

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
4/9/2024 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: Stuart Levasseur, Tim Murphy, John Dumville, Patrick Dakin, Nell Gwin

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Kristen Cronan (Rec Committee), DJ Craven (Rec Committee), Jess Jones (Rec Committee), Karmen Bascom (Town Clerk), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Brad Salzmann (EMD), Jeff Barcelow (Lister / E-911 Coordinator),

Public: Jo Levasseur, Jodi Hoyt (Tunbridge Town Nurse), Kristen Barnum (Community Nurse Connection)

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. Time seconded. Stuart noted the need to add discussion on the foxstand bridge & that the revolving loan fund committee was being moved to the next meeting. Stuart asked everyone to keep their comments on topic and brief. The motion carried.

Public Comment: There were no public comments this evening.

Discussion on Community / Town Nurse: Jodi Hoyt and Kristen Barnum gave a presentation regarding the benefits of having a community nurse. There was discussion regarding what services a town nurse can offer and how it benefits the community. Jodi noted that Tunbridge has a medical equipment library and that she often receives requests from Royalton residents. Stuart thanked Jodi and Kristen for the information, and noted that the board should speak with other stakeholders, such as the rescue squad.

Farmland Lease: Moon & Stars has signed the three years lease for the agriculture land at the town office. It was noted that members of the recreation committee were present to discuss relocating the recreation field. John moved to approve the lease for the agricultural fields at the town office. Patrick seconded. The board determined to hear the Rec Committee to better understand the needs of the town office land before making a determination on the farmland lease. (See below). The vote was called on approving the farmland lease. 0 yes, 5 no. Patrick and Stuart will speak with Moon & Stars to be sure that they are still interested in signing the lease now knowing that planning will begin to move the recreation fields to the town office lot, and the lease will most likely be ended at the three year mark.

Recreation Committee: The Recreation Committee requested that the selectboard allow them to pursue constructing fields for recreation at the town office location. Carpenter Field is in the flood plain, and regularly floods approximately every five years. This has a significant impact on the Rec department's ability to offer their programming. Discussion continued on how to go about the process, including creating a special committee and the potential timeline for the project. It was noted that it would likely take three years to complete the planning, fundraising, and contract solicitation to start on the project and that the farm lease would likely be ready to conclude by the time that the town was ready for construction. Stuart suggested that the Rec Department reach out to the planning commission as well, it was anticipated that there may be additional interests in the property that will be raised as part of the conversation of relocating the recreation fields.

Listers: John moved to appoint David Barker for one year of a three year term as lister. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Jeff reports that the listers would like to hire a consultant to oversee the reappraisal. The listers will do the majority of the work and the consultant will assist with commercial properties and conflicts of interest as well as reviewing the lister's work overall. The listers are required to have oversight for this process by state statute. The contract that was presented for the board to review was for \$15,000 plus an hourly rate for incidentals. The cost of the reappraisal will be paid for out of the reappraisal reserve fund. Tim moved to sign the contract. John seconded and the motion carried.

E-911 Coordinator Policy: Jeff presented an E-911 policy to the board. This is a condensed version of the State of Vermont's standards for E-911. Stuart noted that it would be helpful to clarify the rules for naming of streets, especially having streets with similar or the same names in neighboring towns. Tim moved to approve the policy as presented. Patrick seconded and the motion carried.

Royalton Police Department: Loretta reports a need to have radio boosters in the cruisers. Due to the repeater's location on the state owned tower, it is difficult to get radio signal in some areas. Up to now, attempts to get the state to allow the repeater to be moved higher on the tower have been unsuccessful. Loretta would also like to replace the in car radios to attain greater signal strength. *Patrick moved to allot an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from ARPA funds for the requested radio equipment. John seconded and the motion carried.*

LEMP: Brad requested that the board designate a public information officer for the LEMP. There was some discussion on who the appropriate individual was to fill that role. Stuart Levasseur as the board chair agreed to take the assignment.

Highway Department: Tim reports that a couple of trucks broke down during the last snow storm which delayed cleanup. The replacement radiator for the grader has shipped and will hopefully arrive within the next two weeks. Tim reported that Demi would like to rent a grader.

VTrans inspection of the Royalton Hill (Foxstand) bridge revealed significant concern with a gusset plate, which is a piece that holds supports together. The bridge has been closed for safety until the inspection can be finished. Once that is done, they will try to determine a safe load rating. Victoria will update everyone as more information becomes available.

Alcohol Permit: John moved to approve the requested alcohol permits for Aladdin Food Management Service (VLGS). Nell seconded and the motion carried.

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

Approval of Minutes: Tabled

Other / Old Business: Nell noted that the trash is piling up on the green. There was some discussion about the need for new trash receptacles. We have been aware of the need, but planned to determine the appropriate receptacle and work to install them alongside / slightly after the sidewalk project to allow for best fit.

Patrick reports that personnel policy updates are still being worked on and may be ready for the next meeting. The Act 250 gravel pit renewal is also being worked on.

Grievance Letter: The board reviewed the grievance letter received from Jude Arbuiso. The letter alleged that planning commission member Geo Honigford had inappropriately threatened a business to remove a petition to revote the school budget. The letter further requested that Geo be removed from the planning commission due to a conflict of interest. Stuart reported that the alleged actions do not meet the definition of a conflict of interest. There was a brief discussion regarding the definition of conflict of interest. The board took no action.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM by consensus after a motion from John.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator

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