

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
7/25/2023 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting

Royalton Selectboard: Stuart Levasseur, Chris Noble, John Dumville

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), John Leighton (RTS manager), Demi Boles (Road Foreman)

Public: Ian MacKenzie, Ron Cavanaugh, Mary Russ (White River Partnership), Jo Levasseur (Herald)

Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion of disposal of flood debris & hazardous waste at the transfer station. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment: Ron Cavanaugh presented several complaints regarding the attentiveness of the police department to various reported thefts. Chris Noble requested that we address these items outside of a selectboard meeting.

Flood Recovery Updates: Chris reports that in general he is very encouraged by the work of the road crew and contractors to document damages and move forward. John asked about the paths on the green that have been damaged. Demi noted that high band radios should be considered for addition to the rest of the trucks. Demi finished gravelling Waterman road as part of a ditching project and then will work on the ditch washing on lower Waterman. After that is complete he will move to Happy Hollow and Rix rd. We are buying in material from Twin State. Ian reports that there are approximately 30 roads with damage, he is working through documenting them. We are requesting hydraulic studies from VTrans on Johnson and Gee Hill rds. An RFP will be put out for engineering for Johnson, Gee Hill & Broad Brook rds.

Victoria reports that the town is able to borrow for a term not expected to exceed five years to facilitate infrastructure work without first obtaining a bond vote. We will likely need to borrow funds as we move into the more costly repairs. It is important to remember that the larger projects will likely be slow moving, and the FEMA is a reimbursement program, so we will need to monitor cash flow and borrow appropriately.

Flood Zone Buyout: Mary Russ detailed a Flood Resilient Community Fund grant that she would like to work with Walter on. The program would allow them to conduct assessments and determine potential properties that are flood-prone and could potentially be bought out. The program is funded with ARPA money that the state set aside for that purpose. Stuart moved to support the application for the grant. John seconded and the motion carried.

Town Administrator:

John moved to approve the municipal tax rates as presented by the listers. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Victoria reports that the necessary sewer rate is \$2.32 per 100 gallons. Usage is down with Chelsea 108 and 802 Pizza being closed. John moved to approve the sewer rate of \$2.32 per 100 gallons. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of 7/11/23 Minutes: John moved to approve the minutes of July 11. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

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

Other Business: There was no other business this evening.

Transfer Station: John Leighton has been working with the state to accept flood damaged hazardous waste. The state will cover the disposal costs of these flood damaged items. Stuart moved to authorize John Leighton to establish charge accounts for flood damaged debris for towns and to track disposals appropriately. John seconded and the motion carried.

John reports that one of the part time individuals he had hired sent his resignation. He requested to increase a part time employee to a full time employee. John moved to approve full time status for Derrick Wright. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

Adjourned 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator