

Royalton Selectboard  
April 14, 2009

Knight's Opera House

Public Present: Mary Demar, Road Foreman Roger McCrillis, Chief of Police Robert Hull, Hank Clark, Donna Carpenter, Ron Cavanaugh, Randy Leavitt, Nathan Cleveland

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

Chair Trombly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Royalton Academy Building**

#### **Building Manager's Report**

Mary Demar reported on the Royalton Academy Building. In her report she noted that rentals have increased in the past month. She suggested that the Selectboard allow alcohol consumption. The ban on alcohol has prevented some potential renters from not using the facility. She also noted that the cost of renting the hall for a 24 hour period could be increased to help offset increased operating costs. **L. Trottier made a motion to increase the rental fee for a 24 hour period to \$225.00. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Spring cleaning has been scheduled and M. Demar would like to have our cleaning person help out for a few extra hours. **E. Amsden made a motion to approve extra hours for Christine Clark to help Mary Demar with the spring cleaning. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

M. Demar asked for authorization to repair the back walkway. She noted that the walk allows handicapped access to the building, and is beginning to break up. R. McCrillis noted roughly one ton of hot-mix asphalt would be needed at an estimated cost of \$80.00. The work will be done by Dale Thresher and a community based learning student at no cost.

M. Demar also noted that she will be repainting the front steps. E. Amsden will provide the paint.

M. Demar also noted that along with the fund raising dance she would like to hold a diner to raise funds to go towards the buildings capital reserve fund. She also noted that N. Cleveland would like to begin a fund raising campaign after the two events. This campaign would begin with a letter seeking support from past users, and businesses in Town.

### **Highway**

#### **Upper Lea Rd.**

P. Trombly noted that Nils Daulaire had contacted the Town concerning the turnaround on Upper Lea road. Discussion on the cause of damage to Mr. Daulaires lawn and the need for an adequate and safe turnaround continued. The Selectboard noted that Mr.

Daulaire needs to identify a designated area for the Town's plow truck to turn around in. The current location (in front of his garage is not adequate because space is limited to turn a large plow truck around, especially when there are vehicles parked in it)

L. Trottier noted that if a turnaround is not identified and the issues continue he would like to pursue discontinuing winter maintenance on Upper Lea road.

**E. Amsden made a motion to give Mr. Daulaire 30 days to identify an adequate turnaround before his house. If an agreement cannot be reached in the 30 day period the Town will begin the process of discontinuing winter maintenance on Upper Lea road. The motion was seconded by J. Goldstein. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Town Gravel Pit**

R. McCrillis noted that would like to hire someone to dig either test pits, or a ditch that would explore the heavy pockets of gravel. Currently where the Town has been excavating a large amount of clay is being run into. Donna Carpenter suggested that she could expand the field by moving the clay to an area that has already been excavated. Discussion ensued on the possibility of exploratory digging to identify more useful gravel areas. Hank Clark suggested digging four trench's, 20 feet deep to identify more useful areas. Discussion continued on the options that existed in the future when the gravel at the Town's pit depleted.

### **Grant Applications**

N. Cleveland presented three grant applications. Two for proposed paving projects, and one for work scheduled on the Foxstand Bridge. He noted that these applications need to be approved and have a person identified as the Town's contact person.

**J. Goldstein made a motion to support the grant applications for proposed paving projects on Back River Rd, Bridge St, and Royalton Hill Rd. as well as a structures grant application for scheduled work on the western abutment on the Foxstand Bridge, and authorize Nathan Cleveland as the Town's contact person. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Budget review**

Reviewed budget and noted that currently the Highway dept. was on the RM noted that tires were needed for the Grader and that by cutting back on materials he could still purchase tires on this year's budget. Price for all four tires would be between \$6,000.00 and \$9,000.00. If this purchase was on the FY 10 budget the maintenance line item for the grader would be used up in the first month. L. Trottier suggested purchasing the tires now and having them put on the grader in August to allow the cost of the tires to be on the FY 09 budget.

### **Grader blade for tractor**

R. McCrillis noted that the John Deere tractor has been used to flatten ruts with a box grader during mud season. It has proven to be a valuable tool, allowing the grader to be in one location while the tractor is in another location. The use of this box grader has allowed more roads to be graded at the same time. **J. Goldstein made a motion to purchase box grader for \$2,750.00. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. Discussion**

**ensued on the use and purchase of a box grader. The motion passed, with L. Trottier abstaining.**

#### **Driveway access permit #09-03**

Discussion ensued on the application for a driveway access permit to access the Otto Merrill Rd. Road foreman McCrillis and the Planning Commission have approved the application.

**L. Trottier made a motion to approve the driveway access application #09-03 with all recommendations. E. Amsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Bridge and Road Standards**

N. Cleveland presented an updated Bridge and Roads Standards to be signed and adopted by the Selectboard. This document is essential in the event of receiving federal funds for disaster relief. If the standards have not been adopted the Town could potentially miss out on much needed funds. **A motion was made by L. Trottier and seconded by E. Amsden to approve and sign the State of Vermont Bridge and Road Standards. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Police Dept.**

##### **Report by Chief Hull**

Chief Hull updated the Selectboard on the idea of forming a inter-municipal policing agreement and the option of applying for Grants to fund an expansion in the Royalton force. He noted that the grant would obligate the Town to pay for the fourth year of a full time officer was hired. He noted that if the time requested by the Town of Sharon is less than originally requested it could be feasible without reducing the coverage in Royalton. Discussion continued on the effects of covering the Town of Sharon for ten hours a week. Chief Hull noted that the options were open and he would suggest looking into hiring a part time officer to cover both vacation time and possible coverage for the Town of Sharon. He noted that it takes roughly a year to become certified as a part time police officer. Hull noted that he would suggest advertising for a certified officer to be employed for a minimum of 10 hours a week.

R. Cavanaugh brought up concerns that the Vermont Law School (VLS) should schedule events at the Knight's Opera House to avoid noise at public meetings, paying for the gymnasium project, the contract that with the Community Betterment Fund agreement entered into with VLS, the Royalton School District and the Town of Royalton, and the possible issue of students being registered voters but not registering their vehicles with the State of Vermont.

B. Hull noted that the VLS uses gym space at the Sharon Academy.

Hull noted that the police cruiser was in need of repairs. Both front wheel wells need to be fixed as they are beginning to rust through. He noted that he is awaiting an estimate for replacing the fenders. Fenders are \$173 per fender and would require painting and

installation. He noted that he would like to know what direction the Selectboard would like to go in. He suggests fixing the vehicle and pursuing purchasing a new vehicle in a year or two.

Chief Hull also noted that he attended a round table event at VLS. He discussed concerns that were identified at that meeting. One concern was not being able to contact the Royalton Police Department. Chief Hull noted that the number they were using may have been the old number. The correct number is 763-7776 and it is available on the Town's Webpage and he also noted that he was unsure why the number was not included in the local directory, but the directory has been contacted to make the appropriate correction. He also noted that there is a report that is filed for individual incidents that he responds to.

#### **Poolution abatement facility**

The Selectboard discussed the meeting with Don Phillips from Forcier, Aldrich & Associates.

#### **South Royalton Village Green**

##### **Use of Green**

Tara Franey, a student at VLS requested to use the South Royalton green for a performance by Bread and Puppet on August 26, 2009. **E. Amsden made a motion to authorize use of the South Royalton green by the Bread and Puppet company on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Walter Hastings requested to lift the alcohol ban on the South Royalton village green for the Royalton Alumni event on June 13, 2009. **P. Ainsworth made a motion to lift the alcohol ban for the Royalton Alumni event on June 13, 2009. E. Amsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. N. Cleveland was asked to follow up with Walter Hastings and note that there should be a catering permit for the event. /check statutes.**

#### **Community Betterment Fund**

##### **Vermont Law School, Town of Royalton Community Betterment Fund Agreement**

The Selectboard reviewed the agreement. The agreement has been signed by all parties (Royalton School District, and the Vermont Law School.) **A motion was made by P. Ainsworth to sign the Community Betterment Fund Agreement. E. Amsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Documents for Selectboard approval**

##### **Liquor Licenses**

N. Cleveland presented renewal applications for liquor and tobacco licenses from Corner Stop Mini Mart, 5 Olde Tavern and Grille, Fitz Vogt Associates, and Royalton Village Pizza. **A motion was made by L. Trottier to approve all renewal applications for liquor and tobacco licenses. The motion was seconded by J. Goldstein. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Royalton Academy Building Lease Agreements**

Royalton Academy Building tenant agreements were reviewed and signed for the Central Vermont Council on Aging, and the Royalton School District.

### **Town of Royalton Priorities**

L. Trottier reported that a few priorities that he was concerned with included drainage issue on South Windsor St. where flooding has occurred by the Hope property, would be cutting trees and the widening of Oxbow Rd., and removing tree's from Dairy Hill Rd. E. Amsden reported that his priorities would involve revamping the revolving loan fund, reviewing concerns at the transfer station, and pursuing options to relocate the Town offices. P. Ainsworth reported that her priorities would include sewer and water upgrades, blacktop maintenance as outlined in the Transportation Capital Program (specifically concerning the maintenance of the North Rd. to seal cracks), and pursuing options to relocate the Town offices. J. Goldstein reported that her priorities were developing a long term capital budget, energy committees for energy efficiency, L. Trottier noted that we would be hearing about a proposal from the fire department to build a new fire station. He also noted that he had requested a list of materials to build an equipment shed at the town garage. P. Trombly reported that her priorities included billing for the Pollution Abatement Facility (ie; sewer meter replacement), redevelop the Town's website, and pursuing building options for the Town office building, (she noted that a two page pre-application for USDA funding for the construction of the office building was available to be reviewed.) N. Cleveland noted he would like to see more emphasis on community development in terms of streetscape in the downtown area in an effort to attract viable businesses that would provide sustainable living wages, continue efforts to improve the Pollution Abatement Facility infrastructure to allow and encourage expanding development in the downtown area, and to pursue options for construction of new a Town office building and renovations to the Royalton Memorial Library building.

Discussion continued on the timeframe and feasibility of pursuing capital projects.

### **Noise ordinance**

E. Amsden updated the board of the ongoing issue of obnoxious noise caused by a motorbike race track. Abutting land owners had presented a draft ordinance concerning noise for review by the Selectboard. E. Amsden and L. Trottier have attempted to mediate the issue but there has not been any improvement. The noise occurs at least 2 times a week and as many as 3 times. The abutting land owners would like the Selectboard to pursue adopting a noise ordinance. Discussion ensued concerning the possibility of adopting a noise ordinance.

**Selectboard Correspondence**

Update by N. Cleveland on correspondence received for the Selectboard to review.

P. Trombly asked N. Cleveland to research the Schools sewer permit.

**Executive Session**

**A motion was made by E. Amsden to enter executive session to discuss contractual issues. P. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The Selectboard entered executive session at 10:54 p.m.**

**The Selectboard came out of executive session at 11:30 p.m. with no action taken.**

**L. Trottier made a motion to adjourn at 11:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by E. Amsden. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Nathan Cleveland**