

WORK SESSION

June 13, 2018

A joint work session was held with the Town of Royalton on June 13, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM. The town board of the Town of Hartland held a brief meeting prior to the joint meeting.

Those present were:

Supervisor Ross Annable, Councilmen; Reed, Grant, Huntington and Hill.

Items discussed were as follows;

Discussion on the final details of the installation of the splash pad at the town park.

Supervisor Annable requested that the board enter into an Executive Session to discuss the proposed purchase of real property.

RESOLUTION 58-2018

MOTION by Councilman Huntington, seconded by Councilman Grant to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 PM

RESOLUTION 59-2018

MOTION by Councilman Huntington, seconded by Councilman Grant to return to Regular Session at 6:10 PM

Ayes: Annable, Reed, Grant, Huntington, Hill Nays: 0

The Town Board returned to regular session with no decisions to be recorded.

Supervisor Annable announced that the Town has received \$200,000.00 from Senator Ortt for a new court facility. The new building is planned to be built behind the current town hall, with a hallway to connect the 2 buildings.

Joint Session with the Town of Royalton commenced at 6:30 PM

Those attending from the Town of Royalton were: Supervisor Dan Bragg, Highway Superintendent Jim Sparks, Councilmen; Lee Criswell and Josh Walker.

The meeting was called to discuss the weight limits on Town roads and the laws that can be set in place to enforce those limits.

Hartland Highway Superintendent, Keith Hurtgam had recently attended a meeting in Cornell at which he participated in a 2 hour presentation on the Infrastructure Preservation Law and Frost Law. The Infrastructure Law allows municipalities to set limits to all roads in their town. The Frost Law gives a timeline for the frost levels and usage on the roads, seasonally.

Part of the law states that there needs to be signage on all roads, however, 10 ton signs should not be up all year round.

Royalton Highway Superintendent, Jim Sparks stated that the signs in Royalton have been in place since 1975.

Hurtgam stated that the County roads are not being fixed and need attention; he would like to see both Towns to have a coordinated Infrastructure Preservation Law. This would allow for the option of enforcement of those agricultural equipment as well as large trucking companies on Town roads.

Supervisor Dan Bragg asked for clarification of the Frost Law, are there set times or is it an online service that depends on conditions?

Hurtgam stated that it is an online service which could be available to all large vehicles.

Councilman Walker asked about the trucks used during the construction of new homes. Hurtgam replied that the same would apply.

Councilmen Walker and Criswell both commented that this would halt construction during the frost season and be an inconvenience. This is a lot to ask of people.

Hurtgam stated that this will be the law and they have to abide by it.

Sparks asked about a local delivery law which states that if a local road is posted, the driver is directed to a County or State Road. Question as to whether this is legal to do so.

Councilman Grant stated that the truck routes won't help the Verratti Farms because their main problem is the weight restrictions on the bridge on Slayton Settlement Road.

Bragg said that the pressure should be on the County to repair the bridge to accommodate the weight limits. There are grants that the County could apply for to help with the cost, that would take time and there needs to be an immediate solution.

Annable said that he had spoken with Legislator Mike Hill about the bridge and was told that it would take some time to resolve the problem. They agreed with Hurtgam that an engineer needs to determine if the bridge is insufficient, then the posting could be removed.

Bragg stated that the frost law will impose some problems for the farmers since they have protocol to follow with the lagoons. When the lagoon is full, it must be moved however, they can only move to certain fields at certain times, etc. due to wind and temperatures.

Sparks commented that Oakfield had a large problem recently with the DEC due to runoffs of the fields when the conditions were not right.

Councilman Criswell asked what the limits when under the Frost law are; farmers must be able to travel.

Sparks stated that Royalton has exemptions from the limits for local delivery. This will not be an easy law.

Criswell also stated that snow plows and school buses will exceed the limits during the seasons as well.

Hurtgam stated that the garbage trucks have caused damage to the edges of the roads, however, they only use them once a week, and the farmers are traveling 50 times a day.

Annable said that it is the constant heavy loads that are the issue.

Hurtgam also stated that after the meeting with Verratti's, they found a way to eliminate the constant travel with the large equipment, so this proves that it can be done.

Councilman Hill asked what is the time frame for the frost law?

Hurtgam explained that it is different each year; there were 4 different times this past year and they lasted for 2 weeks each time. Another option would be to just declare November 1 through May 1.

Criswell asked why can't the farmers keep track of the frost limits?

Bragg stated that he liked the fact that the farmers could have a direct path and keep track for themselves.

Sparks said that if all the roads had to be posted with the limits, the cost would be great. The Town of Royalton could repair their section of Root Road for Verattis, however, that would not help Hartland.

Hurtgam said that it is not right to repair just for one farmer.

Bragg stated that maybe the farmer should pay for the repairs.

Sparks stated that the County needs to fix the bridge and they are not being cooperative.

Annable said they the pressure needs to be kept on the County Legislature to speed the issue up.

Councilman Grant asked about encouraging the farmers to build more lagoons, so that the loads would less.

Hurtgam said that it is a circle, when milk prices are low, you buy more cows to produce more milk, and then there is need for more lagoons.

Sparks asked if there was grant monies for the farmers to install pipes to run the manure. Farms are so much larger than 10 years ago. The Towns should stay ahead of the problem and need to have an infrastructure law in place.

Councilman Walker stated that farmers, especially small farmers cannot just buy new equipment to update due to the restrictions, this will hurt their business.

Councilman Criswell and Superintendent Hurtgam agreed that the frost law should be enacted, so that there would be a means to enforce the weight and inspection limits.

Annable stated that we have roads to maintain and that is the bottom line, if we have to send an officer to school to train them on how to enforce this law, then that is what we will do.

Hurtgam would like the person who put on the presentation at Cornell to come and talk to the 2 boards.

Grant said that this applies to all truckers, not just the farmers.

Criswell asked if we use the frost law, then will we need signage and bonding?

Supervisor Bragg suggested that there should be a meeting with Senator Ortt, Legislators Hill and Syracuse. The bridge issue needs to be resolved. Perhaps there needs to be a limit in the amount of trips per day and encourage the installation of piping.

Councilman Grant stated that the CEO, Michael Hartman should also make all contractors aware of the frost law when applying for a building permit.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia S. Boyler, RMC

Hartland Town Clerk

