

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bundschuh.
2. The minutes of the 9/6/05 meeting were read. Mr. West made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Bundschuh reported that the Board received a letter from Patricia Bassett, Superintendent of Schools, stating that the school committee certified the budget on 9/7/05, and the apportionment has been rectified. This means that the Town must hold a Special Town meeting within 45 days to act upon the portion of the budget so apportioned and rectified. We should organize a Special Town Meeting. Mr. West made a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on 10/14/05. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West then rescinded his motion and made a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on 10/21/05 at Royalston Community School at 7:00 p.m. and to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on 10/4/05. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Also, relating to the school budget, Mr. Bundschuh would like to send a letter to the Attorney General asking for a ruling on the position of the Department of Education regarding the Athol Royalston Regional School District's position to follow the budget formula contrary to our agreement. The Board was in agreement. Mr. Bundschuh will write the letter.
4. Department Head Reports:
 - a) DPW –
 - 1) Mr. Kellner made a motion to award the bid for salt to Eastern Salt upon the recommendation of Keith Newton. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West made a motion to award the bid for liquid calcium at 88 cents/gallon delivered to All States Asphalt. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. After some discussion relating to slate roofs, Mr. West made a motion to award the bid for repair of slate on the Town Hall roof, again upon the recommendation of Keith Newton, to Skyline Engineering. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - 2) Mr. Newton reported on a letter he received from Sergeant Hamel regarding kids riding bikes off a hill onto a section of Route 68 in South Royalston. The police have been called there several times. Mr. Newton said that he could place a line of large stones there to make a barrier. Mr. Kellner made a motion to support Mr. Newton in his efforts to make the road safe. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - 3) Mr. Newton spoke about his representation of the Northern Worcester County Public Works & Highway Superintendent's Association regarding beaver trapping and other environmental issues. A series of bills is being introduced to the House of Representatives relating to the environment, natural resources

and agriculture. Mr. Newton gave verbal testimony about the washout of Route 68 due to beavers. More information on this issue will be forthcoming.

- 4) Discussion was held regarding whether or not the section of Warwick Road beyond the Ramsdell property has been discontinued. Mr. Newton said that the town has not been maintaining this section of road although there is no record of discontinuance. A temporary discontinuance may have been requested by a Highway Superintendent at some point in the past. This has been done before when there were no residences beyond a certain point. In order to repair this section of road, it would cost approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000. Mr. Newton does not have the money to do it this year. The Ramsdell's want to build in the fall and need to put in a driveway as soon as possible. They want to get the permit process started. They still have to go before the Planning Board. Mr. Kellner suggested that Mr. Newton put an article on the STM warrant requesting funding to bring the road up to standards.

- b) Tree Warden: Larry Siegel reported that there are some trees on the north end of the common that are in dire straits. The Board may want to have an arborist take a look at them. Mr. West will write a letter to Harvard Forest asking if they can provide any assistance. Mr. West stated that he had received a complaint from a South Royalston resident regarding a tree that was down in the river. Mr. Bundschuh voiced concerns about one of the trees on the common that had been trimmed over the summer.

5. New Business:

- a) Veterans District – Alan Bowers addressed the Board on his concern regarding the town's decision not to join the Veteran's District. There is a state law that states that each town must have a veteran's agent. Discussion was held regarding the proposed district, how the budget for the agent will be apportioned for each member town, how many veterans from Royalston receive services, etc. Mr. Kellner made a motion that the town work with the group trying to establish a veteran's district. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. West and Mr. Kellner, yes; and Mr. Bundschuh, no.

Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence: (continued)

- b) Mr. Bundschuh announced that he accepted three computers from Harvard Forest on behalf of the Board. Mr. West said that he would like to create a volunteer IT position for the Town. He will get more information about this. Mr. Kellner made a motion to send a letter of thanks to Harvard Forest for the computers. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West will write the letter.
- c) Gary Winitzer announced that the External Defibrillator Program is now in place. A press release is forthcoming.
- d) Mr. Winitzer spoke about a citizen's petition he will organize to put an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant regarding appointing a committee of 5 persons to explore the costs if Royalston withdrew from the school district.
- e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to allow the Friends of the Library to use the Town Hall on 11/12/05 and 11/20/05 and to waive the fee. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
- f) NIMS Introduction Course – Mr. West stated that he read the material and took the test online. He spoke about how the town should have an Incident Management Plan.

6. Old Business:

- a) Village School Lease - Mr. West abstained from discussing this issue. Mr. Bundschuh and Mr. Kellner signed the new lease.

- b) Mr. Bundschuh will meet with Diane King on 9/26/05 regarding the Community Facility Grant for the water system at the Village School. Mr. Kellner said that he has signed an application requesting that a consultant from D.E.P. come to look at the system.

New Business (continued):

- b) Mr. Bundschuh read a note from Helen Divoll regarding a problem with the town clock. Mr. West will speak with the contractor who is currently working on the church steeple regarding this issue.
- c) Streetlights – Massachusetts Electric – The Board has been notified that Mass. Electric now wants to remove the streetlights. Mr. West wants to send them a letter asking them not to remove the lights and that they remain there unlit. He feels that the Board should move forward with a consultant. Mr. West will contact a consultant.
- d) Appointment of Town Constable – Mr. Kellner made a motion to appoint John Chencherik as town constable until April 2006. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Also, Mr. Kellner made a motion to reappoint Rebecca Krause-Hardie as Tax Collector for the period 1/1/05 – 12/31/07. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- e) Planning Board Appointments – Mr. Bundschuh has called town counsel after a complaint from Tom Musco, Planning Board Chairman, stating that several members of the Planning Board do not attend meetings. Town counsel has advised that an article be placed on the Special Town Meeting warrant to petition the court to make the Planning Board an appointed rather than elected board. Mr. Bundschuh will ask town counsel to provide the correct wording for the article.
- f) Mr. West made a motion to pursue the next round of CDBG grant funding with MRPC. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Kellner will contact MRPC.

7. The Treasury warrant was signed.

Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton via audiotape.