

Town of Royalton
Regular Selectboard Meeting
September 22, 2009

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

Selectboard present – Peg Trombly, Larry Trottier, Joan Goldstein, Ernie Amsden, Peggy Ainsworth

Public Present – Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland, Ralph Hein, Ron Cavanaugh, Jon Ranney, David McPick, Falco Schilling, Timothy Fair, Demetrus Boles, David Lambert, James McCleery, Road Foreman Roger McCrillis

A motion was made by E. Amsden and seconded by L. Trottier to place proposed increase of the veteran’s exemption on the ballot at town meeting in March 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Timothy Fair – VLS SCORE - Community Service

Discussed the committee that he chairs at the Vermont Law School, and asked the Selectboard to notify him if there were any projects in Royalton that the Vermont Law School students could assist with. Mr. Fair is challenging VLS faculty and students to pledge 2 hours of community service during the Fall semester.

EC Fiber Network

Due to conflicting meeting times, Peggy Ainsworth withdrew herself as the alternate representative to the EC Fiber Network. Town of Royalton’s EC Fiber Network representative Jon Ranney, was present to ask that the Selectboard appoint David McPick as the Royalton alternate representative for the EC Fiber Network. Mr. Ranney noted that the EC Fiber Network is looking for space to develop a hub for the Network. Discussion ensued on possible locations for buildings in Town that could be utilized for a “hub” site. The time frame for the project is contingent on receipt of funding.

Mr. Ranney nominated David McPick as the alternate to the EC Fiber Network. J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to appoint Mr. McPicke as the alternate to the EC Fiber Network Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Royalton Memorial Library

The Selectboard asked that the proposed attic insulation project for the Royalton Memorial Library be bid on by invitation.

Town Plan

It was noted that the Planning Commission scheduled for September 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Royalton Academy Building. Chairwoman Trombly opened discussion on holding informational public hearings for proposed Town Offices. Administrative Assistant Cleveland was asked to check on requirements for placing a notice of the meeting in the news paper per State Statute. Tentative dates to hold public hearings were identified as November 17th, 2009 and December 15th, 2009. Both of the public hearings will take place at the Royalton Academy Building. Notice of the public hearing's must be made in the Randolph Herald at least 15 days in advance of the hearing.

Town of Sharon

Sharon Selectboard members Paul Haskel, and Brad Attwood were present to discuss the Inter-municipal policing agreement. Mr. Haskel noted that across the board there have been nothing but great feedback from residents. He noted that as budgets were beginning he would like to know if it was possible to have more policing. One way to achieve more coverage and increased safety was possibly combining more Towns in the current inter-municipal policing agreement. Such agreements could also include rescue, fire, policing, and in general all emergency services. L. Trottier noted that combining emergency services could result in better service, and cost saving for all Town's that were involved. Kevin Geiger at Two Rivers will be contacted for advice on creating such an agreement.

Mr. Haskel also discussed the idea of combining recreation services. He would like to add a higher level of professionalism, and organizing volunteers and rec-programs. Chair Trombly noted that she had spoken with the Recreation Commission chairwoman, Jenny Lane and there has been interest in combining services.

Mr. Brad Attwood noted that the Sharon Selectboard was excited to work together with Royalton. Mr. Haskel noted that when budget time came, he would like to combine efforts with Sharon.

Mr. Haskel also noted that EC Fiber Network is looking for headquarters, which would be 10,000 to 20,000 square feet.

Police Department

Chief of Police discussed his time spent policing in Sharon since the inter-municipal police agreement began in July 2009. He noted that any feedback that he has received has been positive. So far Chief Hull has issued three speeding tickets. Discussion ensued on the need to hire a second part time police officer.

J. Goldstein made a motion to hire a certified part time officer for 10 to 15 hours per week. The motion was seconded by E. Amsden. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Forest

Chief Hull reported that there was a report of a vehicle being driven on the Town forest land off of VT Rte. 107. Officer Hull reported that a ticket for 243.00 will be issued for

trespassing by a vehicle on private property. An additional ticket for \$500 will be issued for littering.

Loose animal and Noise ordinance

Chief Hull noted that the recommendation of loose animals was to impound the animal, which he felt would be difficult on really wild animals. Discussion ensued and the Selectboard took no action at this time, as the board felt that more research was needed on how to enforce such ordinances.

Citizen Concern

Chief Hull noted that a letter was received by Gregg Lamson. Officer Hull noted that he is awaiting medical records from Mr. Lamson and that because the case is under investigation he could not comment about the investigation. Chief Hull did note that he has responded to multiple complaints in the area of Gee Hill Rd.

Highway Department

Discussion ensued on a propose equipment shed. Initial cost of materials to build a “pole barn” was roughly \$3,500.00. The Selectboard asked that Road Foreman McCrillis discuss the proposed equipment shed with the Town Treasurer to see if this could be built this fiscal year.

Uniform Quotes

Road Foreman McCrillis and Administrative Assistant Cleveland presented quotes on uniforms for the Selectboard to review. Discussion ensued on uniform requirements and the quotes that were received. The low quote was received from Foley Services (\$62.73 per week). Upon review of the quotes received from Foley Services and E&R uniform rental and sales, **L. Trottier made a motion to contract with Folley Services and if the cost of a patch saying Town of Royalton is no more than \$3.00 per person to contract with them. Motion passed unanimously.**

Fall Work Schedule

It was noted that a culvert is to be replaced on Cleveland Brook Rd. The gravel crushing has been completed and some is going to be used on Post Farm Rd. Happy Hollow, Rix Rd, and Royalton Hill Rd. are scheduled to be ditched with a small rented excavator. Roughly 2000 yards of crushed gravel needs to be stock piled. Reclaiming a portion of the pit has been performed per state requirements. The cost of this reclaiming is paid for through the gravel pit closure fund, which is currently set at \$.25 per yard. Discussion ensued on the need to increase the amount per yard that is earmarked for reclaiming the gravel pit. **P. Ainsworth made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to increase the closure fee from \$.25 to \$.50 per yard to be used to reclaim the Carpenter Gravel pit. The motion passed unanimously.**

Fowler/Obuchowski Driveway

The Selectboard discussed a driveway access on Rainbow St. that was constructed in an unsafe manner. The owners had attempted to alleviate the Selectboard concerns but there were still safety concerns associated with the driveway.

J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by L. Trottier to send Mr. and Mrs. Obuchowski a Letter that states that no dirt should be covering the pavement, and that if no action is taken within two weeks of receipt of the letter the Town of Royalton will remove the material in question. The motion passed unanimously.

Knight's Opera House

Administrative Assistant presented a letter to the Selectboard from Mrs. Crawford concerning the Knight's Opera House repair needs. The Selectboard discussed options to repair the facade of the building.

A motion by J. Goldstein and seconded by P. Ainsworth to pay up to \$1,500.00 for needed repairs to the Knight's Opera House, with the total amount to be deducted from future rent payments. The motion was amended to include "a contractor must be secured within two weeks and all work must be completed within 30 days." P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of September 8, 2009

J. G made a motion that was seconded by P. Ainsworth, to accept the minutes of September 22, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

A Motion to adjourn was made by P. Ainsworth and seconded by E. Amsden. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:27 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by:
Nathan Cleveland**