

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

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

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 2/7/06 meeting were read. Mr. West made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a. Correspondence was received from the Tax Collector stating that taking of 15 properties for tax title has been started.
 - b. The Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs has notified the Board that the town has been awarded a Municipal Waste Reduction Grant in the amount of \$350 for the purchase of kitchen scrap buckets.
4. Department Head Reports:
 - a. Keith Newton requested the Board's support in granting an Emergency Leave of Absence for a town employee who is due back to work on 3/6/06.
 - b. Mr. Newton stated that Helen Divoll has put together Chapter 90 paperwork for reimbursement as follows and asked for the Board's signatures:

Subchapter 246B	\$149,302.00
Subchapter 291	\$ 65,832.38
 - c. Mr. Newton requested that the Board change the status of the DPW employee who has been temporary since July 2005 to full-time permanent status. The permanent position has been advertised, the employee applied, and Mr. Newton recommended that he be given the position. He has completed the three-month probationary period and would be eligible for insurance benefits. Discussion was held regarding the lack of a union contract at the present time due to a lengthy negotiation period. Mr. Bundschuh stated that since the new contract would change the amount that new town employees would have to pay toward health insurance from 90% to 75%, he would like to wait until the contract is signed and in effect before changing this employee's status.
 - d. Mr. Newton asked for a meeting with the Board in the near future regarding his contract as it expires at the end of the fiscal year.
 - e. He has been working on the grounds maintenance bid. Helen Divoll will e-mail the bid information to Mr. Bundschuh once it is completed.
5. Old Business:
 - a. 7:30 p.m. – Phil Delorey – Grant Informational Session: Mr. Delorey presented the Board with a draft of the Community Development Strategy (copy attached) that incorporates the objectives as discussed at the last meeting. Another public hearing will be held during next week's meeting, and then he will finalize the document.
 - b. Tree Issue: Mr. Bundschuh reported that Dr. Stowell has not responded to the Board's request for a voluntary contribution for the town trees that were cut. Town counsel has suggested that the Board put a value on the trees, which Mr. Bundschuh has asked the Assessors to do. Another option would be to determine the replacement value of the trees themselves. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting. Town counsel also

stated that the Board could file a civil or criminal complaint. Mr. West will research the criminal complaint process.

6. New Business:

- a. Mr. Bundschuh read a request from Beth Gospadarek regarding starting a town website. Mr. West stated that he has spoken with Tax Collector Becky Krause-Hardie about this. She would like to provide taxpayers with a mechanism for electronic bill paying. With Mr. West's permission, she has registered the website www.royalston-ma.gov with a web service, at a cost of \$60.00 year. Mr. West made a motion to establish a town website and to encumber the fee of \$60.00 from the Selectmen's Miscellaneous Account. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - b. Helen Divoll stated that the Town Clerk reported to her that one of the election registrars will be resigning and one of the election workers has passed away. Mrs. Divoll will look into the process of filling these positions, which are appointed by the Selectmen.
7. 8:15 p.m. – Board of Health Budget Review: Phil Leger, Chairman of the Board of Health, discussed his budget proposal for FY 2007 with the Board. Discussion was also held regarding an article for the annual town meeting warrant relating to a mutual aid agreement with other towns and also the importance of having an emergency planning session. The planning session should include representatives from the police, fire, and highway departments, Board of Selectmen and the school. This item will be placed on the agenda for the 3/21/06 meeting.
8. 8:30 p.m. – Building Department Budget Review: Building Inspector Geoff Newton reviewed his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year with the Board.
9. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
10. At 9:10 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.