

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005  
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Thomas Kellner, Chairman; Gary Winitzer, Clerk; and Werner Bundschuh, Member.

1. Chairman Kellner called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Winitzer made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/4/05 meeting as presented. There was no second to the motion. Mr. Bundschuh then read the minutes. One correction was made and noted. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) Mr. Bundschuh reported on the MMA Conference, which he attended earlier in the month.
  - b) Mr. Winitzer read comments by Barbara Warner, who voiced her concerns regarding the road conditions on Route 32.
4. 7:30 p.m. – MRPC – Public Hearing for CDBG Block Grant: Mr. Kellner opened the public hearing by reading the hearing notice. Shelley Hatch of MRPC reviewed the 2003 grant. The money was used for a Self-Evaluation Study and Transitional Plan. She is working on the paperwork to close out this grant as all work has been completed. The 2005 grant application will be for handicap accessible improvements to town buildings. Mr. Winitzer asked why the application was only for the handicap accessibility and not the infrastructure improvements for South Royalston. Ms. Hatch said that there must have been a misunderstanding about exactly what the Board wanted to go forward with. She will include both items on the application and will meet with Keith Newton to get necessary information. Ms. Hatch also stated that the American Dreams Initiative Program did get funded, and the program will start in late January or February.
5. Department Head Reports:
  - a) Keith Newton reported that the problem with the Mac truck was water in the fuel.
  - b) The interior work at Whitney Hall is in the final phase.
  - c) Tony Basso was present to discuss his concerns about drainage on King Street. Mr. Newton said that the problem is due to the volume of water being discharged into the street, which is compounded in winter. If the road is fixed, the residents cannot be allowed to discharge water into the road. There must be a compromise. Discussion was held on the source of the water and ways to resolve the problem.
  - d) Since there have been no return calls from our representative at Verizon, Mr. Winitzer made a motion to write a letter to the president of Verizon requesting that the pole on School Street be put up. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
6. Old Business:
  - a) Forestry Plan – Glenn Freden: Mr. Freden was not present. He will be invited to the next meeting.
  - b) Budget 2006: Mr. Winitzer has prepared a new budget form for departments that includes a breakdown of expenses. Discussion was held regarding scheduling budget interviews with each department. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to send a memo to all departments requesting that they place amounts for expenses into the new format, even if they have already turned in a budget, and to request an electronic copy of each budget. Mr. Winitzer seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Helen Divoll will be requested to set up the budget interviews.

7. New Business:

- a) Personnel Committee: Jon Hardie voiced concerns about discussions held at the Special Town Meeting. He then reviewed the tasks that the Committee has been working on. He stated that the Committee would have the modification of the Personnel Bylaws done in time to make recommendations to the Board for the Annual Town Meeting. The acceptance process is going forward.
- b) Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to send a memo to department heads requesting that they provide copies of all grant applications to the Board. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Old Business (cont'd)

- c) SRIC: Mr. Winitzer reported on the SRIC meeting he attended recently. He asked SRIC for a financial report and a list of names of the Board of Directors, which the Board had previously requested. After some discussion, the Board decided to put the issue of the town taking over the duties of the SRIC on their next agenda. Research on this process will need to be completed.
- d) Electricity: Mr. Winitzer made a motion to sign the energy service agreement with MunEnergy for the period of 2/1/05 – 12/1/08. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- e) Bylaw Project: Mr. Kellner announced that the first meeting of the Bylaw Project will be held on Thursday, 1/20/05 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- f) Unregistered Vehicles: Mr. Winitzer said that the Board had previously asked Chief Deveneau to report monthly on the status of unregistered vehicles. The only report to date was received in November. The Board needs to direct the police chief to enforce the bylaw on properties with more than three unregistered vehicles. He made a motion to tell Chief Deveneau to attend the next meeting. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business (cont'd)

- c) 24 Hour Dispatch – Letter to State Police: Mr. Winitzer reported that Wayne Newton called a meeting recently with representatives from several agencies about the dispatch service. A plan was formulated whereby Shelburne Control would answer all police 911 calls and Keene dispatch would take care of EMS calls through a one-button transfer. The cost for Shelburne Control would be nothing, and membership in the Southwest Mutual Aid Association, which would be required for Keene to dispatch the EMS calls, would have to be calculated, but should be within the budgeted amount for last year. It looks like the same equipment can be used for the next five years. Mr. Winitzer made a motion to send a letter to the State Emergency Telecommunications Board so that the secondary public safety answering point can be activated in Keene and to move the process along. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- d) Surplus Computers: Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to send a letter to department heads requesting that they provide the following information about their computers: type of processor, how much memory, hard drive size and type of operating system. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
- e) LaRoche Property on King Street: Two abutters to this property were present to discuss the issue of the remaining debris left from a house fire several years ago. After some discussion, Mr. Bundschuh stated that he would contact Becky Krause-Hardie to find out if the property is in tax title and about what the town can do to have the debris removed. He will also speak with Phil Leger regarding health and safety issues.

8. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Winitzer. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes transcribed from audiotape by Diana Newton.