

Royalton Selectboard
Knight's Opera House

June 15, 2010

Public Present: David Ainsworth, and Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland

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

Chairman L. Trottier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Noise Ordinance

The Selectboard discussed the possibility of repealing the adopted Noise Ordinance without going to a vote. It was noted that the ordinance was drafted to deal with unsettled issues stemming from noise that is deemed to be unreasonable. It was also noted that the residents of Royalton deserved to right vote to approve or disapprove the adopted noise ordinance, as the ordinance was drafted to address citizens concerns and, ultimately, it should be the residents that decide if the ordinance should be adopted. Administrative Assistant Cleveland noted that a public hearing must be scheduled no more than ten (10) days and no less than seven (7) days prior to a vote. He reported that warning requirements outlined in the Vermont State Statutes must be adhered to. The process for warning the public hearing and the vote on the adopted Noise Ordinance is the same as the warning for the bond vote which requires the vote to be warned no more than forty (40) days and no less than thirty (30) prior to the vote.

Chairman Trottier noted that there must be a structure to allow residents to weigh in on the ordinance in a timely and orderly manner. Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported according to the open meeting law (1 V.S.A. 312 (h)), "at an open meeting the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the public body during the meeting as long as order is maintained. Public comment shall be subject to reasonable rules established by the chairperson."

The Selectboard discussed how to structure the public hearing. After discussion Chairman Trottier established rules to be applied at the public hearing.

1. The Selectboard will open discussion with an opening statement concerning the establishment of the ordinance and the issues the board is attempting to address through the Noise Ordinance.
2. Allow for Town Agent Frank Berk to explain the process and reasoning behind the ordinance that he helped draft for the Selectboard.
3. Open the floor for questions/comments from residents and others at the meeting.
4. Individuals will be asked to be recognized by the Chairman or Moderator prior to their questions/concerns by standing in line.
5. Individuals will be given two (2) minutes to address the Selectboard.

6. Residents who wish to address the Selectboard a second time will be asked to stand back in line.

A motion was made by P. Ainsworth and Seconded by J. Goldstein to rescind the motion that passed at the June 8, 2010 Selectboard meeting which set the public hearing date on the adopted Noise Ordinance as August 17, 2010 and vote on the adopted Noise Ordinance on August 24, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Ainsworth and seconded by J. Goldstein to set the public hearing on the adopted Noise Ordinance to be held on July 13, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Royalton Academy Building, and the vote on the adopted Noise ordinance to be held on July 20, 2010 at the South Royalton High School Gym. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Business

The Selectboard discussed the upcoming public hearing on the bond vote to fund the proposed municipal office building. Administrative Assistant Cleveland reported that handouts that he made will be available to residents at area gas stations, as well as at the South Royalton Cooperative Market and RB's delicatessen. The board asked that he bring copies of the handout to the public hearing that will be held at the Royalton Academy Building on June 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Discussion ensued on the structure of the June 22, 2010 public hearing.

The hearing on the municipal office building will be conducted as follows:

1. Selectboard acknowledging Mr. Proctor.
2. History of the proposed municipal building.
3. Floor open to questions from the public to be conducted in a question and answer format.
4. Regular Selectboard meeting to immediately follow the public hearing.

The Selectboard asked that Pastor Jim Proctor be invited to the hearing so that the Selectboard could recognize his time in Royalton.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan P. Cleveland