

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday, February 6, 2007  
7:00 p.m.**

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

1. Mr. West called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 1/16/07 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) The Board is in receipt of a letter from Skyline Engineering stating that he would not accept full responsibility for the wellhead damage. Ms. Alger will contact Skyline and the church to discuss arrangements for payment to the town.
  - b) DEP sent a letter to the Board regarding the wellhead at the Village School. The letter states that the filter system was completed in accordance with the design and that the water is drinkable and may be used for other potable purposes. No other action is required.
  - c) Gary Winitzer has requested approval to display signs and advertising matter in town and provided the \$5 permit fee. Ms. Alger moved to approve this request. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
  - d) Correspondence from the Census Bureau has been received. The letter requests that the town establish a census coordinator. Mr. Kellner made a motion that the town clerk be noted as the official census coordinator. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to contact Glenn Eaton at MRPC regarding pursuing grants for the demolition of 1 School Street. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner will communicate with Mr. Eaton.
4. Department Heads Reports:
  - a) Police Department –
    - 1) Chief Deveneau reported that the court date for the tree issue is 2/13/07. He will contact the other party's attorney to suggest that a meeting be scheduled before the court date to discuss a possible agreement.
    - 2) Mr. West requested that Chief Deveneau check with the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, as well as MEMA and FEMA regarding ID's for town employees.
    - 3) There has been more testing on the radio system. A receiving antenna was placed inside the cupola of the Town Hall and another at the edge of the building, which seemed to allow everything to work better on the low band system. Chief Deveneau will file an application with the Historic District Commission to request permission for placement of the antenna on a permanent basis. Discussion was held regarding a recent meeting of the 24 Hour Dispatch Committee and other radio issues.
    - 4) Police Inservice will be held in Petersham in mid-March.
    - 5) Mr. Kellner requested that the Chief provide the Board with a listing of police activity on a regular basis.

5. Applications for Treasurer Position: Mr. West reported that eight applications have been submitted. Brenda Putney is continuing to work in the position until it is filled. After a review of the applications, three candidates were chosen for an interview: Sally Zettel, Becky Divoll, and Dana Robinson. The Board interviewed Sally Zettel, who was present at the meeting. Interviews with the other two candidates will be scheduled for the next meeting.
6. Village School Lease: Risa Richardson was present to speak about the Village School lease. She stated that they have had a lot of expenses with the roof and the water system. She presented the Board with a list of building expenses for the past school year and this year so far. The Board will get similar figures from Keith Newton on expenses that the town has incurred. The rent is currently \$1,250 per month. Mr. Kellner stated that when negotiating a new lease, the town should evaluate how useful it is to have someone in the building and having families and children coming into town. She reported that work is being done on the former Camp Caravan property in preparation for adult education and summer programs. Due to the cost, they plan to do work on a new school in phases; the first phase being clearing land and preparing driveways and a foundation.
7. At 8:45 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to go to Executive Session per MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, 2) To consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual. The regular meeting will reconvene to sign the Treasury Warrant. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. West, yes; Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. Kellner, yes. Fire Chief Wayne Newton then requested that the meeting be held in open session. Several fire chiefs from the local area accompanied Mr. Newton. The meeting began by reading the list of incidents or issues that were brought forth in the letter sent to Mr. Newton by the Board. Mr. Newton responded to each incident or issue in detail and responded to questions from the Board. Several chiefs gave comments or provided information taken from their experience in the position. Mr. Kellner said that the show of confidence by Mr. Newton's fellow chiefs was duly noted. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Alger moved that no disciplinary action would be taken at this time and that an action plan will be developed between the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Chief. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
8. The Treasury warrant was signed. DHCD grant documents were also signed.
9. At 11:37 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.