

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, October 2, 2007  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Linda Alger, Chairperson; Jon Hardie, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 9/18/07 meeting were read. Mr. West moved to approve the minutes as read. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Mr. West moved to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Friday, 10/19/07 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
4. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) The Board is in receipt of a copy of the bid specs for turnout gear for the Fire Department. The bids will be opened on 10/10/07.
  - b) Ms. Alger reported that she signed two grant applications recently.
  - c) The Town has been awarded a Community Policing Grant.
  - d) The Town has received a gift of \$3000 from an anonymous donor to be used for the upgrading and maintenance of Riverside Cemetery. Discussion was held regarding how to utilize the money, including erecting new signs at both entrances, and loaming and leveling the area. Keith Newton has researched the matter and feels that the loaming and leveling can be done in-house. Ms. Alger has spoken with town counsel, who stated that the Board could accept the gift and deposit it in the Treasury with a notation of what it is for. Mr. West moved to accept \$3000 for restricted use of Riverside Cemetery and that those funds be discharged according to a plan to be agreed upon by the donors and the town. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ms. Alger will write a note of thanks to the donor.
  - e) Appointment slips were signed for Joseph Hartley for a 60 day appointment to the Fire Department, Chris Fitzpatrick to the Fire Department, and Jon Chencherik, James Barclay, and Bill Cutting as at-large members of the Building Committee.
  - f) Mr. Hardie moved to pay a bill from Kopelman & Paige in the amount of \$235.56. Mr. West seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
5. Department Heads Reports:
  - a) DPW –
    - 1) Keith Newton reported that he received correspondence from the Town Accountant regarding a significant increase in his telephone bill. After researching the issue with Infohighway and the radio technician, he found that there is a problem with the dedicated line for radio communication between the DPW and Fire Department where ring voltage was applied to the automatic dialers. Mr. West felt that Verizon should have passed on information about this radio system to Infohighway. He will work on getting the situation corrected. Mr. Hardie will look at Mr. Newton's computer, which is not able to get online.
    - 2) Mr. Newton reported on a water problem at Whitney Hall. Approximately four weeks ago, after heavy rain, there was 1-1/2" of water on the basement floor. The DPW took care of the water, but dirt was brought in also, which is all over the floor. He spoke to our insurance rep, but the town does not have flood insurance. He suggested that the custodian be asked to clean up the floor. Mr. West recommended the purchase of a commercial dehumidifier. Mr. Hardie

expressed concern about health issues due to the smell coming from the basement. He suggested getting the Board of Health in to inspect the area, as there could be a bacterial issue. Mr. Newton will speak to Phil Leger tomorrow.

- 3) Bliss Hill Road paving from the Warwick/Royalston line 6000' by the Gale Gate Cemetery is scheduled for 10/11/07.
  - 4) The over-the-rail mower will be in town next week.
  - 5) The Route 32 Committee met with Mass. Highway. They drove from Tully Dam north and stopped at strategic stations, discussed proposals, and got input. Mr. West stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the plan for the road width. The goal of the Footprint funding is to provide improvement to the roadway, but also to provide areas for foot and bike traffic. Mr. West is organizing a public information session for a date in October with the Engineering firm to give an overview of the plan, answer questions, and get public input.
6. Old Business:
- a) Whitney Hall Copier – Mr. West provided further details regarding pricing for the copier, which would include all maintenance, toner and parts. Mr. Hardie stated that pricing for copiers has changed recently. He will provide more information to Mr. West.
7. Closing of STM Warrant: The Board reviewed four articles for the STM warrant. Mr. West made a motion to put all four articles on the STM warrant in the order as discussed. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West moved to close the STM warrant. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
8. Tree Warden Position: Keith Newton asked that the Board discuss options for this vacant position, as there are active issues. After some discussion, Mr. Hardie moved to grant Keith Newton authority to act at the Tree Warden on a temporary basis. Mr. West seconded, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
9. At 9:12 p.m., Mr. West moved to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy regarding possible litigation and to reconvene the regular meeting to sign the Treasury Warrant only. Mr. Hardie seconded. The vote was Mr. West, yes; Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. Hardie, yes.
10. The regular meeting was reconvened at 9:56 p.m.
11. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
12. Mr. Hardie moved to adjourn at 10:11 p.m. Mr. West seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

**Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen on October 16, 2007.**