

Royalton Selectboard
April 28, 2009

Knight's Opera House

Public Present: Delbert Thurston, Chief of Police Robert Hull, Ron Cavanaugh, Randy Leavitt, Nathan Cleveland

Selectboard Present: Peg Trombly, Larry Trottier, Peggy Ainsworth, Ernie Amsden, and Joan Goldstein.

Delinquent Tax report

Delinquent tax collector, Ilerdon Mayer reviewed the delinquent tax report with the Selectboard and noted that currently the amount due has increased by almost three times. Mr. Mayer noted that mobile homes have presented a difficult situation as the value for the home does not match what is owed. He also noted that by moving forward with tax sales often will result in a net loss for the Town after legal fees and court fees are paid. Discussion ensued concerning the best procedure to collect delinquent taxes. Mr. Mayer noted that letters are sent out monthly to all residents on the delinquent tax list. P. Trombly noted that the delinquent tax payers from 2005 and 2006 need to be reviewed and a strategy to recuperate the delinquent taxes developed. Ilerdon noted that he will include a note in the next letter that is sent to people who owe delinquent taxes that states that he has met with the Selectboard and that in an effort to avoid tax sales an agreement needs to be reached concerning a tax sale.

Citizen Concerns

Ron Cavanaugh was welcomed by Chair Trombly and asked if he would like to discuss his concerns with the agreement with the Vermont Law School. Mr. Cavanaugh expressed his concern with the agreement that the Town entered into with the Vermont Law School. He also noted that he was from Massachusetts and had experienced difficulty in Cambridge Mass and Tufts College. He also noted that the agreement to allow the Law School to have liquor at the commencement exercises. J. Goldstein noted that every citizen and organization can approach the Selectboard for a variance on town ordinances. Discussion ensued on the agreement and Mr. Cavanaugh's other concerns with the Vermont Law School and the decision's of the Selectboard. Mr. Thurston noted that a point that has been overlooked which notes that any non residents of the Town who uses the property are required to have an F.B.I. background check. Mr. Cavanaugh expressed his concern with Law School student's being registered voters but not registering their vehicles in the state of Vermont. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Cavanaugh for bringing his concerns to their attention.

Delbert Thurston was welcomed by the Selectboard. Mr. Thurston thanked the Selectboard and the road crew for using the John Deere tractor and the road blade. He wanted to note that the grader should be adjusted to prevent "washboard" conditions.

The Selectboard thanked Mr. Thurston for his comments and noted that the Road Foreman will be made aware of the concerns.

Police Department Report

Chief Hull reported on the progress made on the Traffic Ordinance, and research that he and Administrative Assistant N. Cleveland have done on a possible noise ordinance. Northside Auto will fix the fenders at no cost to the Town. P. Ainsworth asked what the legalities of registering a vehicle in Vermont if the owner is an out of state student. Chief Hull noted that there are exceptions applied to college students. Chief Hull also noted that N. Cleveland had been made aware of a garbage concern on the back alley of Chelsea St. N. Cleveland noted that he would contact the owner of the garbage dumpster and ask for assistance with the garbage issue. Chief Hull also noted that he had responded to a Law School student who had a side view mirror broken on Saturday 4/25/09 between 1pm and 3pm. He also noted that he needs to change service for his cell phone. This change will result in an increase of \$20.00 the current contract is \$46.00 a month and he pays \$26.00 and the town pays \$20.00. The additional expense will need to be covered as calls on the cell phone account for ½ of all calls to the police department. Chief Hull also noted that all the rails for the railroad track are currently being changed in town.

Traffic Ordinance

Chief Hull noted that he and administrative assistant N. Cleveland are hoping to complete the updates to the Traffic Ordinance prior to the next regular Selectboard meeting. The ordinance has been reviewed and is almost completely updated. B. Hull noted that N. Cleveland and his fiancé were making stencils at no cost to the town to clearly mark the unloading zone.

Noise Ordinance

The Selectboard reviewed a sample ordinance from VLCT and an ordinance from the Town of Hartford concerning obnoxious noise. Discussion ensued on the difficulty of adopting a noise ordinance, and enforcing that proposed ordinance. N. Cleveland noted that a resident of Royalton Hill Rd. had contact the Selectboard in reference to an ongoing noise issue on Royalton Hill Rd. The issue arising from Royalton Hill is related to a motocross track on private property. The Selectboard noted that the sample ordinance from VLCT would be too vague to enforce. E. Amsden noted that he and L. Trottier have met three times with both parties on Royalton Hill Rd. He also noted that the Timian family had offered to pay for a portion of the cost to install an earthen berm to reduce the noise levels at neighboring homes. The Selectboard asked to have more information on adopting a noise ordinance prior to moving forward on the subject. N. Cleveland was asked to speak with Frank Berk concerning adopting a noise ordinance. P. Ainsworth noted that her impression was the goal was to address the objectionable noise and not putting a stop to the motocross track.

Identity Theft Prevention Policy

N. Cleveland presented a policy drafted by the Vermont League of Cities and Town's to protect personal information. He noted that this policy was required by the Federal Trade Commission to be in compliance with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003. These rules apply to all Municipalities who extend credit.

P. Ainsworth made a motion to adopt the Identity Theft Prevention Policy as presented. J. Goldstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liquor License Application

N. Cleveland presented a liquor license application for Royalton Village Pizza. He noted that the application was previously approved but needed to be updated as the restaurant underwent re-organization and the Department of Liquor Control.

A motion was made by E. Amsden and seconded by P. Ainsworth to sign the liquor license for Royalton Village Pizza. The motion passed unanimously.

Pollution Abatement Facility

Policy Review - Pollution abatement Facility

P. Trombly noted that the administrative cost of \$3000 should be reconsidered as it was last updated in 1997. Another possible change would be to remove the job descriptions for sewer plant operators. We currently contract this job out to Simon Operations Services (SOS). Another possible change would concern the meter maintenance and the responsibility of maintaining an accurate meter.

Highway Department

The Selectboard reviewed draft minutes from the meeting on April 28, 2009 concerning maintenance on Upper Lea Rd., and the resulting draft agreement. Discussion ensued
A motion was made by E. Amsden and seconded by J. Goldstein, authorizing the Chair to sign agreement upon review by the Road Foreman and Mr. Daulaire. The motion passed unanimously.

Replacing windshield

N. Cleveland reported that he had been contacted by Jean Brainard. She had been driving on VT Rte. 107 and passed a Town truck that was hauling material from Bethel. A stone came off of the Town truck and struck, and broke Mrs. Brainard's windshield. She has asked to be reimbursed for the cost of replacing the windshield (\$177.65). **L. Trottier made a motion to pay Mrs. Brainard \$177.65 for the cost of replacing the windshield. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Waterman Rd. fence damage

N. Cleveland reported that a fence along Waterman Rd. had been damaged during the winter. The grader wing had caused damage to trees along the edge of the road when the road crew was pushing snow banks back. The land owners have been notified that the Road Foreman will review the damaged fence. The Selectboard discussed the course of action to be taken and asked N. Cleveland to contact the land owner's after the Road Foreman had reviewed the fence. It was noted that if the damaged fence is within the

right of way before any action can be taken. E. Amsden noted that State Statute states that no objects are to be placed within the Town's right of way. If the fence is out of the right of way

Insurance Claim – Town Garage

N. Cleveland reported that an employee's truck window was broken when a sign post was blown by heavy wind. The post broke a rear window and caused minor damage to the door panel. The Town's insurance company had been contacted and the employee will be getting an estimate for the repairs of the damage.

Royalton Academy Building

Smoke detectors, and emergency lights

N. Cleveland noted that there were smoke detectors and emergency lights need to be replaced. E. Amsden noted that codes have changed and he believed that they should all be changed. The Selectboard asked that N. Cleveland seek estimates for the faulty smoke detectors.

Capital Reserve Fund

Sewer Pump Expense

N. Cleveland was asked to find the total cost for the replacement of the sewer pump at the Academy building to see if the cost of replacing the pump could come from the capital improvement reserve. He was asked to find out what the cost of replacing the Pump Station pumps to see if they could be covered by the Capital Reserve Fund.

Approval of Selectboard Minutes

E. Amsden made a motion to approve the draft minutes from March, 24, 2009 and April, 14, 2009. J. Goldstein seconded the motion. The motion

Accounts Payable

The Selectboard reviewed the accounts payable as presented by Treasurer Harrington and approved by signing.

P. Ainsworth made a motion to adjourn and L. Trottier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Nathan Cleveland

Administrative Assistant

