

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Dog Hearing – Mr. West opened the Dog Hearing at 7:06 p.m. Chris McNamara, the dog owner, Leonard and Louise Deschenes and their daughter, who was the dog bite victim, were all sworn in as witnesses. Ms. Deschenes stated that she was walking by the McNamara home on 7/10/06 when a dog bit her, then went back at her a second time. A woman called the dog, and then walked away. Ms. Deschenes called 911 and her mother for assistance. Mr. McNamara stated that his wife did not know that the dog had bitten Ms. Deschenes. He said that the dogs are now kept tied up or inside at all times except at around 10 p.m. when they are allowed to run for a short time. After some discussion, the Board determined that the McNamara's dogs must be physically restrained on a leash, lead, or by a fence or kept indoors at all times. If this does not happen, fines could be issued and further action may be taken. The McNamara's will be sent formal notification of this decision. Mr. West closed the dog hearing at 7:21 p.m.
3. The minutes of the 7/18/06 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
4. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Kellner made a motion to sign the insurance paperwork as noted by Mr. West. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - b) Ms. Alger made a motion to adopt a resolution as recommended for the lease/purchase of the grader. Mr. Kellner seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - c) Mr. Kellner reported that he signed off on advertisements for bid proposals for painting of the Town Hall and roofing Station 2.
 - d) Ms. Alger met with TMC Property Maintenance regarding the Grounds Maintenance contract. She stated that an error was made in the contract regarding the mowing schedule for cemeteries, which will need to be rectified next year.
 - e) The Board received a letter of complaint regarding the condition of Route 32. Ms. Alger will respond to this letter on behalf of the Board.
5. Department Head Reports:
 - a) Fire Department –
 - 1) Chief Wayne Newton read a report of his activities for the months of June and July (copy attached).
 - 2) Ms. Alger made a motion to appoint James Barclay, James Draper and Robert Newton as firefighters for one year. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - 3) Discussion was held regarding NIMS certification. Mr. West will send out a memo to all department heads asking that they send a list of certificate holders within their departments to Chief Newton.
 - b) DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton reported that the wellhead extension project at the Village School has been completed. Three water quality tests will be done in August

- and results will be sent to DEP. The installation of the filtration system will be completed at a later date.
- 2) Discussion was held regarding damage done to the wellhead near the church, which was repaired by the DPW. Mr. Newton will provide amounts of the cost of materials to Mr. West. The Board felt that the church should refund the town for materials. Skyline Engineering admits responsibility for the damage. Ms. Alger will get information from Mr. Newton and will write a letter to Skyline Engineering.
 - 3) Mr. Newton reported that he reviewed the roof at the Village School. There was deterioration to the trim boards and flashing, which has since been corrected. The roof is in good condition for its age.
 - 4) Brush cutting continues along Main, King and Blossom Streets along the river.
 - 5) Calcium treatment to gravel roadways will be completed next week.
 - 6) Mr. Newton will meet with Rich Masse and David Blie from Mass. Highway regarding Route 32. The projected meeting date is 8/10/06.
 - 7) Delivery of the ten-wheeler is scheduled for tomorrow morning.
6. Conflict of Interest Issues: Mr. West has researched the law and stated that there are many different aspects to it. He reviewed the Special Municipal Employee designation, which states certain positions are automatically designated. Other positions may be designated by a vote of the Board of Selectmen and remain in the Special Municipal Employee status unless rescinded. Special incidents of nepotism are allowable on a case-by-case basis. Keith Newton stated that all DPW employees hold additional positions within the town. Mr. Kellner made a motion to designate the position of Deputy Fire Chief, currently held by Keith Newton, as a Special Municipal Employee and to approve an exemption. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Fire Chief Newton will provide an official letter regarding this exemption. Mr. West will determine what other positions require this special status and send out letters to applicable department heads.
7. At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation against the town. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Ms. Alger, yes; Mr. West, yes; and Mr. Kellner, yes. The regular meeting will reconvene to sign the Treasury Warrant only.
8. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:42 p.m.
9. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
10. At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

