

**Royalton Selectboard Meeting**  
**December 16, 2008**  
**Knight's Opera House**  
**7:00 PM**

**Royalton Selectboard members present:** Peggy Ainsworth, Ernie Amsden, John Dumville, Peg Trombly, and Larry Trottier

**Visitors present:** Mark Simon, Peter Chap, David Ainsworth, Roger McCrillis, Randy Leavit, Nathan Cleveland, and Ron Cavanaugh

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Larry Trottier.

**Sewer Department**

Mark Simon of Simon Operating Services was present to discuss the proposed 2009/2010 budget for the Pollution Abatement Facility. M. Simon noted that the report that Forcier, Aldrich and Associates, Inc. (FA&A) had prepared was not applicable to our sewer system in Royalton. He noted that the report identified issues with the pump station located behind the South Royalton High School. One issue, moving the electrical panel/power plant out of the depths of the station to a more accessible area needs to be looked into in the future. The other issues that were identified had been addressed over the summer as the two pumps had failed. One pump was rebuilt and the other pump was replaced with a new more efficient pump. The second pump that was replaced had been rebuilt and was available for a back-up pump if such a pump failure occurred in the future. M. Simon noted that if we were to hire FA&A to produce an engineering proposal he would like them to address infiltration and inflow problems that have plagued the system for years.

Discussion was then centered on the recent sewer meter readings. It was noted that the July to December readings will be lower than the readings in June. This is a reflection of unoccupied buildings.

N. Cleveland then asked M. Simon of the possibility of a federal or state stimulus package, and to identify relative projects that may be available for funding if such a stimulus package was available. M. Simon identified a new lagoon at the PAF facility and additional baffling to allow more flow to be handled. M. Simon noted that if an engineering firm was hired he would expect the cost to be around \$10,000 to \$12,000. This work would cover the detection work in the downtown areas and help identify unknown or unclear items concerning the size, type, and age of the pipes that make up our sewer system.

**Highway Department**

N. Cleveland reported that he had been contacted by a citizen that was concerned that a culvert may be blocked on Route 107 causing flooding to the area that citizens are parking at between Royal Towne Gifts and Lucky's Trailer sales. N. Cleveland had noted to the citizen that the culvert was on a State Highway and that the area that was being used for parking is a private land owner issue. He helped the citizen find alternative parking at Eaton's Sugarhouse and helped the citizen contact Paul Stratton at the VTRANS district 4, garage in Royalton. The Selectboard asked N. Cleveland to convey to the citizen that this indeed a private land owner issue and that

the Town would not be able to address this issue. David Ainsworth noted that the proposed park and ride at the I-89 Exit 3 was scheduled for construction in 2010.

Roger McCrillis noted that there was an issue with a plow route. A designated turnaround was not clear of vehicles when our plow driver needed to turnaround at the end of dead end road. The road that is plowed leads to one house and there is a safety concern for our driver as it is very difficult to maneuver the truck in tight spaces. R. McCrillis is also concerned that if the driveway is not clear there is a safety issue that the property may be damaged. He noted that he was unable to find any record of the Right of Way width leading to the house where the designated turnaround is located. N. Cleveland was asked to draft a letter for the Selectboard to sign noting the safety concern and that the turnaround must be kept clear to allow continued winter maintenance. He was asked to include the State Statute that pertains to the discontinuance of winter maintenance if there is a safety concern (Title 19 Ch. 3 §302) and width of Right of Way (Title 19, Ch. 1, § 32) R. McCrillis noted that there are 58 dead end roads that the Town currently plows and that they all serve a maximum of 3-4 houses, with many serving only one household.

R. McCrillis noted that he had received a report of a person using a tractor to load a commercial sander with sand. He believed that roughly 6 – 8 yards of sand had been taken. The Selectboard asked N. Cleveland to attempt to contact the individual and notify them that the use of sand was for private driveways only and that commercial use was not permitted. The Selectboard noted that it is the policy of the Town to allow citizens to use a hand shovel to fill 5 gallon pails or shovel sand into the back of a pickup truck. N. Cleveland was asked to follow his phone call with a letter noting our policy concerning the use of sand.

N. Cleveland was asked to make warnings that the Road Crew could place on vehicles that are parked on the Town Right of Way. This will allow the Road Crew to have the vehicle towed if they are park on the Town's Right of Way and cause a safety issue for the plow trucks.

There has recently been a water issue on S. Windsor St. Water has been flooding over the road causing a safety hazard that required the Road Crew to work on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to keep water from pooling on the road (12/13, 12/14, 12/15). This water has caused problems with snow plowing at the South Royalton School. N. Cleveland was asked to contact Gilman Excavating to have a drainage swale dug across the Hope Property in an attempt to solve the problem. Ron Cavanaugh asked the Selectboard if there was something that could be done to fix the water issue on Happy Hollow Rd. near Mr. Williams's house. It was noted that there were small pipes that were installed in the past to alleviate the water issue and that a culvert would need to be installed in the spring or summer of 2009.

### **Citizen Concern**

Ron Cavanaugh voiced concerns about the Town's FY 2010 budget and Town operations, and alternative heating options. The Selectboard explained the process of attempting to balance the current economic issues with the need to provide essential services to the citizens of Royalton. Chairman Trottier noted that it was the citizens' right to go through the budget line by line and voice their opinions and vote for or against the budget line items. The Selectboard noted that the Town Clerk's office has not moved due to the asking price and the cost of rehabilitating the

Knight's Opera House. Discussion continued on the Town's office needs. Mr. Cavanaugh was thanked for his input and ideas that he presented to the Selectboard.

### **Police Department**

The Selectboard noted that the Town of Sharon asked the Town of Royalton to provide a proposal to police the Town of Sharon in the upcoming Fiscal Year. The Town of Sharon was looking for more than just radar/speed control. N. Cleveland was asked to work with Police Chief Hull and Town Treasurer Theresa Harrington to find the cost of providing Police services for the Town of Sharon.

### **2009/2010 General Fund Budget**

The Selectboard asked to meet with the Town Lister's to review their proposed budget. It was also noted that a new line item needed to be added to show the Rent for the Knight's Opera House.

N. Cleveland was asked to contact the Town of Bethel and invite them to a meeting to discuss the proposed budget for the Transfer Station.

N. Cleveland was also asked to contact Vermont Trails and Greenway's and ask them for a petition to be added to the list of organizations requesting an appropriation from the Town of Royalton.

### **Royalton Academy Building Budget**

P. Trombly noted that she had contacted the tenants and would propose changes to the current leases. She noted that there would be proposed increases for some tenants and asked the Board for input on potential rent increases. N. Cleveland was asked to review the cleaning schedule.

### **West Trottier Rd.**

E. Amsden presented a letter to be included with the minutes. He asked Chairman Trottier to speak with the Road Foreman to discuss the issue that Bruce and Sue Jones had discussed with the Selectboard at the last meeting. E. Amsden noted that his intent for having the ditch material deposited on his property was not to cause friction but to reduce the transportation cost for the Town. He noted that the ditch work was being performed on Roberts Rd. and trucking the material to the Crawford Pit would be more expensive both in terms of time and in fuel. The letter was discussed as well as the ongoing issue between the residents of West Trottier Rd. Chairman L. Trottier noted that as a Selectboard member he felt that citizens hold the "Town Father's" to the highest esteem and he felt uncomfortable with the entire situation on West Trottier Rd. He noted that the letter would be duly recorded and that the Town Right of Way is a specific width and that this situation needs to be dealt with in the same way as any other situation concerning items in the Town's Right of Way. Discussion continued concerning the possible conflict of interest and the entire situation on West Trottier Rd.

**P. Trombly made a motion and it was seconded by J. Dumville to adjourn. The motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by  
Nathan Cleveland**