

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
4/12/2022 6:30 pm
Virtual/In-person Meeting

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Brad Salzman (Emergency Management Director),

Public: Jo Levasseur, Theron Manning (RFD #1), Judy Hayward (RFD #1), Robert Klinefelter (Vtrans), Aaron Guyette (VHB), Chad Boulet (NECR), Pamela Vesilind,

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: Jerry moves to approve the agenda with the addition of two alcohol permits. John seconds and the motion carries.

Public Comment: There were no public comments this evening.

Vtrans, Bridge Replacement: Robert Klinefelter from Vtrans was present along with Aaron Guyette and Chad Boulet to update the public on the progress with replacing the Railroad Underpass located at Route 14 and Vesper Rd. A presentation was given and questions from the public were answered. At present, they are hoping to bid the project in the fall and begin construction in the Spring / Summer of 2023.

LEMP Adoption: Brad Salzman presented the 2022 Local Emergency Management plan which must be submitted to TRORC by May 1st. David moved to accept the LEMP as presented, John seconded, and the motion carried.

Water System Update: Theron Manning was present to update the selectboard on the water system upgrade project. The project involves the addition of a third filtration unit at the water plant and an additional clear water storage tank. Theron requested that the board considering allocating \$500,000 in ARPA funding to support the project. The committee is hopeful that they will be able to secure additional grants and may receive additional funding, but want to ensure that the resource is available if needed. A special meeting will be scheduled to discuss ARPA funds and their possible uses.

Highway Department: Demi presented two quotes for the purchase of a new 10-wheeled dump truck to replace the four wheel drive truck. Jerry moved to authorize the vehicle purchase for the Vehicle Equipment Reserve. John seconded and the motion carried.

The board discussed creating a roads committee to look at roads in town and develop a potential work schedule. Tim and Demi will both participate.

Sidewalks were briefly discussed. There are several areas of sidewalk in town that are in need of attention. Demi will patch the large holes in the Chelsea St. Business block.

Police Department: Loretta advised the board that she would like to switch our dispatching services to Hartford Dispatch, and the anticipated cost is around \$50,000. VSP currently performs our dispatching, but is changing their practices and would like to stop dispatching for towns.

The candidate still needs to undergo evaluation to determine suitability to attend the police academy.

A letter was received regarding speeding on S. Windsor St.

Town Administrator:

Victoria presented a budget to actual report for FY 22 through March 30. Jerry moved to accept the financials as presented. David seconded and the motion carried.

The Treasury has release the final rule on ARPA funds. Part of the final rule includes a provision that allows towns to take a standard amount of funds as lost revenue replacement. VLCT has recommended that all towns take this standard revenue loss. The benefit to this election is that it allows ARPA funds to be used for any purpose that is involved in the provision of government services. Claiming ARPA funds as lost revenue does not obligate us to spend them in a specific manner. John moved to take the amount of Royalton's ARPA funds as replacement for lost revenue as allowed by the final rule. David seconded and the motion carried.

Victoria reports that fund 46 "Gravel Pit Operations" was created to pay the debt service on the Crawford Property, but is no longer needed after moving the debt service to be paid from the general fund. Victoria would like permission to utilize the balance in Fund 46 to make an addition payment on the Debt Service for the Crawford Property. Victoria will double check with legal / auditors to verify that we are allowed to make such a payment without voter approval.

ATV Committee – Victoria reports that we already have 6 or 7 parties that have submitted interest to serve on the ATV committee. Suggests putting out a final call and then setting the committee at the next regular meeting. The board briefly discussed their expectations for the committee and asked Victoria to provide the letters of interest to the board to include the individuals names and why they would like to be on the board.

Royalton Futures Project – The Town received only one bid to provide strategic planning services for the Royalton Futures Project, which is funded through a Municipal Planning Grant. David motions to accept the bid but requests that the kickoff meeting be held in person. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Victoria requests that the board authorize her to obtain a .gov web address. Victoria also presents a quote to redesign the website. John moved to obtain a .gov web address. David seconded and the motion carried. John moved to approve utilizing Revize to redesign the website. Tim

seconded. David asked that Victoria investigate other options for website redesign. The motion failed with 2 in favor and 2 opposed.

Warrants: The warrants were approved as presented.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were discussed. Tim moved to table the minutes until the next meeting. Jerry seconded. The motion carried with John opposed.

Liquor Licenses: Jerry moved to approve 802 Pizza's application to serve alcohol with the exception of the outdoor serving request. David seconded and the motion carried.

Jerry moved to approve Corner Stop's application. John seconded and the motion carried.

Transfer Station: Tim reports that the engineer has finished plans and that an RFP will be put out soon for repair of the building. David moved that an executive session is needed to discuss a contract. Jerry Seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business: A complaint was received from a resident regarding the Royalton Police Department. David moved to enter an executive session to discuss personnel. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Executive session for personnel began at 9:34 PM. Victoria and Loretta were invited to stay.
Executive session concluded at 10:05 PM

David motioned that the Selectboard reviewed a complaint received from a resident in executive session. The board feels that the Chief is performing her duties as assigned and that the function of the police department meets their expectations given the current environment. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Executive session for contract discussion began at 10:10. Victoria was invited to stay.
Executive session concluded at 10:20 PM

David moved to acknowledge and endorse the press release regarding the Transfer Station ownership that will be published in the Herald on Thursday. The Town of Royalton will proceed with purchasing the Town of Bethel's interest in the Bethel-Royalton Transfer Station. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Victoria Paquin