

Town of Royalton
Regular Selectboard Meeting
June 24, 2008

Knights Opera House
Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 PM

Selectboard present – Larry Trottier, Peg Trombly, John Dumville, Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth

Public Present – Donna Carpenter, Walter English, Randy Leavitt, Ilerdon Mayer, Michael Hayes (R.C. Hazelton Rep.), Boy Scouts of America Group for Citizenship in the Community Badge. 20 boys from throughout VT and 4 Leaders (chaperones)

Chair L. Trottier called the meeting of the Royalton Selectboard to order at 7:00 PM. He welcomed I. Mayer to the meeting.

Mayer presented to the Selectboard a report on tax collection.

The Board thanked I. Mayer for his continued efforts in collecting delinquent taxes. They requested that he return in two months to update them on the progress that he makes.

D. Carpenter spoke to the Board and made them aware of the difficulty that she has had in having a survey of performed on her property abutting TH 35 (Gilman Rd.). The surveyor that she had asked to do the work has a conflict of interest.

A discussion followed concerning the survey and if that cost could be worked into the final purchase price of the property. D. Carpenter asked the board if there was a payment that was due for gravel used from the pit on her property that the Town uses. She asked that the Town make a payment in July that she would use to pay her delinquent taxes due. The Board discussed the option and being that the payments in the past have been in installments and that the contract states the agreed yardage to be purchased by the town is set at 5000 yds. that a payment in July would work and that it would be written as an agreement that the money would then be used by D. Carpenter to pay off her delinquent tax bill.

The board discussed the possibility of financing the purchase and d. carpenter questioned the cost the town looks at. E. Amsden suggested speaking with a real estate agent.

L. Trottier welcomed Steve Axelrod to the meeting. S. Axelrod was present to discuss his Road Access application. (# 08 – 06) S. Axlerod had come with pictures to allow the Selectboard members who had not seen the proposed access a chance to comment.

P. Trombly asked what the proposed access would be used for. S. Axlerod noted that there were plans for one single family dwelling. After discussing the area and potential safety hazards a **motion was made by E. Amsden to approve application 08-06 for a Road Access Permit with any conditions made by either the Road Foreman or the Planning Commission. P. Trombly seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion Carried Unanimously.**

L. Trottier then asked the Selectboard for any recommendations on Road Access Permit # 08-08. It was noted that application 08-07 had been withdrawn and the applicant would reapply with a new proposal that includes recommendations made by the Road Foreman and the Planning Commission. **E. Amsden made a motion to approve application 08-08. J Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion Carried Unanimously.**

Bill Benoit (Bus Driver for First Student Transportation.) was present to discuss the procedures of the police Department in concern to cars driving by school busses that have their lights on and their stop sign out. B. Benoit stated that he had reported two such drive-by's and wished to discuss the complaints and the action taken by the Royalton Police Department. He expressed that families would find it difficult to pay the fine. He was looking for direction and was upset with the entire procedure. He felt that his reports were minimized. He asked that a letter be written by the students who drove by the bus to the First Student Company. He felt that the person who drove by the bus should be required to attend 8hrs of class that a bus driver has to complete to be a certified bus driver. He felt unhappy with how the cases were handled and felt ignored.

The incidents both occurred at a bus stop located on S. Windsor St. and a discussion followed. B. Benoit noted that the routes are set by the School and the Bus Co. If such an incident were to occur again he would not bother with reporting it to the Royalton Police Dept. and would go straight to the State Police. P. Trombly noted that she felt it would be best if the driver of the bus was not involved after the report was made. E. Amsden noted that it was his belief that the decision to issue a citation lies with the Police Department.

L. Trottier stated that driving by a school bus with its stop sign out and lights on was a serious offense. A driver needs to be responsible for their actions. Passing a bus should result in a ticket. Royalton Police Chief Bob Hull stated that he had discussed the incidents with B. Benoit and it was decided to attempt to work with the two drivers because they were young and the tickets were expensive. One student has completed 15 hrs of community service though Orange County ??? The student was being required to work off the cost of the ticket by being paid \$10/hr for their community service. B. Hull stated that the entire situation has dragged on too long. He noted that attempting to help

the young drivers is not working. Shaun told B. Hull that the school had dealt with the two drivers. B. Hull noted that the route should be changed to relocate the bus stop in question. He noted that the stop was not for a student but for an adult that needed to ride the bus to assist a student. The Discussion that he had with Benoit was to help young drivers. Because the ticket was a traffic ticket diversion would not apply. Benoit wanted the board to know that he thought the judgment of the RPD is questionable especially with a \$50,000 budget.

L. Trottier stated that not stopping for a school bus is a serious offense and we can not be lenient on offenders.

B. Benoit thought that any follow up that was done was not quick enough.

L. Trottier thanked Benoit for bringing the issue to the Selectboard attention.

E. Amsden noted that he felt that at times the Police Department could be more assertive, but for the most part he was very happy with how Bob Hull's policing was performed and thanked Bob for his good work in Royalton.

P. Trombly noted it would be best to distance the driver of the bus from any such situation. B. Hull stated the route in question should be changed. L. Trottier asked N. Cleveland to draft a letter to the bus company and inform them of the SB's interest in changing the route. E. Amsden stated that passing a bus should result in an immediate ticket.

Roger McCrillis (Road Foreman) reported to the board on highway issues.

He noted that he had spoken with two towns and two different contractors that own Komatsu Loaders (the low bidder that the Town received on RFP of new Loaders) the different users he talked with were all very happy with both the machine and the service provided by R.C. Hazelton Inc. He also noted that the mechanic for the City of Barre has had no problems with their Komatsu Loader. L. Trottier noted that the Komatsu Bid was the lowest and included a five year warranty. R. McCrillis noted that he believed all the machines that he had tested were all equally good machines. The Komatsu was the favorite of the crew and would provide a \$20,000 savings.

E. Amsden made a motion to purchase the Komatsu Front End Loader Model # at the quoted price. P. Trombly seconded the motion. Discussion followed on delivery, and warranty. **L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.**

L. Trottier gave R. McCrillis authorization to purchase the Komatsu loader.

R. McCrillis stated that there was a 4 wk turnaround for delivery of the machine. L. Trottier asked Roger if we should change the equipment attachments that we have to fit the new machine instead of adapting the new machine to our old attachments. R. McCrillis noted that the new machine would work fine with what we have with the right coupler.

L. Trottier asked R. McCrillis what he was able to find out concerning the paving projects on S. Windsor St., Dairy Hill, and the town Garage.

R. McCrillis said he received bids from Black Top Paving, Inc. and Pike Industries. BT was \$70.80/ton and Pike was \$73.40/ton. The estimated tonnage was 1405 tons and would pave roughly 2.1 miles of S. Windsor St. with an average depth of 1 inch. L. Trotter noted that Pike was \$4,200 more for the same tonnage as BT.

R. McCrillis stated that the extension on Dairy Hill would be 22,035 (700FT) this price included rolling the gravel prior to paving and would be at a depth of 3 inches.

R. McCrillis stated that the cost of paving the Town Garage was estimated to cost \$25,800 (\$80/Ton) by Blacktop and Pike estimated \$24,973 for the same area.

It was noted that the estimates that R. McCrillis had received were only good for 30 days. It was also noted that the Back River Road was in need of paving and should be on our list of things to do.

Discussion followed concerning the three different paving projects.

P. Trombly made a motion to award the paving contract to Blacktop Paving Inc. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. L. Trotter asked for further discussion on the motion. Hearing no further discussion the motion was brought to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Trotter requested to have an update on the Fox Stand Bridge. N. Cleveland is to call Daniels Construction to find out the time frame for the remaining work.

R. McCrillis stated that the sand was close to being completely stocked for the year.

L. Trotter asked N. Cleveland to research the contract with D. Carpenter. R. McCrillis noted that we had paid for our gravel in three different payments. These payments were made in June, October, and December. Discussion followed concerning the "Carpenter Gravel Pit" contract. L. Trotter stated that any payment arrangements needs to be in writing and we should speak with Ilerdon Mayer for advice.

P. Trombly made a motion to authorize a \$13,000 payment for gravel. This Payment is to be used by D. Carpenter (the owner of the pit) to pay taxes that are overdue. J. Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trotter asked for more discussion and hearing none, called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Trotter asked for an update on the Gilman Rd. Project. R. McCrillis stated that work would begin July 7, 2008. The contractor needs a down payment of \$15,000.00 to begin the work.

E. Amsden made a motion to pay Terry Rogers (Contractor hired for Gilman Rd. Project) a down payment \$15,000.00. The motion was seconded by P. Trombly. L. Trotter asked for further discussion. E. Amsden amended his motion to have the payment be made in the Fiscal year 2009 that begins on July 1, 2008. No further

discussion was had. L. Trottier called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Amsden asked if there were any notices that would be posted warning the public of the pending road closure.

R. McCrillis noted that Leana (asst. clerk) made signs to be posted on both sides of the road. The contractor will be running the trucks in a circle so that there is no need for flagmen. It was also requested by the Bigelow's to have a barricade placed on their drive to prevent people from driving through the field.

R. McCrillis noted that the roadside mower was broken and that the mowing machine has required roughly \$9,600 of repairs since we bought it. He would like to pursue purchasing a new mowing machine that will allow for more uses out of the tractor.

P. Trombly made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee contracts. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. No discussion was heard and L. Trottier called a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Entered into Executive session at 10:10 PM.

Exited Executive session at 10:42 PM, no action was taken.

E. Amsden made a motion to increase Brad Howe and Dave Lamberts pay to \$15.95, and Demi Boles's pay to 16.75. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Ainsworth made a motion to send a letter to Jim McCleery notifying him that his storage container is on the town's right of way and should be moved. J. Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Amsden made a motion to increase N. Cleveland's pay by \$1/hr effective July 11, 2008. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Trottier asked for a member of the Selectboard to write up an evaluation of the Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland. P. Trombly said that she would work on the evaluation for the Selectboard.

P. Trombly made a motion to accept the payment proposal and to invite Caroline Lockyer to the July 8, 2008 Selectboard meeting to discuss the property reappraisals. J. Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Trombly updated the Selectboard on the recreation committee. She noted that they had authorized roughly \$4,000.00 in payments for maintenance and other bills at the last meeting. She noted that there were two new members that the Selectboard needed to appoint (Paul Brock, and Ryan Beethel).

P. Trombly made a motion to appoint Paul Brock and Ryan Beethel to the recreation committee. J. Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Trottier asked for an update on the Royalton/Bethel transfer station. P. Ainsworth noted that the E. Amsden, P. Trombly and herself represented the Selectboard at a joint meeting held on June 23, 2008 with the Bethel Selectboard. At that joint meeting it was stated that in order for the SWIP (Solid Waste Implementation Plan) to be adopted every community that is participating in our transfer station must hold two public hearings. Of the two hearing on may be a combined hearing held at a central location. This combined hearing is scheduled for July 21, 2008 at Whitcomb High School in Bethel, Vermont. If the plan is not accepted by all of the member towns trash would not be accepted at other transfer stations in Vermont. It was also noted that a rate increase was needed to keep the transfer station operating. The rate increases would be ???for 30 gallon trash bag and ??? per ton.

P. Trombly made a motion to participate in the July 21, 2008 combined hearing. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Amsden made a motion to approve the rate increases proposed at the joint bethel/Royalton Selectboard meeting on June 23, 2008. P. Trombly seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Amsden noted that Dell Cloud had requested a volunteer to help research an agreement/contract for towns that are members of our Transfer station. N. Cleveland was asked to contact Phil Gates to see if he would be willing to help.

P. Trombly noted that the Vermont Law School was happy with the lease agreement for use of the second floor of the Knight's Opera House. She asked for input from the Selectboard.

J. Dumville made a motion to renew the lease with Vermont Law School through October 2008. E. Amsden seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Trombly noted that the Law School would need copies of invoices received in April and May to pay their share of utilities per the lease agreement.

P. Trombly made a motion to accept Patricia Pierson's painting bid for the pre-school's space. For a price not to exceed \$570.00. J. Dumville seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Trombly made a motion to accept the Selectboard meeting minutes of June 3, 2008 and June 10, 2008. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

The Selectboard authorized N. Cleveland to attend an interactive meeting on 2009 Transportation Enhancement Grant proposals.

P. Trombly made a motion to increase the compensation rate for mileage. E. Amsden seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Ainsworth made a motion to adjourn. E. Amsden seconded the motion. L. Trottier asked for further discussion and hearing none called the motion to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:56 PM

**Respectfully submitted by
Nathan P. Cleveland**