

Town of Royalton
Regular Selectboard Meeting
September 8, 2009

Knights Opera House
Meeting Called to Order at 7:02 PM

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

Public Present – Wayne Manning, VLS student liaison; Falco Schilling, Demetrus Boles, Gregg Lamson, Ron Cavanaugh, Dave Lambert, David Brandau, Rebecca Beguin, Alison Gravel, Jo Jo Levaseaur Steve Judge, and Administrative Assistant Nathan Cleveland.

Public Concerns

Wayne Manning discussed right of way concerns that were brought up while he was mowing the roadsides for the Town this summer. He noted that he had been approached by citizens that were concerned with the removal of brush that was within the Town's Right of Way. He asked that the Selectboard look at the Vermont State Statutes concerning the Town's right to control the Right of Way's. According to the Vermont State Statutes there is to be nothing planted within the Town Right of Way that would obstruct the flow of water in the drainage ditches. Mr. Manning also noted that he was concerned with the permitting process with work being done prior to permits being issued for sewer and water.

Ron Cavanaugh asked about the Knight's Opera House structural integrity. He was concerned with deteriorating cinder blocks, and fire codes. The Selectboard asked Administrator, N. Cleveland to contact the State Fire Marshal and inquire about the building being up to current fire codes.

Highway Department

Daily inspection reports

The Selectboard asked that Administrative Assistant Cleveland prepare a similar report that can be printed by the town.

Sidewalk RFP

Administrative Assistant Cleveland presented a draft Request For sidewalk reconstruction Proposals to be reviewed by the Selectboard. Specifics were discussed and Administrative Assistant Cleveland was asked to place an ad in the Randolph Herald soliciting proposals.

Creating a Public Works Position

Administrative Assistant Cleveland asked the Selectboard to discuss the possibility of creating a new position to handle some of the Town properties mowing, roadside mowing, sidewalk cleanup and snow removal, and establish one position that would handle these specific tasks. Administrative Assistant Cleveland was asked to present budget figures to the Selectboard.

D. Camp – Gee Hill Rd

The Selectboard asked N. Cleveland to contact Mr. Camp to verify his access permits.

Mill Rd. retaining wall

A preliminary proposal was received from Daniels construction to repair the retaining wall on the VT rte. 110. Administrative Assistant Cleveland noted that this project was something that could possibly qualify for a State Highway Structures grant. He was asked to contact the Agency of Transportation for additional information.

Lovejoy Rd. – Town turnaround

N. Cleveland was asked to have Town Agent Frank Berk draft a deed to go along with the survey of the “Lovejoy turnaround” on Lovejoy Rd.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission chair, Jo Levasseur was present to discuss the Times and Season’s ACT 250 proceedings. She noted that Times and Season’s is Jeff Hand had represented the Town through the environmental court and the Vermont Supreme Court proceedings, and has notified the Planning Commission of the motion filed by Times and Seasons asking for a summary judgment. The attorney for the State Natural Resource board is Mark Lucas and he explained to the Planning Commission that because the Planning Commission was party to this ACT 250 hearing in the beginning and throughout the proceedings, it would be best if the Town filed a notice of appearance through our attorney. The planning commission has a majority vote to be involved, and a motion was made to ask the Selectboard for an allotment up to \$500.00 to have Attorney Jeff Hand represent the Planning Commission. This would be taken out of the consultant’s line item of the Planning Commission budget.

E. Amsden made a motion to approve the Planning Commission’s request for an allocation of up to \$500.00 of the consultant’s line item to be used to hire attorney Jeff Hand to represent the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by J. Goldstein. The motion passed with P. Ainsworth abstaining.

Peggy Ainsworth withdrew herself from the vote. The motion passed with Peggy abstaining.

Reappointment for Planning Commission

J. Goldstein made a motion seconded by P. Ainsworth to reappoint Steve Judge to a four year tem. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission member size

Currently the Planning Commission has three positions that are vacant. Due to this the possibility of reducing the number of members to seven from the current nine members was discussed.

Police Department

A joint meeting with the Town of Sharon Selectboard is scheduled for September 22, 2009 to discuss the policing agreement with the Town of Sharon. A letter from Mr. Lamson was forwarded to the Selectboard for review concerning traffic concerns on Gee Hill Rd.

Selectboard Office

Motion to increase the amount of recording fee the Town sets aside to maintain our Town records from \$1.00 of recording fees to \$2.00 of the recording fees to be allocated to the restoration reserve. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Tax Report

N. Cleveland reported that Pam Stafford had been hired as counsel and that a 30 day notice must be sent to delinquent tax accounts. Next lien holders then must be notified and

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to support The Royalton First Congregational Church application for a historical preservation grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Twin Pines Housing request for sewer abatement

A motion was made by P. Ainsworth and seconded by J. Goldstein to send letter that states we will not abate the sewer bill from June of 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

EC Fiber network

An alternate is needed to replace Tom Wells as a representative to the EC Fiber Network Board of directors. **J. Goldstein made a motion that was seconded by E. Amsden to appoint P. Ainsworth as the Town of Royalton's alternate to the EC Fiber Network. The motion passed unanimously.**

Selectboard office hours

A motion was made by J. Goldstein and seconded by E. Amsden to set the office hours for the Selectboard office from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and reevaluate at the end of October. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Amsden made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by P. Ainsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Cleveland