

Royalton Selectboard
Knight's Opera House

April 13, 2010

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

Public Present: Town Agent Frank Berk, Chief of Police Robert Hull, VLS SCORE representative Timothy Fair, VLS Physical Plan Director, Vermont Law School Employee Peg Trombly, Stuart Levasseur, Road Foreman Roger McCrillis, and Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland

Graffiti Cleanup

Timothy Fair, Chair of the VLS student group, Students for Community Outreach and Education (SCORE) was present to discuss proposed graffiti cleanup. Mr. Fair noted that the group had a budget of \$100.00 to purchase supplies. He requested the town to provide the paint for covering graffiti. The Selectboard identified areas that could be painted. These areas include the underpass at the intersection of Railroad Street, and Alexander Place, the underpass on Royalton Hill Rd, and the underpass on Back River Road.

P. Gates made a motion to use Community Betterment Fund money to purchase paint supplies for the VLS Score initiative to paint graffiti on selected underpasses. Discussion ensued on locations to clean up graffiti. J. Goldstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Noise Ordinance

Chairman Trottier welcomed Town Agent F. Berk and Chief of Police R. Hull to the meeting. Discussion ensued concerning the enforceability and structuring of the proposed noise ordinance. Town Agent Berk reviewed proposed additions that included notification of an event to property owners within two hundred fifty feet of the event site, a potential application fee, and setting a specific decibel level. Chairman Trottier noted that the purpose of the proposed ordinance would be to deal with a broad range of objectionable noise that is not currently addressed by the State Statute concerning objectionable noise. The Selectboard agreed to set an application fee of \$10.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to adopt the noise ordinance as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Vermont Law School (VLS) Physical Plant Director Jim McGrath

Peg Trombly introduced Jim McGrath, Director of the Vermont Law School Physical Plant to the Selectboard. Mr. McGrath was present to discuss the capacity of the town's wastewater treatment facility. He reported that VLS is currently in the process of developing a twenty year master plan. Board member J. Goldstein asked if there was a total amount of gallons that the law school would need to proceed with their plans. Mr.

McGrath noted that with no specific projects planned there was no specific amount of gallons that they are currently looking for, rather the school was only researching the feasibility of future projects.

Chairman Trottier noted that as the Chairman of the Selectboard he felt that it is not the goal of the Selectboard to hinder expansion or development of the Vermont Law School. He felt that it would be in the best interest of the Town to support the Law School in any way possible.

Highway Department

Flags/Vertical banners –

Administrative Assistant Cleveland opened discussion on purchasing new U.S.A. flags and vertical banners to be placed on light posts, and telephone poles in the South Royalton and Royalton Village areas. Discussion ensued on the design of the vertical banners and it was noted that the town emblem would be used. It was also noted that initially banners would only be purchased for the Chelsea Street bridge light poles. E. Amsden recommended that the Selectboard budget for replacement of the banners and flags in the next budget.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to purchase vertical banners with the town of Royalton emblem to be placed on the Chelsea Street Bridge, and 36 USA flags with money from the Community Betterment Fund. Discussion ensued on the placement of the flags. The motion passed unanimously.

Carpenter Gravel Pit

Road Foreman McCrillis reported the need to hire an engineer to comply with permit regulations associated with operating the gravel pit on Gilman Road. He recommends hiring a bulldozer to continue to reclaim portions of the gravel pit that are not in use. Discussion ensued on the permit requirements and the time frame for operating the town gravel pit. It was noted that the gravel pit was approaching the end of its useful life. Gravel is becoming more difficult to excavate as clay is becoming more abundant. Chairman Trottier noted that the town of Sharon has a gravel pit that they operate and that they may be willing to allow the town of Royalton access their gravel pit as an alternative should the Town of Royalton need to close the gravel pit on Gilman Road.

Highway Emergency Planning

The Selectboard discussed the need to document problematic erosion issues associated with town highways. Board member P. Gates reported that he attended a Town Officer's workshop that had a session detailing how to address damage caused by such events as flooding.

Backhoe Quotes

Road foreman McCrillis noted that he has spoken with six companies concerning the purchase of a new backhoe. Specifications have been made to the companies as far as what the town would require the backhoe to have to be considered for submitting quotes. These specifications include road speed and bucket attachments/configuration.

Highway Operations

Road Foreman McCrillis noted that the sand pile is being stocked and the road crew has put up nearly 2,000 yards from the “Haikra Pit”. The salt shed is fully stocked and there is a surplus in the salt line item and the heating line item.

Excess Weight Permits

The Selectboard reviewed excess weight permit applications received from Cardinal Logistics, Donald Giroux Trucking, Bazin Brothers Trucking, C. Hill Trucking, Langford Trucking, Manning Pulpwood, Richard Moses, and Eric Thorp.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to approve excess weight permits for Cardinal Logistics, D. Giroux’s Trucking, Bazin Brother’s Trucking, C. Hill Trucking, Langford Trucking, Manning Pulpwood, Richard Moses, and Eric Thorp. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to authorize Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland to sign the excess weight permit applications. The motion passed unanimously.

Bloss Ballou Road

E. Amsden reported that he, Board member P. Gates and Road Foreman McCrillis had met with the Hodgdon’s concerning the layout of the “Bloss Ballou Road”. He noted that alternative routes were discussed as the current location of the road is not adequate for a class four road. He also reported that our attorney has advised that the Town will have to hire a surveyor to locate a monument that would identify the center point of the road. He also noted that if the road is not altered the town would have to bring a lawsuit against the Hodgdon’s to enforce the court order. At this time E. Amsden reported that no action can be taken until the layout of the road is agreed upon. Discussion ensued on how the town will proceed with the “Bloss Ballou Road”.

E. Amsden noted that it would be appropriate to have a board member or two contact the land owners on the Slack Hill Road end (southern end) of the Bloss Ballou Road. Chairman L. Trottier volunteered to accompany board member E. Amsden and meet with the property owners to discuss the layout of the southern portion of the road. The discussion would be to identify where the survey places the road and any alternative locations if it is the current location is not acceptable.

Pollution Abatement Facility (Sewer Dept.)

The Selectboard reviewed a letter from Mr. Charles Welch in response to the board’s proposed abatement of Mr. Welch’s sewer bills dating to 2007 (meter no. 95). The Selectboard noted that the billing error was due to an operator error, and that a credit to Mr. Welch was appropriate. It was also noted that the overcharge resulted in lower user rates to the rest of the properties connected to the town sewer system. Due to this the credit will accurately reflect the true cost to the users of the system, and the credit will be covered by future use fees.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to accept the proposed sewer abatement request of \$7,565.35. (\$3,782.68 to be paid immediately and \$3,782.35 to be credited to Mr. Welch's future sewer bills) The motion passed unanimously.

Interim Sewer Connection – VT 18 Ltd. 417 South Windsor St.

The Selectboard reviewed an application for connection to the town sewer system. Administrative Assistant Cleveland noted that all necessary state permits have been received along with the application fee. He also noted that the "Interim Connection Approval" only allows for construction to proceed. A final inspection will be required prior to the occupancy of the living space to be granted.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to approve the interim connection approval for VT 18 Ltd. Located at 417 S. Windsor St. The motion passed unanimously.

Royalton Academy Building

Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported that Building Manager Mary Demar was requesting her monthly stipend to be paid on April 27, 2010. She will be on vacation the first two weeks of May and has arranged for coverage while she is away.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to authorize Mary Demar's monthly stipend to be paid on April 27, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Lister's Office

The Selectboard reviewed a letter from the Vermont State Department of Taxes in reference to the redetermination of equalized education property values and coefficient of dispersion. Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported that the town Lister's do not agree with the findings of the State Department of Taxes and recommend continuing with the hearing scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2010. The Lister's have reported that there is still one property that has not been excluded from the study. By including this property, the Lister's feel the results of the study are not accurate.

A motion was made by P. Gates and seconded by E. Amsden to authorize the Listers to represent the town at the May 6, 2010 hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Financial Audit

Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported that town Treasurer Theresa Harrington is hoping to schedule the annual financial audit by the end of April. It was noted that the audit firm (Angolano and Company) has performed the audit for the past two years and Treasurer Harrington would like to contract with them for this year's audit as they have historically cost half as much as other audit firms that submitted proposals and she is familiar with their requirements and procedures.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to authorize Treasurer Harrington to contract with the auditing firm Angolano And Company to complete the annual financial audit for the town of Royalton. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Park/Flower Garden

Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported that the women's club has approached the town for permission to construct a flower garden with sitting benches on both sides of the Chelsea Street Bridge. The proposed garden would be on the VT Rte. 14 side of the river. To proceed with the park/garden a permit is required by the State of Vermont, as the work to be performed is within the state's right of way.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to approve the permit application for the proposed park at the VT RT 14 side of the Chelsea St. Bridge. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Trottier signed the application.

Proposed Municipal Office

J. Goldstein reported on the building committee meetings. She noted that in order to get a better cost estimate the town would need to spend additional money on engineering and architectural work. Discussion ensued on the municipal building project.

It was noted that the following steps would need to be followed:

1. J. Goldstein to contact USDA Rural Development to see if design build is feasible for our project
2. If feasible, a Request For Proposal can be presented to three design build firms
3. If not feasible, then the Selectboard will proceed with alternative planning

Minutes of March 23, 2010 and March 30, 2010

The Selectboard reviewed the draft minutes from March 23, 2010 and March 30, 2010.

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Gates to approve the minutes of March 23, 2010 with amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by P. Gates to approve the minutes of March 30, 2010 with amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by
Nathan Cleveland**