

Royalton Selectboard Meeting
December 2, 2008
Knight's Opera House
7:00 PM

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

Visitors present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Harrington, Police Chief Bob Hull

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

Larry Trottier had received a letter from the **Royalton Rescue Squad** expressing concern as to the lack of volunteers to the Squad allowing it to adequately provide services. The Selectboard was invited to their meeting on December 10th at 7:00 PM at the Fire House. Board members will attempt to attend with all acknowledging the problem in finding volunteers.

Theresa Harrington brought up the turmoil at the **South Royalton Water District** with recent the resignation of Jeff Close. Perhaps the Selectboard should attend some of the meetings to better understand what is going on and how we could assist.

Larry Trottier reported that he had talked with Planning Board Chair Jo Levasseur concerning the Act 250 hearing on **Kevin Roger's project** off Dairy Hill Road. JoJo said the Planning Commission had no objection to the project. He also mentioned he had spoken with **Schoolboard** member Frank Berk who told him the School would be undertaking no major projects next year.

Ernie Amsden mentioned he had called Greg Peterson concerning his proposal for repairs needed at **Knight's Opera House**. Peterson has not returned his call. Ernie will follow up with Town Administrative Assistant Nate Cleveland with ideas of other area carpenters who may be able to do the job. As a last resort, Ernie mentioned he would do the repairs on a Time & Material basis but that he really didn't want to have to do that.

Larry Trottier said that Mary Demar had contacted him to say the **Royalton Academy Building** steps were slippery and a potential hazard. We still have found no one to shovel the snow. Dale Thresher has not called Mary to discuss the needs and to make a proposal. Ernie mentioned that Josh Young was not interested in the job.

Peg Trombly says the condition of the **sidewalks** has been deplorable after the last snow storm. Other board members agreed. Nate Cleveland will need to follow up with Kevin Barnaby to be more responsive.

John Dumville mentioned Royalton should be prepared if the State or the Feds come up with an "**Economic Stimulus**" packet for projects that could be done ASAP. Mentioned were the need to expand the Pollution Abatement lagoons, extension of septic lines, and the painting of the Royalton village and the Fox Stand iron truss bridges.

Following this information sharing, the Board and Town Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Harrington then settled down to work on a draft of the town **General Fund Operation Budget** for FY-2010. All expressed the need to hold the line on the budget and look at reducing it without compromising essential town services.

There was much discussion concerning **health insurance** and Theresa Harrington was asked to work with Nate Cleveland and invite a representative from the League of Cities and Towns to come either on December, 8, 9, or 11th to discuss various policy options. The Road Crew would be invited to attend the scheduled meeting.

John Dumville mentioned that a humidistat should be added to the hot air heating system in the **Old Bank Building** in Royalton village rather than attempting to heat the building all winter. It is the humidity rather than freezing temperatures that are harmful to the papers stored in the building. The furnace does not seem to be operating now and Theresa or Nate were asked to call the company that delivers propane to come and check the system over prior to the Library's book sale. Theresa also mentioned a gray squirrel had gotten into the building and some of the ceiling panels had fallen.

All areas in the **budget** were discussed except for the Lister's Office and Planning Commission which have yet to submit budget requests.

With this work completed, the Board adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Dumville, Clerk