

Royalton Selectboard
Knight's Opera House

January 25, 2011

Public Present: VLS representatives Loraine Attwood, and James McGrath, Truex and Cullins, Architects representative Steve Kredell, Stuart Levasseur, Royalton Conservation Commission representative Don Carbino, John Dumville, Pastor Brad Keller, State Representative Sarah Buxton, Town Road Foreman Roger McCrillis, and Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland

Selectboard Present: Chairman Larry Trottier, Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth, Joan Goldstein, and Phil Gates

Chairman Trottier opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

VLS – 190 Chelsea Street remodeling plans

Mr. Steve Kredell of Truex and Cullins, an architecture firm contracted by VLS to develop renovation plans for 190 Chelsea Street, known as the “Freck’s Building”. The representatives of VLS and Truex and Cullins answered questions concerning the renovation plans. It was noted that the building is listed on the nation historic registry. One notable change will be moving the current book store to the corner of Chelsea and S. Windsor Street. Construction is scheduled to commence in June 2011 with a completion date estimated to be October 2012.

Royalton Town Forest – Royalton Conservation Commission

Mr. Don Carbino was present to discuss the proposed article to sell the Royalton Town Forest, located on VT Route 107. He presented a letter from the Royalton Conservation Commission in opposition to the proposed article to sell the Royalton Town Forest. In the letter to the board the Conservation Commission identified vernal pools that are breeding grounds for endangered salamanders and historic railroad beds and stone walls that the commission feels should be conserved for future use by residents of Royalton. Discussion ensued on the potential to only sell the field portion of the open land that is adjacent to VT Route 107 and the value that the property has to the residents of Royalton.

Mr. John Dumville asked what other town owned properties were being considered for sale. He noted that as a socially responsible move the board should contact the Brightwood House, a senior citizen housing facility, as there is a large demand for senior and low income housing. He noted that he was in favor of the Crawford Autoland property as it would be suitable site for town offices, emergency facilities, and recreational facilities.

Mr. Carbino asked if the potential purchase would require bonding. It was noted that the board hopes to borrow for a term of less than 5 years.

Vermont State Representative Sarah Buxton

She is on the education committee and has been appointed clerk of that committee. She opened discussion on the need to be an active participant and voice for the needs of the residents and Selectboard. Ms. Buxton noted that one particular issue she hopes to address is to allow the Town's of Royalton and Tunbridge to be granted an exemption to remove gravel above the high

water mark from the surrounding rivers. Discussion ensued on the proposed issue of removing gravel from the rivers for municipal purposes.

Journey Church – Authorization to use Town Clerk copy Machine

Journey Church Pastor Brad Keller was present to discuss the use of the Town Clerk copy machine for a fee. Administrative Assistant Cleveland noted that the Clerk is concerned with allowing the use of the machine on a regular basis as the copy machine is required by the residents doing research and the potential issue of not complying with the current lease agreement on the copy machine. Discussion ensued on the subject.

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to allow the Journey Church to use the Town Clerk’s copier machine to make no more than 65 copies per week for a total of two weeks at a rate of \$.15 per copy. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department

Backhoe

Road Foreman McCrillis noted that the company that we purchased the new backhoe from has agreed to bring the backhoe to their headquarters to address the ongoing issues with the hydraulic system.

Truck Replacement Schedule

It was noted by Road Foreman McCrillis that two price quotes have been received on a replacement dump truck. Chairman Trottier noted that SG Reed of Claremont N.H. has agreed to submit a quote on the specifications that the two quotes that were received are based on.

Operations

It was noted that the furnace at the town garage has required servicing at least 4 times in the last two weeks. He wanted the board to be aware of the issue.

Revolving Loan Application – Sticky Bun’s Café, Lois Gross

E. Amsden made a motion that was seconded by J. Goldstein, to enter executive session to discuss a confidential revolving loan application. The motion passed unanimously.

Entered executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Out of executive session at 9:36 p.m. with no action taken.

Discussion ensued on Mrs. Gross’s revolving loan application. Mrs. Gross had requested an additional \$10,000 on the previously approved \$20,000 loan from the Royalton Revolving Loan Fund.

P. Gates made a motion that was seconded that approval of additional \$10,000 will be contingent upon receipt of a business plan detailing cash flow statement, labor costs and approval from the Royalton Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Motion carried with E. Amsden opposed.

Highway Department

Excess Weight Permit – Hartigan Company

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to approve Hartigan Companies excess weight permit application. The motion passed unanimously.

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to appoint Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland as the authorized agent to sign approved excess weight permits. The motion passed unanimously.

Certificate of Highway Mileage

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to add a section of class four road as described in the March 3, 2009 Vermont Superior Court ruling to the annual certificate of mileage contingent upon confirmation of the total mileage by the Ancient Roads Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Bloss Ballou Rd

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to reconfirm the motion made concerning enforcing the rule 70 and filing a motion for discovery on December 28, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2011

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates motion to accept the minutes of January 10, 2011. EA/PA abstained. The motion passed 3-0-2.

Selectboard Minutes January 18, 2011

P. Gates made a motion that was seconded by J. Goldstein to accept the minutes of January 18, 2010 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Liquor and Tobacco

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by J. Goldstein to approve Black Grape Inc. (Crossroad's Bar and Grill), Corner Stop Mini Mart's liquor and tobacco license renewal application, as well as Royalton Village Pizza's liquor license renewal application. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Civil Authority – Hearing Appeal

Discussion ensued on the request to request a formal appeal of the BCA property valuation decision concerning property owned by Broad Brook Mountain Farm Inc., and Mr. Nils Daulaire.

E. Amsden made a motion to proceed with the formal appeal to the State of Vermont Property Valuation Director for the BCA decision, recorded in the Royalton Town Office on January 3, 2011 for the reduction in taxable valuation on the BROADBROOK MOUNTAIN FARM, INC'S AND MR. NILS DAULAIRE'S properties due to an inequitable valuation based on current sales and land location factors that effect many parcels in the town of Royalton. The motion passed with J. Goldstein abstaining.

Town of Royalton Annual Report – Warning

Discussion ensued on the articles to be placed on the warning for the annual town meeting.

P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to approve the warning for the Annual Town Meeting as follows:

TOWN OF ROYALTON, VERMONT WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 1, 2011

Note: The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Australian Ballot voting.

The legal voters of the Town of Royalton are hereby warned and notified to meet at the South Royalton High School Auditorium in South Royalton Village, in the Town of Royalton on Tuesday, the 1st day of March 2011, at ten o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business:

Article I To elect by Australian ballot the following officers:

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Moderator	One year
Town Clerk	One year
Town Treasurer	One year
Selectboard	Two-years
Selectboard	Three-years
Lister	Three-year
Second Constable	Two-year
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	One-year
Cemetery Commissioner	Three-year term
Cemetery Commissioner	Two years remaining of a three year term
Town Agent	One year
Grand Juror	One year
Trustee of Public Funds	Three-years
School Director	Two-years
School Director	Three-years

Article II To receive the reports of the Town Officers?

Article III Shall the Town appropriate \$250,610 to the following Royalton organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

	Approved 2010	Requested 2011
South Royalton Fire Dept.	\$49,000	\$45,000
Royalton Memorial Library	\$52,855	\$53,355
South Royalton Rescue Squad	\$120,000	\$146,255
Royalton Town Band	\$2,300	\$2,300
Fuller Stearn Post #51 (Memorial Day)	\$700	\$700

South Royalton Area Senior Citizens	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	\$227,855	\$250,610

Article IV Shall the voters appropriate \$20,925 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

	Approved 2010	Requested 2011
HIV/HCV Resource Center	\$500	\$500
CV Community Action	\$400	\$400
CV Council on Aging	\$1,000	\$1,000
Clara Martin Center	\$4,180	\$4,180
The Family Place	\$200	\$200
Aiken Resource	\$100	\$100
Safeline	\$1,000	\$1,000
Winsor County Adult Learning	\$500	\$500
VT Assc. Of the Blind	\$750	\$750
Ctr. For Independent Living	\$305	\$305
Visiting Nurses	\$5,876	\$5,876
WR Partnership	\$500	\$500
WC Partners	\$500	\$500
WC Youth Services	\$400	\$400
HCRS	\$2,689	\$2,689
Stagecoach	\$2,025	\$2,025
Total	\$20,925	\$20,925

Article V Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$901,103, of which \$667,403 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 2664?

Article VI Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$937,854, of which \$837,354 shall be raised by taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 2664?

Article VII Shall the voters authorize collection of real property taxes in two installments, with the due dates being November 1, and May 1 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4871-4873?

Article VIII Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to sell municipal real estate known as “the Hope Property” located at 332 South Windsor Street (Parcel ID# Q-370), pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061?

Article IX Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to sell a portion of municipal real estate known as the “Sarnoff Property”, located at Vermont Route 107 (Parcel ID# F-275), pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061?

Article X Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to enter into a purchase agreement to buy property located at 89 Crawford Auto Lane (Parcel ID # S-160 and Parcel ID # S-140), pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061 (b)?

Article XI Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, to purchase the Crawford Property for a term not to exceed five (5) years pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1786 (a)?

Article XII To transact any other non-binding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

The motion to approve the warning passed unanimously.

Additional Business - Sidewalk Snow Removal

Administrative Assistant reported to the board on the ongoing sidewalk snow removal. He noted that the sidewalk worker had been asked to clear the back alley of the Chelsea Street business block. Historically the town has not cleared snow from the back alley and the sidewalk in front of the stores as the town does not own them. The Selectboard asked that a letter be sent to the different owners of the Chelsea Street business block buildings to remind them that the town does not own the sidewalk or back alley and that snow removal is the building's owner's responsibility.

Adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan P. Cleveland