

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
5/18/2022 8:30 am
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),

Public: Theron Manning (RFD #1), Judy Hayward (RFD #1), Corinne Ingraham (SRRS Advisory Board)

Meeting called to order @ 8:30 AM

Approve the Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Public Comments: Theron presented the board with a list of projects that the water department has in mind. Most pressing is the water treatment facility upgrade, which is set to begin in June. Theron noted that the funding that will be received from the State is somewhat less than expected, leaving a \$550,00 shortfall. Theron requested that the board consider allocating ARPA funds to support the water treatment facility project, and to keep in mind that the system may request additional funding in the future.

There was discussion regarding the aging water meters in town. Replacing all of the meters could cost between \$100,00 and \$150,000 dollars. The water department has about \$47,000 in reserve to contribute towards this project. Victoria asks if the RFD #1 would consider a combined project which could be led by the town. Theron was amenable to that suggestion.

Corinne described to the board the Rescue Squad's efforts to develop a new facility to house the crew, offices, and ambulance. The project is likely still a few years out, but they would like to request consideration of allocation of ARPA funding in support of the project.

Discuss Potential ARPA projects: The board discussed other potential projects that ARPA funding could be utilized for. One priority is making repairs and enhancements to the Royalton Academy Building. As the town's emergency shelter and the senior center, the building should be kept in good repair. Currently, the building needs roof work, painting, replacement of carpeting, and could benefit from kitchen enhancements. Current estimate is that we could utilize \$150,000 of funds.

An additional need is to fund the equipment that is necessary to obtain dispatch services from a new provider. The total cost is around \$36,000, some of which can be borne in the general fund budget.

It was recommended that a contingency amount of around \$70,000 be held in the event of project overages or yet to be received requests.

Discussion continued regarding how to prioritize projects. Victoria noted that originally, ARPA funding was designated to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, invest in water and wastewater infrastructure and broadband infrastructure. We have achieved additional flexibility by claiming lost revenue but may want to consider the original purpose when determining expenditures. Discussion continued regarding the Royalton Fire District #1 and what oversight and accountability is required should the town decide to allocate funding there. Victoria notes that once a check is written, the funds are considered spent and we are not required to complete additional monitoring beyond the initial justification.

There was some discussion regarding the structure of the Royalton Fire District as it relates to the town, and the possibility of investing in a comprehensive emergency services building that could serve the fire department and the rescue squad.

Jerry moved to disperse \$200,000 in ARPA funding to the Royalton Fire District #1 for the purpose of water treatment facility improvements and to commit an additional \$300,000 to be dispersed when it becomes available. John seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted
Victoria Paquin