work for the town. Stuart inquired as to why there was a need to micromanage? Additional discussion of onboarding new members and the difficulty in maintaining continuity as new board members come on. It can be difficult to get a grasp of what is going on in town when you first start on the board.

There was discussion on requesting regular attendance at selectboard meetings from other committees and employees.

Patrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Paquin

Royalton Town Administrator