

TOWN OF ROYALSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 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. The minutes of the 2/15/05 meeting were read. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/14/05, 9:00 a.m. meeting. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was also unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to grant a permit to Mr. Winitzer as requested to place advertising matter within the town pursuant to Town Bylaw. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
 - b) Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth of Mass., Department of Public Safety, awarding the Town \$8400 for a Traffic Enforcement Grant.
 - c) The Board received a copy of a letter written by Senator Brewer in support of the community development block grant application.
 - d) Mr. Kellner stated that he signed a letter for the CDBG application for approximately \$720,000, including \$72,000 for administrative fees, and \$68,000 for work required in the ADA Plan. The remainder would go toward infrastructure repairs in South Royalston. The amount was much higher than expected. He discussed the fact that the completion of the application was done in a rushed manner. Mr. Winitzer said that he was surprised that Mr. Kellner had signed this letter, as the amount was much larger than the original amount. He also said that this large grant amount might affect other grants. Shelley Hatch will arrange a time to come to a meeting to discuss the project, which would involve hiring an engineer.
 - e) The Board will forward a request for transfer from the Reserve Fund to the Advisory Board. The request is for \$2000 to go to the Streetlight Account to pay bills for the months of April, May and June.
 - f) The Board received a fax from Toni Phillips regarding a meeting on the proposed Veteran's District to be held on 3/10/05 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Kellner will contact Ms. Phillips prior to the meeting, as none of the Board members are available to attend. He will advise her that the Board has concerns about Royalston's allocation to this proposed District, as the Town has not paid out any benefits to veterans.
4. Paul Guertin, Guertin Associates: Mr. Guertin stated that he has been working with the Town on an informal basis on the Route 32 project. As it appears that the Town will be soliciting bids for the project in the near future, he wanted to advise the Board that he is showing interest and will be responding to the request for bids.
5. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Mr. Kellner officially opened the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 5/6/05 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to close the warrant on 4/19/05. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor.

6. Department Head Reports:
 - a) Police Department: Chief Deveneau reported that he has received several responses to the letters sent out regarding the unregistered vehicle bylaw violations. Some people have already taken care of the problems. He will have an official report completed next week. Also, due to court appearances next week, the money in the budget will be getting tight.
 - b) Tree Warden: Larry Siegel expressed concerns about the Planning Board. He stated that they are currently not functioning as a Board. They cannot get a quorum together in order to hold a hearing. Mr. Winitzer stated that a solution would be to change the Planning Board to a Planning Committee, where members would be appointed, not elected. This would involve adopting chapters of Mass. General Laws, changing bylaws, etc. Mr. Kellner felt that the Board should speak with Tom Musco.
7. Public Hearing – Taft Hill Road Property: Mr. Kellner opened the public hearing. After some discussion, Mr. Kellner made a motion to sign over the purchase rights to property on Taft Hill Road, currently owned by Alan and Joanna Page, to Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
8. Old Business:
 - a) School Street Pole Relocation: Mr. Winitzer stated that he has spoken with the Verizon workers, who said that it is up to Mass. Electric to move the wires. The poles are not currently connected. He then spoke with Alex Mango at Mass. Electric, who said that he would continue to work on getting the School Street project completed.
 - b) Floodlights at Town Hall: Mr. Bundschuh will research other fixtures and report back to the Board with his findings.
 - c) Village School Lease: Mr. Bundschuh reported that he spoke with Dan Joly and asked him to look at the lead problem in the water at the Village School. Mr. Joly will then give recommendations to the Board. Discussion was held regarding the condition of the building (leaky roof, problems with plumbing) and space issues.
 - d) Mr. Bundschuh stated that the library employees do not get paid for holidays as discussed at the last meeting.
 - e) Budget Discussion: Mr. Kellner stated that he sent e-mail to Ed Wheeler saying that the Board had almost completed their budget evaluations. Discussion was held regarding the increase to health insurance costs, and other added costs to the budget this year, including benefits for the Administrative Assistant. Mr. Winitzer requested that the Personnel Board hold a public hearing on the changes that he proposed to the Personnel Policy, and then make recommendations to the Selectmen. Mr. Kellner said that the Personnel Board is hoping to decide on their recommendations at their meeting on Friday night.
 - f) Zoning Bylaws: Mr. Winitzer requested that the Board discuss the work done by the 2002 Bylaw Review Committee and the information he presented in article form on the proposed changes at the last meeting. After searching for copies of the most current edition of the Zoning Bylaws, this issue was tabled and will be revisited.
9. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
10. At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes transcribed by Diana Newton via audiotape.

