

Town of Royalton

Regular Selectboard Meeting

November 10, 2009

Knights Opera House

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 PM

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

Public Present – VLS student liaison; Falko Schilling, Stuart Levasseur, Mathew Lerch, Robyn Bryar, Royalton Academy Building Manager Mary Demar, Chief of Police Bob Hull, and Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland.

### **Royalton Academy Building**

Building manager Mary Demar noted that the fire alarm system is installed and has passed the Vermont electrical inspection. Discussion ensued on the scheduled cleaning of the building, and M. Demar noted that she has had to make a check list to ensure that all the required cleaning is completed as expected.

M. Demar presented a rental record for the past two years. She noted that rental income is down over the last year compared to 2008. M. Demar noted that this is largely due to multiple cancellations. She also noted that due to the continued increase in operating costs she would like to see the rental rate increase from \$15.00 per hour with the use of the kitchen, and \$20.00 per hour with the use of the kitchen. (A two hour minimum is required with or without the use of the kitchen.) Discussion ensued on the operating costs and rental and lease income. (Rental income relates to hourly rental of the halls.) It was noted that Tunbridge rents their town hall out at a rate of \$125.00 per day and Strafford rents their hall out at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. It was noted that the surrounding Town Halls do not have air conditioning available. **E. Amsden motion to increase lease rates 3% for all tenants excluding the Senior Citizens and the Civics Club. J. Goldstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Building manager M. Demar noted that there will be a benefit performance by a group of cloggers and fiddlers on December 5, 2009. She noted that she would like to have a series of benefits which would include a banquet dinner party for New Years Eve, an auction in April 2010, and community dinners. Discussion ensued on advertising for the benefits.

### **Public Concerns**

Robyn Bryar and Matthew Lerch were present to discuss a drainage issue that has persisted across from their house on North Windsor Street. They noted that the Road Foreman and Selectboard member Larry Trottier, and officials from New England Central Railroad had reviewed the problem area and a corrective action plan had been developed to construct a ditch at the edge of the road. Ms. Bryar spoke of moving the ditch to the base of the railroad tracks. Ms. Bryar and Mr. Lerch noted that a report of the railroad findings was to be sent to the Town.

Chair Trombly noted that any work in this area would be within the railroad's right of way thus the Town must coordinate any work with the railroad company. The two residents asked if there were any plans to install a culvert in the future. The Board noted that any installation of a culvert would not be done this year as they hope that the drainage ditch would be sufficient.

## **Police Department**

### **Traffic and pedestrian concerns -**

Falko Schilling discussed concerns that were made to him as the VLS town liaison with the intersection of Chelsea Street and North and South Windsor Street. Some recommendations that were made were to create a four way intersection by placing a stop sign as you approach the intersection from Vermont Rte. 14. Discussion ensued on the concerns that Mr. Schilling presented to the Selectboard. Officer Hull noted that pedestrians only have the right of way when they are physically in the crosswalk, and not on the sidewalk. He also noted that the round trough (used as a flower garden) should be moved as it does not line up with the center line of Chelsea Street. Discussion continued on traffic concerns, and it was noted that traffic and pedestrian concerns may be alleviated by painting a line the entire length of Chelsea St., as well as removing a parking space on the south side of Chelsea Street.

### **Request to waive parking ticket**

The Selectboard reviewed a request to dismiss parking ticket #5414, submitted by a VLS student who works at the book store. Board members noted that concerns with available parking spaces could be partially alleviated if the Vermont Law School students took advantage of on-campus parking. **J. Goldstein made a motion to deny the request for dismissal of parking ticket #5414, and to ask the person requesting to waive the ticket to seek parking in the VLS student parking lots. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Employee applications**

Chief Hull noted that three applications have been received for the advertised part-time police officer position. He noted that out of the three only one individual was currently certified as a part time police officer. Discussion ensued on the applications received. The Selectboard asked that Chief Hull invite the applicant who is certified as a part time officer to interview with the Selectboard at their November 24, 2009 meeting.

## **Budget**

The Selectboard reviewed the proposed FY 2010/2011 budget with Chief Hull.

## **Highway Department**

Estimates for state highway aid have been received by the town indicating the Town is scheduled to receive funds in excess of those budgeted.

Road Foreman McCrillis updated the Selectboard on the Obuchowski driveway, no further work is needed at this point. Chair Trombly reported that the Digby access will be removed. It was also noted that the prioritized bridge project list may not reflect the work that has been performed on the Foxstand Bridge.

## **Personnel Policy**

Road Foreman McCrillis noted that the model personnel policy has been distributed to the highway crew for their review. McCrillis will discuss the policy with the road crew and report back to the Selectboard.

### **Unifirst Corp.**

It was reported by the Road Foreman that the uniforms have not been picked up by UniFirst. A final payment is ready when they return the keys to the garage and Town Clerk's office. The Selectboard asked that a certified letter be sent to UniFirst Corporation saying that our contract is now ended and they need to pick up uniforms and return keys to Town owned buildings. The letter is to also state that the final check will be held until keys are returned.

### **North Windsor Street**

It was noted that the planned ditch across from Robyn Bryar's house will be two feet wide and roughly six inches deep. The Selectboard asked that the work be done in a week, so the railroad report that Ms. Bryar and Mr. Lerch discussed could be reviewed. The site may have to be revisited upon review of the railroad report. The Selectboard did ask that Ms. Bryar remove the pipes that are directing water into the road. The Selectboard asked that the Road Foreman wait for the Selectboard to advise before proceeding with any work.

### **Modular Homes at gravel stockpile**

The owner of the modular home that has been parked at the town's gravel stockpile has been contacted to move the home as soon as possible.

### **Proposed Town Office Building**

An estimate for the proposed town office building has been received from Preferred Building systems. This estimate is for a modular building and would require the Town to provide a foundation, furnace, plumbing, and electrical connection. Final painting and sheetrock work would also be required where the modules are joined. E. Amsden is working on refining the bid.

### **Agenda for public meeting**

The Town Plan will be presented and discussed first at the November 17<sup>th</sup> public hearing. After the Public hearing closes on the Town Plan, a public hearing on the proposed town office building will be opened.

### **Library insulation quotes**

Quotes for insulating the attic of the Royalton Memorial Library were received. The library Trustee's had taken the lead in seeking these quotes. The two quotes were as follows:

Green Mountain insulation - \$2,450.00

Dayco Inc. - \$1936.00

No action was taken as the bids received were different and the Selectboard did not have the bid specs that the Library trustee's used.

### **Pollution Abatement Facility**

A request to help pay for work performed to the sewer service line serving the volunteer fire department building was received. The Selectboard asked for more information from the Prudential board before taking any action.

**VT 18 ltd. Sewer allocation request**

The Selectboard asked for more information concerning the need to report average daily flows when flows reach 80% of the gallons permitted. The Selectboard was also seeking additional information on average flows in the spring time.

**Vermont Rural Water**

An informational meeting has been scheduled for November 16, 2009 to review capital improvements. VT Rural Water provides consultation on municipal waste water and water systems for no cost. The Selectboard asked that this meeting be rescheduled as no members are available to attend. It was also noted that J. Goldstein recommended asking a representative from USDA to attend the rescheduled meeting as they would be another resource for capital planning.

**A motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss attorney client communication. Entered executive session at 11:22 p.m.**

**The Selectboard exited executive session at 11:30 with no action taken.**

**E. Amsden made a motion that was seconded by J. Goldstein to allow our lawyer to send a letter to the Hodgdon's concerning access to the disputed "Bloss – Ballou road". The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion ensued on grease traps for commercial operations.

Meeting adjourned 12:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Peggy Ainsworth, Royalton Selectboard clerk and Nathan Cleveland