

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
5/23/2023 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: Stuart Levasseur, Chris Noble, Tim Murphy, John Dumville

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Jeff Barcelow (Lister), Tico Wolff (Conservation Commission), Theresa Harrington (Collector of Delinquent Taxes)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Sam Bruce, Kate George, Betty & Ron Benson

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: Jerry moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a legal issue for executive session. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment: There were no public comments this evening.

Benson – Vehicle Damage: The Bensons requested reimbursement for damage to their vehicle that was caused by a frozen berm of mud left by the grader at the end of their driveway. There was discussion regarding the town's responsibility and the staff's responsibility for the issue. It was noted that this is a relatively new practice that may need some refinement. John moved to reimburse the Bensons for the expense of repairing their vehicle. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Royalton Listers: Jeff Barcelow requested an extension for the filing of the grand list. John moved to approve the request. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Theresa requested that the Selectboard participate more actively in the tax sale process. Specifically it has been requested that the Selectboard consider purchasing any unsold parcels. Tim moved that the board will participate in the tax sales going forward. John seconded and the motion carried.

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission has requested an expenditure of \$1,000 to have junk vehicles removed from the Crawford Lot during the logging that is being done to clear trees from the gravel pit. Additional trees have been marked for removal by the county forester as well. John moves to approve the contract as presented, to include the request from the Conservation Commission. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Old Home Days: Sam Bruce was thanked for providing the budget for Old Home Days. Chris inquired if Old Home Days will be self sufficient in the coming years and noted that it would be appreciated by the board if the dollar amount requested from the betterment fund was less next year. Sam stated that the intent was for the event to be self-supporting in the future. Stuart moved to give \$10,000 from the Community Betterment Fund to Old Home Days with the hope for a smaller amount next year. John seconded and the motion carried.

Royalton Police Dept: Chief Stalnaker has been asked by the Tunbridge Fair organizers to coordinate policing for the event. Loretta will coordinate with other local agencies to provide the staffing necessary for the event. The board clarified that there would not be any reduction in Royalton's required staffing. Chief Stalnaker confirmed that our officers would work their regular shifts for the town. John moved that Chief Stalnaker be authorized to negotiate a contract with the

Tunbridge Fair Association to monitor the fair. Tim clarifies that the contract price be negotiated so that there will be no cost to the Town of Royalton. Stuart seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Loretta notified the board that we are utilizing the Governor's Highway Safety Grant to obtain in car and handheld radar and lidar equipment, but it is done by reimbursement. There will be an invoice for a little more than \$5,000 of which \$5,000 will be reimbursed.

Tim asks if he can talk with Loretta about incorporating the health officer duties into the police department.

Driveway Permit: Tim Murphy explained that he has requested a driveway access to accommodate an in-law apartment. The road foreman and the planning commission have reviewed the application. The planning commission noted that the fence obscures the sightline when backing out. John moved to approve the driveway permit. Stuart seconded and the motion carried with Tim abstained.

Bridge St. Project: A contract change order totaling \$16,525 for additional lattice work rail replacement was presented to the board. Chris has visited the site and noted that the work progress and overall construction was excellent. ECI is doing a great job, both at Bridge #31 and the railroad underpass. John moved to approve the contract amendment as presented. Tim seconded and the motion carried.

Draft Lease: A draft lease agreement between the Town and SRRS for land on the Crawford lot has been completed. The board was asked if they had any concerns about the substance of the lease. Tim moved to accept, in principle, the draft lease understanding that it will be sent to legal for review. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Chris moved to approve the minutes as presented. Stuart seconds. The board declined to vote on the minutes because John and Tim were absent at the last meeting. Tabled.

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

Other Business: Tim has received a report about some activity at a property in town and moved to enter an executive session to discuss a legal issue at 7:45 PM. Stuart seconded and the motion carried. Victoria and Chief Stalnaker were invited to stay. Executive session concluded at 7:55 PM, no action taken.

Adjourned 7:56 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator