

**Town of Royalton  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2022  
White River Valley School, Royalton Campus  
223 South Windsor Street, South Royalton, Vermont**

The Royalton Town Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Moderator Allison N. Fulcher. Moderator Fulcher led with The Pledge of Allegiance followed by a request to the townspeople to go straight to the Warning without pre-reading in its entirety and for permission to allow people from other towns to speak on behalf of their social service agencies requesting funding from Royalton residence was granted.

Warning and notifying the legal voters to meet in the Gymnasium of the White River Valley School (223 S. Windsor St) in said Town on March 5, 2024, between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM to transact the following business by Australian Ballot, Moderator Fulcher proceeded to read the following articles:

- Article I:** To elect the following town officers as required by law:
  - Town Moderator for a term of One Year
  - Selectboard for a term of Three Years
  - Selectboard for a term of Two Years
  - Lister for a term of Three Years
  - Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of One Year
  - Trustee of Public Funds for a term of Three Years
  - First Constable for a term of Two Years
  - Second Constable for a term of One year remaining of Two Years
  - Cemetery Commissioner for a term of Three Years
  - Cemetery Commissioner for a term of Two Years remaining of Three Years
  - Library Trustee for a term of Two Years, and then commenced to read:

The legal voters of the Town of Royalton are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Gymnasium of the White River Valley School (223 S. Windsor St) in said Town on March 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM to conduct the following business by floor vote:

**Article II:** Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect real and personal taxes on or before **November 1, 2024**, with delinquent taxes subject to interest charges of one percent per month or fraction thereof and eight percent penalty charged against them from the due date?

Paul Brock motioned, and Bushrod Powers seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article II. Hearing no discussion, a call was made for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article II passed.

**Article III:** Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the Recreation Reserve Fund to be used for the provision of improvements, equipment, and supplies to support recreation in Royalton in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

Tim Murphy motioned, and Kate George seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article III. Hearing no discussion, a call was made for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article III passed.

**Article IV:** Shall the town raise and appropriate a sum of \$2,000 to fund the Recreation Reserve Fund?

Jerry Barcelow motioned, and Walter Hastings seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article IV. Hearing no discussion, a call was made for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article IV passed.

For Article V Moderator Fulcher requested to read the article as a single grouping with separate discussion available on any single organization’s request. The townspeople had no concerns. The reading commenced.

**Article V:** Shall the voters appropriate \$442,945 to the following Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

	<b>Approved 2023</b>	<b>Requested 2024</b>
Community Food Shelf	\$10,000	\$15,000
Health Hub School Clinic	\$1,000	\$1,000
South Royalton Fire Department	\$132,515	\$131,915
Royalton Memorial Library	\$86,549	\$89,325
South Royalton Rescue Squad	\$164,963	\$184,605
Royalton Town Band	\$3,900	\$4,100
South Royalton One Planet Program	\$6,000	\$6,000
Fuller Stearn Post #51 (Memorial Day)	\$700	\$1,000
S. Royalton Area Senior Citizens	\$5,000	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$410,627</b>	<b>\$442,945</b>

Mark Wood motioned and Chris Noble seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article V. Hearing no discussion, a call was made for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article V passed.

**Article VI:** Shall the voters appropriate \$24,924 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

	<b>Approved 2023</b>	<b>Requested 2024</b>
CV Council on Aging	\$1,500	\$1,500
Clara Martin Center	\$4,180	\$4,180
The Family Place	\$200	\$200
Healthcare & Rehab of S. VT	\$2,689	\$2,689
HIV/HCV Resource Center	\$500	\$500
Orange County Parent Child Center	\$1,000	\$1,000
VT Association of Conservation Districts	\$100	\$100
Safeline	\$1,000	\$1,000
TriValley Transit	\$3,800	\$3,800
Vermont Adult Learning	\$500	\$500
VT Assoc. of the Blind	\$750	\$750
VT Ctr. For Independent Living	\$305	\$305
Visiting Nurses	\$7,000	\$7,000
WR Partnership	\$500	\$500
WC Partners	\$500	\$500
WC Youth Services	\$400	\$400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,924</b>	<b>\$24,924</b>

**Pam Levasseur motioned and Hoyt Bingham seconded.** Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article VI. A representative from The Family Place spoke about their organization and thanked Royalton’s townspeople for their continued support. Chair Fulcher called for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article VI passed.

**Article VII:** Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$ 1,810,336, of which \$ 1,620,986 shall be raised by taxes and \$ 189,350 raised by non-tax revenues?

John Dumville motioned and Chris Noble seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article VII. Hearing no discussion, a call was made for a vote by show of cards. Motion carried; Article VII passed.

**Article VIII:** Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$ 1,324,040, of which \$ 1,169,040 shall be raised by taxes and \$ 155,000 shall be raised by non-tax revenues?

Jerry Barcelow motioned, and Juhn Dumville seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked if anyone wanted to discuss Article VIII. Discussion proceeded. Robert Gray asked Tim Murphy if North Road would be paved in 2024. Tim Murphy said paperwork and RFP’s were slated for April of 2024 for thorough repairs, not just paving. Also, it was confirmed that some town gravel is too soft, but much harder pack is being trucked in and the selectboard is hopeful they can contract with a local gravel pit company once that company’s licensing is completed. Dan Kinney asked where other town funds come from. Chris Noble said amongst other sources: Academy Building rentals and clerk fees. Jim Hudson opined that back road grading is poor, too wide and flat with no apparent crowns for water run-off. Ian MacKenzie noted there will be a focus on extra ditching, which the road crew had not recently had time for. Sandy Manouvelos asked for repairs on Oxbow Road. Tim Murphy told the town that

Oxbow Road qualifies for paving and that village septic lines were also due for repairs and/or extensions. Because Oxbow lies above the proposed septic repairs, there would need to be a coordinated effort to make sure the septic lines were first improved prior to paving Oxbow Road. This project is also being focused on in 2024. Tim Burman asked about Casella trucks and posted weight limit signs. Tina Lyman raised concerns about finding an adequate spot to park her bus on Johnson Hill. AJ Hoyt also asked about using more hardpack. Tim Murphy reiterated that a local pit, which the selectboard was hoping to use as soon as the company's ACT 250 permits were in order. Jerry Barcelow moved the question, the motion was seconded. Motion was denied.

Paul Brock moved forward with discussion as he asked the highway department to please notify them (Fire and Rescue staff) as to which roads were impassable. Tim Murphy immediately phoned Demi Boles, Highway Foreman. Brian Mahon expressed concern over the Back River Road's rail safety specifications due to the current road height. Chair of Selectboard Chris Noble agreed and said the areas of concern would be looked at. Tim Murphy let the townspeople know that he, along with Chief Loretta Stalnaker and Road Foreman Boles had been looking into trouble spots such as Broad Brook Road Boles. Chris Noble stated that the major flood damage this summer had already totaled \$2.7 million dollars, but FEMA is expected to pay 87.5 percent of Royalton's corresponding expense. It was also agreed that some routine highway maintenance had been deferred due to flooding, but that the board was determined to focus on some form of ongoing plan for future road maintenance and very appreciative of all the people who had stepped forward and volunteered their many services and help during our town's summer flooding damages.

Bushrod Powers jested that for \$62 million dollars, we could pave the entire town. It was asked if there was training available in grading techniques. Tim Murphy said the State would drive with highway workers to help with best practices. Moderator Fulcher requested a show of cards to approve Article VIII. The motion carried to approve Article VIII.

**Article IX:** Shall the voters exempt from taxation the 2.9-acre Paine's Beach recreation area owned by the Heartland Lions Club for a period of five years pursuant to V.S.A. 32 § 3840?

John Dumville motioned, and Don Hilts seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked for discussion. Matt Matule asked for the cost of the exemption. Walter Hastings said it was a small amount and just the local portion; probably about .01 percent or \$2,000. Moderator Fulcher requested a show of cards to approve Article IX. The motion carried. Article IX was approved.

**Article X:** Shall the voters exempt from taxation 1.5 acre and dwelling of the Royalton Area Food Shelf owned by the United Church of South Royalton at 2955 Vt. Route 14 South Royalton, Vt. 05068, for the period of 5 years pursuant to V.S.A. 32 §3840?

Jerry Barcelow motioned, and Chair Noble seconded. Moderator Fulcher requested a show of hands to approve Article X, which carried.

John Dumville rose to present two selectboard members who were stepping down with gratitude and a town vase. Board member Dumville thanked Chair Noble for his two terms and dedication to our town even while serving overseas in Bougainville for our military. Board member Jerry Barcelow was also thanked for his ongoing commitment to us all as a town optometrist, his key role in organizing the transfer station reorganization, which is now "running in the black" and his time with the Rescue Squad. Grateful applause followed for both men.

Chair Noble said he was "profoundly amazed" at this town's volunteerism; that he was lucky to live in beautiful Royalton on his wife's family property, where her father farmed. Jim Hudson recognized the board by saying it was a thankless job, but he appreciated them regardless and could the town reports come out a little sooner please.

Board member Barcelow motioned to adjourn and Pamela Levasseur seconded. Moderator Fulcher asked the townspeople for a show of cards and after approval, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Registered voters on checklist: 2,042  
Registered voters in attendance: 110  
Respectfully submitted:  
Allison n. Fulcher, Royalton Town Moderator and Board of Civil Authority Chair  
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk

Recording attestation goes here