

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, August 16, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Kellner made a motion to refrain from reading the minutes at this time. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Department Head Reports:
 - a. DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton reported that the grader is down again due to a brake system problem. He asked for understanding from those who travel on gravel roadways. His crew is trying to work on these roads with a York rake.
 - 2) The School Street project will be completed once the guardrail system is installed. Mr. Newton asked for input from the Board regarding the guardrails.
 - 3) Regarding the LaRoche property, Mr. Kellner made a motion to declare the lot condemned so the town can step in to clean up rubbish and debris. The taking is still going forward. Mr. Newton stated that the clean up would happen at a future date once the property is taken by the town and can legally be entered upon. Mr. West seconded the motion previously made by Mr. Kellner. The vote was unanimous in favor.
4. 6th Grade to ARMS: Mr. Bundschuh opened discussion by stating that funds had been set aside several years ago to pay down the mortgage for the Royalston Community School. The Board will be proposing that the Town take another portion to fund a teacher for the 6th grade at RCS at a Special Town Meeting. He explained that the school district could choose not to accept the funds. As an explanation of why these funds are needed, Roberta Newman of the School Committee explained that the Committee was given two options last week at a budget subcommittee meeting: one was to split the 1st grade at RCS, with one-half going into the kindergarten class and one-half going into the 2nd grade class. The other option was to send the sixth grade to the middle school. These options had been presented due to shortfalls in the budget. The Committee voted for the second option. Several parents of children who attend RCS were in attendance at the meeting and voiced their concern regarding this vote. A discussion was held on several School Committee issues. Mr. Kellner made a motion to open the warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on 9/2/05. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Mr. Kellner then made a motion to place an article regarding transferring \$45,000 from the Royalston Community School Mortgage Reduction Account to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District to fund the current year position of a 6th grade teacher. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
5. Additional Articles for Special Town Meeting Warrant:
 - a) Mr. Kellner made a motion to put an article on the warrant for payment of a fiscal year 2005 bill to Advanced Plumbing & Heating for work done at the fire station. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
 - b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to include an article submitted by the town clerk regarding accepting a home rule petition so that legislation may be

filed to validate the April 2005 Annual Town Election. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. West then made a motion to close the warrant. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

6. 8:00 p.m. – Aaron Ellison – Open Space Committee: Mr. Ellison presented a packet of information and maps to the Board relating to unclaimed parcels of land that his Committee is checking into. Some of the parcels are landlocked. The Committee realizes that there is a procedure that must be followed in order for the town to take properties by tax title and put them into conservation. The Committee will continue to work on this issue. The Board thanked Mr. Ellison and the Committee for the excellent report.
7. Smart Growth Grant & Commonwealth Capital Applications: Kim MacPhee presented the Board with a copy of the Smart Growth Grant Application packet. She announced that MRPC has committed \$2900 for in-kind services as matching funds for the grant. This means that the Town will only have to come up with \$100. The Board expressed thanks to Vyto Andreliunas and Glenn Eaton for their assistance with this. Mr. Kellner made a motion to send a letter to MRPC thanking them for their support in this matter. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Ms. MacPhee offered to draft the letter. Also, the Commonwealth Capital Application is now online, and Mr. Andreliunas has been working on the draft.
8. New Business:
 - a) Dog Hearing: Animal Control Officer Robin Mowrey stated that two weeks ago a dog belonging to the St. Jean family bit a child. He is obligated to bring the incident to the attention of the Board. There have also been other complaints of the dog biting people. The owner of the dog stated that she is meeting with a possible new owner tomorrow. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to postpone any decision on this matter for two weeks with the idea that the dog is going to a new home, that the owner is made aware of the dog's behavior, and that the Animal Control Officer of the town where the dog will be going is also notified of the dog's behavior. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
9. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) The Board is in receipt of a request from the Village School for use of the Town Hall for a Pot Luck supper on 11/4/05 from 4-9 p.m. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes; with Mr. West abstaining.
 - b) Discussion was held on the condition of the Riverside Cemetery. Mr. West stated that as of yesterday the cemetery had been mowed, but not weed whacked. Only a riding lawnmower was used. A push mower should be used to do the detail work. Also discussed was how the contract work is supervised. The contract states that the DPW Supervisor is the overseer of the contract, but Keith Newton has stepped back because of a possible conflict. David Valliere or Robin Mowrey have been instructed to check the work. From now on, Mr. West will work on verifying that the work is completed and will communicate with Helen Divoll before she signs off on the invoices from Four Seasons.

10. Old Business:

- a) Risa Richardson, Village School – Re: Water System: Ms. Richardson explained that the system failed because of lead and coppers in the water. This has been an on-going problem. She presented the Board with a packet of information relating to the installation of a filter system. DEP has stressed that there is a 9/15/05 deadline to have an engineer submit a study and the work must be completed by June 2006. The estimate for the project is \$11,500 including the backhoe work. The building is currently grandfathered with the DEP for a public water supply. Ms. Richardson stated that the town is eligible for a water grant from USDA. The Village School would split the cost of this filter system with the town and could front the money until the town applies for and gets the grant. Mr. Kellner stated that an agreement of this type would have to be voted on at a town meeting, as the town must have a contract with the Village School. Mr. Kellner made a motion to re-open the warrant for the 9/2/05 Special Town Meeting to consider other articles. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes; with Mr. West abstaining. Mr. Bundschuh raised the question of whether it would be more reasonable to replace the pipes than to install a filter system. Ms. Richardson will contact Northeast Rural Water and ask why the proposal they made was not to replace the pipes. Mr. Kellner will call the contact person from DEP to get further information. Mr. Kellner felt that the Village School lease should be increased by 25%, to a total of \$1250 per month. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to put two articles on the special town meeting warrant regarding the water system, one for \$4500 for an engineering study to be funded by a donation from the Village School; and one for a maximum of \$8000 to pay for a water filter system for the Raymond School, 50% of which is to be reimbursed by the Village School. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Bundschuh and Mr. Kellner, yes. Mr. West abstained.

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn from the meeting. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.