

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
7/14/2022 6:30 PM
Virtual/In-person Meeting

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Loretta Stalnaker (Police Chief), Brad Salzmann (Emergency Mgmt Director), John Leighton (Transfer Station Mgr)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Pamela Vesilind, Paul Brock (SR Fire Chief), Elle Rogers (Old Home Days), Peter Anderson

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. David seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comments: Peter presented a letter to the board detailing his opposition to an ATV Ordinance. Peter stated that an ordinance is not what is needed, and that the board should not act on the interests of 15 members of an ATV club. Peter recommended that the board take a pause and consider all aspects and asserted that the board has a duty to protect the wildlife corridor.

Pamela Vesilind shared that Vermont Law & Graduate School is hosting a debate for the candidates for U.S. House of Representatives on Monday, July 25th from 6 – 7:30 PM at Chase Hall. Members of the public are welcome. Pamela asked if there had been any progress regarding the railroad crossing on Stern Rd by Hurricane Flats. There was discussion regarding who decides what signage and signaling will be present at a given crossing. The town has had conversations with the State Agency of Transportation regarding the crossing. The suggestion was made to contact State Legislatures to help facilitate overarching change.

South Royalton Fire Department: Paul Brock spoke to the board regarding the fire department's need for a storage building. He requested the board consider allowing some space for the building on a town owned parcel, as there is no suitable space that is owned by the Fire District. Discussion continued regarding the potential future needs of the fire department. Paul noted that he recommends that the Town Highway Department have their radios upgraded so that they can communicate with fire and rescue during emergencies. Discussion continued regarding potential future projects and needs, including emergency access to I-89.

Conservation Commission: Brad presented to the Selectboard a request to authorize an expenditure from the Conservation Fund for the purpose of completing invasive control on the Crawford Property. The recent logging creates areas where invasive species could potentially thrive and mitigation now could help prevent an issue later. Jerry moved to approve hiring Redstar to complete the invasive control as described in their bid with the expense to be paid from the Conservation Fund. John seconded and the motion carried.

Old Home Days: Elle Rogers was present on behalf of the Old Home Days Committee. She requested that the board authorize the use of Carpenter Field for the purpose of a fireworks display. The board is amenable to the request. Victoria will send over the required permit information.

Upper Pass has agreed to operate a beer garden during the event. The OHD committee is asking for permission for a beer garden and will not be asking for the alcohol ordinance to be otherwise lifted. Tim moved to allow Upper Pass Beer to serve alcohol at the event. David seconded and the motion carried.

There was some discussion regarding noise and how late a band could play. It was generally acknowledged that 10:00 PM is considered the reasonable limit.

Transfer Station: Victoria provided an updated budget that reflects the anticipated staff wage and benefit expenses as well as the required payment to the Town of Bethel for their interest in the transfer station.

The board discussed that Volunteer Firefighters would be allowed to leave to attend a fire call if business allowed, but that they would not continue to be paid for their shift.

John reports that the change over is going well and that he is seeking quotes to replace the bucket on the excavator as the current bucket leaks hydraulic fluid.

Town Administrator: Victoria provided preliminary financials for FY 22. The General fund budget has a surplus of roughly \$110,000. The fund was budgeted to be in a deficit of \$106,000 to spend down the existing General Fund Surplus. The Highway Fund is in a deficit of roughly \$22,500. The Highway Fund was budgeted to be in a deficit of \$56,900 to spend down fund surplus.

Approve Warrants: The warrants were approved as presented. John inquired regarding an invoice that should have been received from S&S Ground maintenance. Victoria forgot to provide it to the treasurer. The board reviewed the invoice and authorized Rita to pay the invoice with the warrant.

Approve Minutes: Tim moved to approve the minutes of June 28th. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business: The board scheduled a special meeting regarding the ATV ordinance for Tuesday, August 2nd at 6:30 PM to take place at the Royalton Academy Building. The board extended thanks to all members of the ATV Committee for their hard work.

Executive Session: The board entered executive session at 7:51 PM to discuss staff evaluations and wages.

Executive session concluded 8:50 PM

Chris moved to adopt the carefully considered wage increases as per the spreadsheet. David seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Victoria Paquin

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