

**Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
4/11/2023 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting**

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Walter Hastings (Buildings & Grounds), Brad Salzmann (Emergency Mgmt Director), Todd Ballentine (Constable), Simon Jarmy (Simon Operation Services)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Harry Falconer (TRORC), Jen Harris, Dane Fulcher, Taylor Hull,

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. Jerry requested the addition of assigning selectboard members to work on the lease agreement with the rescue squad. The agenda was approved with the addition.

Public Comment: There was no public comment this evening

Taylor Hull: Taylor Hull operates a farm with family on Back River Rd. in Royalton. Due to Bridge St. closing earlier than initially notified, the farm incurred roughly \$1,000 in additional expenses in order to have their manure spread before the bridge closure. Jerry moved to reimburse the Hulls for their additional costs. John seconded and the motion carried.

Harry Falconer: Harry Falconer from Two Rivers Ottawaquechee RPC presented to the board regarding available energy related grants and programs. A \$4,000 grant can be utilized for education and planning purposes. In addition, the town can receive an energy audit which would then open up the ability to apply for more substantial grants to perform energy upgrades. Walter and Victoria will work on ranking the town's buildings for selection for an energy audit.

Todd Ballentine: Todd noted that there was not a lot of conversation when he became constable and believes further discussions are needed. Specifically, Todd would like to discuss training opportunities, and get more information about what the town thinks the constable should be doing. Chris requested that Todd send a prioritized list of needed training and supplies with the associated costs so that the board has a better understanding of the potential budget needs. It was noted that the position of constable has a legal definition that needs to be abided by. The board invited Todd to have some time on the agenda every third meeting. Loretta offered assistance if needed.

Emergency Management Director: John moved to reappoint Brad Salzmann as the town's emergency management director. Jerry seconded and the motion carried. Brad introduced Jen Harris as the town's emergency management coordinator and shelter director.

Brad briefly discussed the changes to the LEMP which needs to be approved and submitted to TRORC by May 1st each year. The board requested that Brad make any other needed updates and send a final draft to the board for review ahead of the next meeting.

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission requested authorization to draw up to \$1,500 from the conservation fund to purchase hardware and software that will be used to create an

ash tree inventory. There was some discussion about need and future uses of the gathered data and equipment. Jerry moved to approve the conservation commissions request. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Sewer Plant: Simon presented two quotes for a new tractors with implements for use at the sewage treatment plant. The tractor will replace both the plow truck and a lawn mower that have reached their end of life. Jerry moved to approve the purchase of the Kubota tractor quoted at \$32,397. John seconded and the motion carried.

Dane Fulcher was present to request that the board adjust the sewer bill for the residence on Park St. that is now owned by his son. Dane stated that the property was vacant and that the water was not being used. After much discussion on metering and the need to ensure that there was not a leak on the property Jerry moved to adjust the bill to an average of the last three bills. John seconded and the motion carried.

Grant Application – North Rd: Class 2 road grant applications are due on April 15th. A contractors estimate was generated for work to be done on North Rd. including culvert replacement, ditching, road regrading and repaving. There was discussion on other paving needs in town, and whether the substantial investment in North Rd. was needed more urgently. The estimated cost of the project is roughly \$1,000,000 and the grant will be for a maximum of \$200,000. After utilizing the available highway improvement reserves the town would need to take on debt for the full project. Jerry moved to apply for the road grant and bid as culverts one year and paving the next. John seconded and the motion carried.

Green Up Day: Stuart reports that the Lion's Club is coordinating green up day and requested that they be allowed to use the town office lot along with town trucks to facilitate collection. Walter noted that Demi currently only has two trucks available and that a roll off dumpster may be needed for the waste. Jerry moved to approve the requests. John seconded and the motion carried.

Stearns Crossing: The lights and bars at the Stearns Rd. crossing have been installed as requested and are functional. It was noted that the town needs to declassify the small section of road between Windsor st. and the railroad tracks.

Ron Benson – Reimbursement Request: This request for reimbursement was tabled until the next meeting when Tim will be present.

Liquor License 802 Pizza: Jerry moved to approve the liquor license for 802 pizza. John seconded and the motion carried.

Overweight Permits: Overweight permits were reviewed and approved.

Approval of Minutes: Jerry moved to approve the minutes of March 28th as presented. John seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Warrants: The warrants were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Other Business: Jerry motioned that himself and John be approved to work on the lease agreement with South Royalton Rescue. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Chris reports that his term is up on the South Royalton Rescue Advisory Board and recommends that Jerry be appointed to the board as the selectboard representative. Chris moved Jerry be appointed to the rescue advisory board. John seconded and the motion carried.

Jerry motioned to enter an executive session at 9:05 PM to discuss a personnel issue. John seconded. Victoria and Loretta were invited to stay. The motion carried.

The Executive session concluded at 9:18 PM no action was taken.

Adjourned 9:19 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator