

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Linda Alger and Thomas Kellner, Members.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 5/2/06 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Wayne Newton, Fire Chief, asked the Board how to go about selling the old rescue vehicle, now that the Department has received the new one. Mr. West said that it should be advertised as surplus equipment. Discussion was held regarding where the funds generated by the sale would be placed. Keith Newton will help the Fire Chief with the ad for surplus equipment.
4. At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to enter into Executive Session for a Union Grievance Hearing per MGL Chap. 39, Sec. 23B, numbers 2 & 3. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Ms. Alger, yes; Mr. West, yes; and Mr. Kellner, yes. At 7:40 p.m., the regular meeting was reconvened.
5. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) The Board has received a request from Richard Highland for rental of both floors of the Town Hall on the evening of 6/24/06 for an acoustic musical jam. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the request and to charge the regular fee of \$75. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
6. Department Head Reports:
 - a) DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton reported that documents for rebids on Diesel Fuel, Heating Oil, LP Gas, and Grounds Maintenance are ready to go out. The bid opening date will be 6/20/06.
 - 2) Mr. Newton has received a letter from David Blie from the Mass. Highway District 2 Office stating that he now has good clear standards for the Route 32 project and that the meeting held recently has given him a better understanding of what kind of roadwork needs to be done.
 - 3) Mr. Newton will be out of town from 5/21-5/28/06, at which time Robin Mowrey will be in charge.
 - 4) Projects in line for completion include asphaltting the section of School Street previously under construction and also the beginning portion of Phillipston Road.
 - b) Police Department –
 - 1) Chief Deveneau presented a letter of disclosure to the Board stating that he may have to issue permits for firearms to family, friends, etc. from time to time. Mr. Kellner made a motion to endorse this disclosure. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
 - 2) Chief Deveneau continues to investigate the recent incident at the water tank.
 - 3) Discussion was held regarding issues at the recent election regarding posting of signs. Chief Deveneau requested that no signs be placed on the front lawn of the Town Hall during elections. The Board will request ask that political signs be posted on the side of the road opposite the Town Hall to eliminate the public safety issue, as recommended by the police chief.
 - 4) John Chencherik, Constable, asked questions relating to his duties as dictated by state law. After some discussion, Chief Deveneau stated that he would research getting ID's and badges for constables. He also said that the present

policy is that if there is a problem during an election, the constable should call dispatch and ask for assistance from the local or state police.

7. Old Business -

- a) Toney Road Extension – Mr. West stated that this item had been tabled at the annual town meeting because the Board must file papers with the Town Clerk for road acceptance. He will contact the Monette's and get a plan to present to the Town Clerk as the town's intention to accept the road.
- b) Grounds Maintenance Specs – Ms. Alger has updated the specs and they are now more detailed. Mr. Kellner made a motion to adopt the new specs and to go out to bid. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- c) Streetlights – Mr. West reported that he called Templeton Municipal Light and they are very interested in a maintenance contract with the town of Royalston. It would be new to them and would have to be approved by their commissioners. National Grid has requested an official letter from the town. George Woodbury has asked National Grid for the latest depreciation figures.
- d) Internet Service – Mr. West gave a report on a meeting he had recently with the consultants who are working on more efficient Internet service for the town.
- e) 24-Hour Dispatch Committee – Mr. Kellner reported on the committee's last meeting. The switchover for the town's dispatching service will be done a few days before July 1. A discussion was held regarding radio frequencies, the police department's radio situation, and the emergency telephone at Doane's Falls. Chief Deveneau will check to see how the Doane's Falls phone is set up.

8. Building Inspector –

- a) Geoff Newton asked about the status of a new computer for his office, as the funds were not appropriated at town meeting. He must use software with certain requirements that his current computer does not have. He will forward this pertinent information to Mr. West.
- b) Mr. Newton stated that permits for alcohol in town buildings must be approved by the Fire Chief and Building Inspector. Also, there are regulations on occupancy, access for emergency vehicles, etc. when large groups of people are involved. He will prepare a list of important items relating to this issue for the Board.
- c) Mr. Newton reported that the Building Department, in conjunction with the police chief and the Board of Health, has sent out letters to residents who have trash and junk stored on their property. They will meet with these people on 6/14/06 in 15 minute intervals to set up plans for clean up.
- d) Mr. Newton plans to summons the owners of 1 School Street to court in hopes that a judge will order them to demolish the building.

9. Meeting Schedule – Ms. Alger made a motion to adjust the Board's meeting schedule for July & August as follows: July 11 & 18, and August 8 and 22. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Notification of this change will be posted and also printed in the newsletter.

10. At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to enter into Executive Session for contract negotiation with non-union personnel, per MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, number 3. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. West; yes. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:53 p.m.

11. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

12. At 9:58 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.