

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
5/14/2024 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), David Barker (Health Officer), Ken Alton (Cemetery Commission),

Public: Jo Levasseur, Jon Ashley (DuBois & King), Jacob Wimett (GeoDesign), Nando Jaramillo (Moon & Stars VT), Lauren Adamoli

Approve the Agenda: Patrick requested to add an update on Recreation Committee to the agenda. Tim moved to approve the agenda as amended. John seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment: There were no public comments this evening.

DuBois & King: Jon Ashley and Jacob Wimett presented the selectboard with three options for the repair of Broad Brook Road. The repair options involved two potential repairs that impacted the abutting landowner, and one repair that could be constructed within the town's right of way. The board discussed the options for repair as well as whether the River Management Engineer had approved the proposed placement of the embankment toe in the river. The board agreed that Victoria and Tim would reach out to the abutting landowner to discuss the repair options and determine if repair option number one would be a viable option. Patrick moved that pending approval by the landowner the board would proceed with repair option one and send confirmation of approval to the engineer as soon as possible. John seconded and the motion carried.

Cemetery Commission: Ken Alton was present on behalf of the cemetery commission. He read to the board a short passage from "A History of Royalton" regarding the need for proper care of cemeteries. Discussion was had regarding trees that have fallen at a number of cemeteries including Metcalf, Pleasant View, and South Royalton. There is no coverage from insurance to cover the cost of removing the trees, so the cemetery budget for Metcalf will likely be over budget. John reminded that funds for Pleasant View and South Royalton cemeteries can be requested from the Trustees of Public Funds to cover the costs. Ken requested that the road crew pick up the fallen tree by Pleasant View cemetery and also smooth out the access road. The board later agreed to ask the foreman to complete this work. Ken also indicated that the Cemetery Commission will be seeking volunteers to help with regular maintenance of the cemeteries, particularly the smaller lots. Additionally, Ken extended sincere thanks to some White River Valley students who aided in cleaning up the South Royalton Cemetery on Green Up Day.

Moon & Stars: Nando of Moon & Stars requested that the board approve the closure of Park Street for roller skating events this summer. They were greatly enjoyed last summer and he has been asked if the events would occur again this year. Nando requested the first Saturday of each month for 3 – 4 hours in the afternoon / early evening. Discussion continued regarding concerns on behalf of the board which ranged from a lack of adequate supervision, a lack of helmets being worn, skaters interacting with cars, and one allegedly intoxicated individual who had been at a past event.

Additional concerns were raised regarding access for the residents who live on the street during the events. Lauren Adamoli who owns and operates First Branch Coffee noted that she had attended these events and saw many families enjoying them, donations of skates and helmets being made,

and that the events brought people into town. Discussion continued. The board suggested that closing Railroad Street from the corner of Park St to just past the bank building may be more appropriate as it would not impact residents of Park St. It was noted that Patrick would discuss this potential solution with Chief Stalnaker to see if it is a good solution.

Highway Department: Tim moved to accept the resignation of Lucas Getman with thanks for his work and begin advertising the open position. Patrick seconded and the motion carried.

Police Department: Patrick moved to accept the resignation of Matthew Abare with thanks and authorize for the advertisement of the vacancy. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds: Walter reported the need to replace one of the heat pumps at the academy building at a cost of approximately \$6,000. There was continued discussion on the energy audits that were completed for the Academy Building and the Highway Garage which identified areas where energy efficiency improvements can be made. There may be additional grant monies available for this work, but the programs have not yet been opened for application. Tim moved to approve the replacement of the heat pump. John seconded and the motion carried. Tim asked if Walter could have the holes in Chelsea St sidewalk patched.

Town Administrator: Victoria previously presented financial reports to the board. The general fund has no concerns. The majority of FEMA expenses from July have been moved out of the highway fund. A complete tabulation of expenses from December still needs to be made and then those expenses will also be moved into a revolving fund for that purpose. The highway fund may overspend its budget for this year, but hopefully will not run a true deficit due to additional surplus monies in the fund. Victoria will provide an additional update next month.

Patrick moved to adopt the borrowing necessity resolution for the North Road repair and repave project. John seconded and the motion carried. The informational meeting will be held on Wednesday August 7th.

Approval of Warrants: John moved to approve the warrants. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: John moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Patrick seconded and the motion carried.

Other / Ongoing Business:

John moved to appoint Emily Parker and Logan Bent to the recreation committee. Patrick seconded and the motion carried.

Patrick reports that he attended a meeting of the Recreation Committee and that they are considering sites other than the town office lot for the relocation of the recreation fields based on feedback that they have received from other residents. Patrick will attend the public meeting that is scheduled for next week to continue participating in the discussion as they work to gather information.

Patrick reports that he believes he will have the revision of the personnel policy prepared for review at the next meeting.

David Barker reports that he and Stuart have spoken with a lawyer regarding a current health order and noncompliance with the order. The lawyer is looking into the issues, but warned it would likely be a long process involving going to court. The property owner reported planning to contact an engineer, but also claimed that he was told to wait as there may be grants available. It was clarified

that any grant money would need to be researched and obtained by the property owner, and that the town would not be assisting with this process. It was reported that the property owner had scheduled a pumping for the system on May 20th. Tim reports that he spoke with A&E and asked them to look into whether a municipal line extension had ever been designed for that area. It was clarified that this does not impact the property owner's need to develop his own connection. The board discussed the culvert located near the site. The property owner who has a privately owned culvert extension expressed a willingness to cooperate with the replacement of the culvert.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 PM on a motion by Tim that was seconded by Patrick and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator

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