

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

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

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 1/3/06 meeting were read. Two corrections were made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
3. Regarding the tree cutting on town property issue, the Board is waiting for a response to their letter to Dr. Stowell in which they requested that he pay \$4,500.00 to the Historic District Commission within 30 days in lieu of a fine. Once a response is received, a decision will be made on how to proceed. Mr. Bundschuh will review the issue with town counsel before the next meeting.
4. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Bundschuh reported that he spoke with Wayne Newton, who clarified that the engine of the hose truck is fine, but the radiator needs to be replaced.
 - b) Mr. Newton had also stated that the changeover to Shelburne dispatch is moving along. He will e-mail Mr. West to let him know when the next meeting of the Dispatch Committee will be held.
 - c) Mr. Kellner reported that the Veterans' District Committee met last week and agreed to adopt the bylaws that were accepted by the state. The state has approved the establishment of a district. The Committee voted to retain Toni Phillips as the Veterans' Agent for a period of four months, three years. The budget for the upcoming year was also approved, and a copy was presented to the Board. Discussion was held regarding benefits for the position and how they will be paid.
 - d) Mr. Bundschuh stated that the Board received a Report of Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing from the Treasurer. This was completed in order to report money that was borrowed from stabilization to be utilized in other budget line items. This report must be forwarded to the Department of Revenue. The Assessors said that tax bills should be ready to go out in mid-February or early March.
 - e) The Committee working on obtaining engineering services for the Route 32 project has voted to engage with Guertin & Associates to work on a proposed budget before bringing the project to the Board of Selectmen for approval. A representative from Guertin & Associates will do a walk-through next Monday and will discuss the scope of work. Vyto Andreliunas, a member of the Committee, stated that the cost estimate would determine when they can be hired.
5. Vyto Andreliunas – SMART Growth Grant:
 - a) Mr. Andreliunas reported that two responses to the request for quotations for legal services for this grant have been received; one from Attorney Mark Bobrowski and one from Kopelman & Paige. Mr. Andreliunas recommended hiring Attorney Bobrowski as he is geographically closer, will consult with Jean Armstrong who has first hand knowledge of the town's bylaws and Open Space Committee, and works full-time with planning issues. Mr. Kellner made a motion to go with Attorney Bobrowski as recommended. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Andreliunas requested that the Chairman be allowed to sign the contract on behalf of

the Board. Mr. West made a motion to give the authority to the Chairman to sign the contract. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

- b) Mr. Andreliunas also recommended that the Board sign a contract with MRPC for the mapping portion and that the Chairman be authorized to sign it. The cost will be \$6400 and will include GIS mapping, creation of visual aids, etc. The result will be a town-zoning map. Mr. West made a motion to contract with MRPC to do the land use mapping and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
- c) Mr. Andreliunas stated that he would place an article in the next Royalston Newsletter announcing the public forum relating to the Community Development Strategy to be held on 2/7/06 at 7:30 p.m. during the Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

6. Old Business:

- a) Posting of Signs on Town Property: No action was taken on this matter at this time.
- b) Mr. Bundschuh spoke about an e-mails he received from Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk, regarding the issue of some towns continuing to use paper ballots during elections. The information received clarifies that paper ballots will still be allowed, but the state will require towns to have at least one electronic machine for use by handicapped people. They are not interested in replacing the paper ballots. The state will pay for the new machines. The State Elections Division has asked towns to advise them if they wish to retain their paper ballots. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to retain the paper ballots. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
- c) State Flag – Mr. Kellner suggested that the flag donated to the town by the Chencherik's be flown at the South Royalston Common. He will check the size match and hook it up.
- d) Mr. West reported that he received correspondence from National Grid regarding the streetlights. They want us to purchase the old lights that were previously removed. They have requested a response from the town within 90 days. Discussion was held regarding options such as purchasing new lights, hiring a consultant to research a vendor to maintain the lights, and asking National Grid for an updated inventory and purchase price for the lights we currently have. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to send a letter to National Grid stating that we will be purchasing the lights and requesting an updated inventory and cost. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- e) Mr. Bundschuh showed samples of possible awards for town employees that he received from Athol Granite.

7. New Business:

- a) Tax Classification Hearing – 8:00 p.m.: Mr. Kellner made a motion to keep the tax classification at one rate. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- b) Setting of Budget Schedule: The budget process was discussed. The Board felt that it would be beneficial for the Chairman to remain the same throughout the entire process. Possible times for budget meetings with department heads were discussed. Mr. Bundschuh will work with Helen Divoll to devise a schedule.
- c) Mass. Municipal Association Meeting Report: Mr. Bundschuh reported on the workshops and meetings he attended over the weekend at the Annual MMA Conference.
- d) Mr. Kellner stated that the Veterans Agent job description includes putting flags on graves, but a town resident must do this. Mr. Bundschuh said that this is done every year; there is a budget for Care of Soldiers Graves.

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Bundschuh, yes; Mr. Kellner, yes; and Mr. West, yes. The regular meeting will resume to sign the Treasury Warrant only.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:46 p.m.

8. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

At 9:52 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.