

**Town of Royalton
Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
8/22/2023 6:30 PM
Virtual / In-person Meeting**

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

Town Staff & Committee Members: Victoria Paquin (Town Administrator), Rita Hull (Treasurer), Todd Ballentine (Constable)

Public: Gidget Lyman, June Neclario, Dave Farnsworth, Tom Graham, Jo Levasseur, Dan Roda

Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. Chris noted a need to get through lots of work on the road issue and asked the public to hold storm damage related comments until we get to that issue. Tim noted the need for an executive session for personnel discussion. The agenda was approved without exception.

Public Comment: Gidget Lyman brought forward that the grader had expanded the width of the road into her property. This seems to happen every so often, especially with a new operator. Tim is going to work with the road crew and Gidget to resolve the issue and restore the grass as needed.

Tom raised a concern about Broad Brook Road and the length of the detour leading to delay in receiving emergency services and necessary fuel during the winter months. Requested restoration of the road as expeditiously as possible. June Neclario echoed these concerns. It was noted that the road sign for Maude Laura Rd has fallen down the embankment or is otherwise missing.

Dave Farnsworth asked whether Chris might recuse himself from discussion about work on Broad Brook Road near the landslide as he owns abutting property. There is concern that a conflict of interest may exist between Chris' personal interest in his land and the town's interest in a detour or road relocation that would impact Chris' family land. Chris replied that he would do what was in the best interest of the town. There was some continued discussion of the issue.

Todd Ballentine noted that the last two events on the green were well attended and well enjoyed by all.

Sewer Bill Reduction: Dan Roda requested an abatement of a portion of the sewer bill for his residence. The water use at the property doubled compared to the prior billing. An old toilet that was presumably leaking was replaced. Dan noted that the unexpectedly high bill combined with the repair was a difficult cost for his family to bear. *Jerry motioned to forgive one half of the difference between the current sewer bill and the previous sewer bill. John seconded. Discussion continued regarding precedent and future plans for abating bills. The motion carried unanimously.*

Road Recovery:

The deadline for bid responses for engineering on Broad Brook Road was extended to 12:00 on Friday September 8.

RFP's for road repairs are still being developed. We are hopeful to have bids to review at the September 12th meeting.

The board determined that Tim, Chris, Victoria, Roger and Demi should review all bids to make recommendations for award to the full board.

Stuart moved to approve Roger McCrillis as the project supervisor at a rate of \$30 per hour. John seconded and the motion carried.

Tim noted the potential to encounter supply issues as we move through road repairs. This may increase the costs or delay progress depending on the severity.

Late Homestead Filing Penalty: *Jerry moved to approve the assessment of a fee for late filing of homestead in accordance with the statutes. Tim seconded and the motion carried.*

Town Administrator:

Victoria requested that the board certify the completion of the Bridge St. Bridge project and sign the TA65 requesting reimbursement. *John moved to certify completion of the project and sign the required paperwork. Stuart seconded and the motion carried.*

Tim moved to advertise for a winter sidewalk maintenance position. John seconded and the motion carried.

Cemetery Commission: Jo Levasseur reports that Carol Greene has resigned from the cemetery commission. They are seeking an additional member to fill in until town meeting.

Health Officer: There was no update from the health officer this evening. Windsor County Sheriff has not yet served the requested paperwork.

Constable: There was discussion regarding the constable's request for compensation. Jerry asked Todd if he was keeping track of hours worked. Todd said that he keeps track of some, but much of the work is spur of the moment or otherwise unscheduled and is difficult to track. The compensation request was based on what was in the town report in prior years. *Chris moved to pay a stipend of \$6,000 per year, retroactive to town meeting 2023 to be paid quarterly after the quarter has been completed. The constable should also submit for mileage reimbursement at the federal rate. Tim seconded and the motion carried.*

Minutes: Tim moved to approve the minutes of August 8th. Jerry seconded and the motion carried.

Warrants: There warrants were reviewed and approved as presented.

Other Business: Loretta noted that the contract with Tunbridge Fair is progressing and will need to be signed. *Jerry moved that he and John review the contract and then Loretta may sign it. Tim seconded and the motion carried.*

Tim moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel at 8:24 PM. Jerry seconded and the motion carried. Executive session concluded at 8:35 PM, no action taken.

Adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Paquin
Royalton Town Administrator

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