

Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
7/26/2022 6:30 PM
Virtual/In-person Meeting

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), John Leighton (Transfer Station Mgr.), Demi Boles (Road Foreman)

Public: Jo Levasseur, Peter Anderson, Meghan Asbury (4-Town Coalition), Corinne Ingraham (SRRS Advisory Board)

Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM

Approve the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda with addition of Royalton Radio request and deputy health officer appointment. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comments: Peter Anderson asked about making a recording of the special selectboard meeting scheduled for next week. This item is on the agenda for discussion. Jo Levasseur notes that clarification should be made that the meeting is not a town meeting, some information that has been published has created some confusion.

4-Town Coalition: Meghan reminded the board of an upcoming housing tour in Fairlee being held in conjunction with Vital Communities. Preregistration is requested.

On August 10th at 6:30 PM on the Hope Field an ice cream social is being held.

The North Tunbridge General Store is working on a crowd funding project to help recover some of their startup costs.

In the coming months, the 4-town coalition steering committee may be coming to the board to request funding for an administrator. Meghan's one year position that was funded by GMEDC is coming to a close.

SRRS Advisory Board: Corinne Ingraham was present to request from the Selectboard \$25,000 in ARPA funds for the purpose of completing engineering on the proposed Rescue Squad building. The towns of Sharon and Tunbridge have been asked for the same amount of funding. A timeline is currently being developed and will be provided to each of the towns when it becomes available. There was some discussion regarding the fire department's need for a storage building and whether combining services would be beneficial. The board will review their preliminary ARPA discussion to determine whether funding is available.

Revolving Loan Fund Committee: Sandy will attend a later meeting to address the board regarding the future plans for the Revolving Loan Fund. One board member is appointed annually to the board, and the appointment needs to be renewed. Chris offers to continue as the

appointed member. John moved to appoint Chris to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Jerry seconds and the motion carried.

Road Foreman: Demi requests permission to hire Roy Ingraham part time. Discussion was had regarding the benefits threshold and the number of hours that Roy can work. Jerry moved to hire Roy part time for less than 24 hours a week. John seconded and the motion carried.

Act 250 application: A major application notice has been received. The application was submitted by Aubuchon Hardware and involves division of the parcel and construction of 10,000sqft of retail space. A hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 3rd. One member of the Selectboard may attend on the board's behalf. Jerry moved that John attend the meeting on behalf of the board. Chris seconded and the motion carried. The board discussed whether they had any input regarding the application. At this time there was none, the construction of retail space in that location aligns with the town plan.

Transfer Station: John provided quotes to the board for replacement of the excavator bucket. The current bucket has a geared thumb, which is a unique arrangement, is difficult to get parts for, and is leaking hydraulic fluid. A trash grapple will cost \$45,000. A standard bucket and thumb will cost \$12,500. Discussion continued regarding what the best tool for the job is. Chris moved to purchase a bucket and thumb. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

The compactor has been serviced and was found to have a leaking front seal. Purchasing a new seal will cost \$3,000 or we can try to repair it at a starting cost of \$1,500. Discussion continued regarding machine down time for the various repairs. Chris moved to purchase a new part. John seconded and the motion carried.

The Transfer station currently uses NEMRC to process transactions. New software options that are specific to transfer station operation are being investigated. Specific software will allow the transfer station to operate more efficiently, including the ability to take credit / debit cards. A quote for Wasteworks software is approximately \$10,000. Chris moved to authorize John to purchase the new software. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

John reports that the free table has been removed due to excessive dumping of waste and unusable items on the table.

John requests an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Timber Frame Labor Invoice: Chris moved to pay the invoices received for labor performed to construct a timber frame building for Carpenter field from the community betterment fund and to review purchasing policies to avoid any appearance of impropriety in the future. John seconded and the motion carried.

Town Administrator: A resident has offered to make a recording of the special selectboard meeting that will be held next week. The board discussed the offer and determined that it would be best for the town to undertake the endeavor. Victoria will decline the offer with thanks.

Victoria reports that the refreshed website with a new .gov address has been published and can now be accessed. A redirect will be set up tomorrow so that all visitors land on the new site – www.royaltonvt.gov.

Approve Warrants: John moved to approve the warrants as presented. Chris seconded and the motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Jerry moved to approve the minutes of July 12th as presented. John seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business: The board discussed a request from Royalton Radio to borrow the town's bucket truck and an operator to relocate the radio antenna. Victoria will reach out to VLCT for guidance and then contact the radio station.

Jerry moved to appoint David Barker as deputy health officer. John seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Session: The board entered executive session at 8:03 PM to discuss a personnel issue. Victoria and John were invited to stay.

Executive session concluded 8:16 PM

No action taken.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Victoria Paquin