

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 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 7:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 2/28/06 meeting were read. One correction was made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. West gave an update on the proposed town website. He has sent the required letter on behalf of the Board to the agency that oversees the .gov designation. The cost, which is \$100 for server space and \$125 for the .gov name registration, is higher than expected. He believes that both amounts are annual fees. The website would have tiered access so there can be a Webmaster who would allot space to departments so they may post their own information.
 - b) Mr. West made a motion to approve the rental of the Town Hall to Lori Deveneau from 12 – 5 on 4/9/06 for a bridal shower at the normal rate. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
 - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the Village School and Royalston Community School's use of the Town Hall for a program on the Middle Ages on 3/13, 5/18, 5/19, and 6/10/06. The program will be partially funded by the Cultural Council. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. Bundschuh, yes; with Mr. West abstaining. Gary Winitzer asked if the Board has considered raising the rental rate. Mr. Bundschuh asked Helen Divoll to prepare a list of fees for discussion at the next meeting.
 - d) Mr. West made a motion to approve a request from Charles Scribner for use of Bullock Park on 4/29/06 for the Annual Roadside Clean-up and to waive the cost of disposal of the roadside trash. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from Linda Alger to put up signs for the town election. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - f) Gary Winitzer asked if the Board had raised the mileage reimbursement rate to the IRS rate for this year. Mr. Bundschuh will check what the IRS rate is for discussion at the next meeting.
 - g) Keith Newton asked for the signatures of the Board members on a bid form for goods and services.
 - h) Mr. West made a motion to appoint Melanie Mangum to the Board of Registrars. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Discussion was held regarding a requirement that the town clerk be appointed as a registrar by virtue of office. Mr. West will research the state law.
4. Department Head Reports:
 - a) DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton presented a list of surplus equipment that he wishes to put out for bid.
 - 2) Mr. Newton spoke about his selection for road improvements for the current fiscal year as follows: Athol Road, Winchendon Road, and Falls Road. There is approximately \$90,000 in Chapter 90 funds to work with. He plans to make

improvements on the portions of the roads that are in the worst condition. Mr. Bundschuh stated that he would like to see a program where a section of the most used roads are repaired until the entire roadway is completed.

5. Old Business:

- a) 8:00 p.m. – Supt. Anthony Polito: Superintendent Polito presented information relating to the current fiscal year and next fiscal year budgets for the school district. Handouts are attached as part of these minutes.
 - b) Phil Delorey – Public Hearing: DHCD Grant: Mr. Delorey presented a finalized copy of the Community Development Strategy which is to be submitted as part of the grant application for the next round of CDBG grants. This document should be updated annually. This grant application will be submitted for the towns of Athol, Phillipston and Royalston for housing rehabilitation funds. Several corrections were made to the document presented by Mr. Delorey. Mr. West made a motion to approve the Community Development Strategy, including the Project Priority List, with corrections as discussed. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the vote being unanimous in favor. The grant application deadline is 3/29/06.
 - c) Zoning Task Force: Vyto Andreliunas reported that the Task Force is projecting the date of 4/4/06 for a kick-off hearing. The hearing would be held during the regular Selectmen's Meeting at 7:00 p.m. He would like to invite other Boards to attend. Helen Divoll will assist with handouts and mailings.
 - d) Mileage Reimbursement: Geoffrey Newton asked if the Board has increased the mileage reimbursement amount. The current IRS Standard rate is 40.5 cents per mile. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to adjust the mileage rate to follow the IRS Standard Reimbursement Rate effective on July 1 of each year. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Discussion was held on how this would effect budgets in the future. Helen Divoll will inform department heads that the mileage reimbursement rate will increase to 40.5 cents per mile as of 7/1/06 and will be adjusted according to the IRS Standard Reimbursement Rate effective on July 1 of each following year.
6. The Treasury Warrant and Election Warrant were signed.
7. At 10:10 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and pending litigation. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; Mr. West, yes; and Mr. Bundschuh, yes. The regular meeting will reconvene for adjournment only.
8. At 10:33 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

