

**Town of Franklin
Town Meeting
March 4, 2014
Franklin Central School**

Town Clerk, Lisa A. Larivee declared the polls open at 10:00 a.m. for the Australian Balloting of the MVU High School #7 budget & school directors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done by Eric Bushey, active military personnel.

RULES- All questions, comments, etc are to be directed to the moderator; stick to the subject, no personal attacks, let's remain civil to one another; unregistered voters may talk with the moderator and group's permission, all unregistered voters were acknowledged by an orange sticker. Meeting follows Roberts Rules unless otherwise stated.

Moderator Timothy Magnant called the Franklin School District & Town Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

George Godin motion made to recess out of the Town's Meeting. All in favor, motion passed.

School meeting started.

Article 1-To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

Jean Richard nominated Tim Magnant. Nominations' closed; clerk cast one ballot. All in favor, Tim elected moderator for the ensuing year.

Article 2-To act upon the reports of the school directors.

***Superintendent, Principal, School Director**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept reports as written. All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Cross-Roads After School Program**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept reports as written. All in favor, reports passed as written.

***FNWSU Treasurer, Agency Funds & Combined balance sheet and Franklin Treasurer's report & roof renovation project**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept reports as written. Kim Gates-Maynard questioned on the roof renovation project, what was the total that was spent on the roof and what is the intent with the remaining funds in that account?

Becky Hart advised \$15,834 designated at the 2013 Town meeting was moved to a capital reserve fund and was used on sidewalk project out front of the school; there is no remaining balance in that account.

Vote taken, all in favor, reports passed as written.

Article 3-Will the voters of the Franklin Town School District appropriate \$1,683,860 necessary for the support of the Franklin Elementary School for the school year beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve \$1,683,860 necessary for the support of the Franklin Elementary School for the school year beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Hugh Gates questioned if there were any hidden items in the budget or is it operational costs as in the past? David Rood responded business as usual, day in & day out operations for the school. There is just the separate article for the lights.

Voice vote taken on budget of \$1,683,860, all in favor, motion passed.

Article 4-Will the voters of the Franklin Town School District appropriate an amount up to \$30,000, less any applicable grants and/or rebates from Efficiency VT, for the purpose of upgrading lighting both in the school building and parking lot, including replacement of the broken light pole, to enhance energy efficiency and savings?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve an amount up to \$30,000, less any applicable grants and/or rebates from Efficiency VT, for the purpose of upgrading lighting

both in the school building and parking lot, including replacement of the broken light pole, to enhance energy efficiency and savings.

Cecil King questioned if anyone had done a study to see what the savings would be. Robert Berger, school board, stated that has been done and there is a flyer on the back table with all the details. Robert Berger explained the savings with a 4.4 year payback on investment and a 20 year life of the new bulbs.

Marilyn Hackett questioned 1-quality of the lighting change? 2-how did the pole get broken?

Robert Berger stated the lighting will be an improvement over what is currently installed in the gym, longer life expectancy of the bulbs and will cut costs when have to replace them and rent a lift. Light pole rusted out over time due to weather.

George Godin asks with \$30,000 less savings from grants, etc. any plan 1- what will be received from VT efficiency 2-what will be done with it?

Robert Berger advised \$6700 is expected from Efficiency VT and will be applied to reduce the cost of the project.

Hugh Gates asks over 20 years that lights have been at the school, what has been paid to Efficiency VT over that time with the surcharge on the monthly electric bills.

Robert Berger stated that have paid nothing.

Hugh Gates stated there should be a surcharge on the schools monthly bill, he takes it that the answer is NO then, no research has been done.

Marilyn Hackett-fluorescent lights and computers don't mix; hurt people's eyes.

Robert Berger-color factor of the LED is closer to natural light; this article only affects the outdoor lighting and the gym, should not affect kids & the computers.

Voice vote taken, majority in favor, motion passed.

Article 5-To elect one Franklin School Director for a term of three (3) years.

Pierrette Bouchard/ Ed Rainville nominated Tim Magnant.

Sue Clark moved to closed nominations.

Marilyn Hackett questioned how Tim Magnant could be moderator & school board all at the same time at Town meeting and be objective.

David Rood stated that during the meeting Tim Magnant does not speak on behalf of the school board, if that was the case another moderator would be elected and then Tim Magnant would speak.

All in favor, Tim Magnant elected to Franklin School Director for a term of three (3) years.

Article 6-Will the voters of the Franklin Town School District authorize the school directors to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion authorizing the school directors to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose. All in favor, motion passed.

Article 7-To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted; considered appropriate and necessary when met.

Kim Gates-Maynard did not go over FNWSU reports on 57, 58, 59; Support staff up, Professional services up last 2 years, Supplies up \$20,000 this year, Revenues down \$40,000.

Becky Hart-request for additional support with personnel/employee issues, would be a part time position. Update old accounting software, will assist all schools in supervisory union

Professional services-legal services, other services that have to be contracted out of the office.

Daniel Larivee-always adding more help, couldn't employees be shared instead of adding more positions? Becky Hart-FNWSU office has not added new staff for years, the cost is shared across the supervisory union.

Cecil King questioned what has been done with the food program for the children; GMO, gluten, organic. Joyce Hakey-hot lunch program does an outstanding job, follows all the guidelines of the federal government and food that kids still want to eat.

Andy Rainville page 58 school psychologists, never had such a thing when he was in school, is that for MVU or just Franklin? Joyce Hakey-these reports are for the entire FNWSU.

Andy Rainville wanted to know how much of that number was for Franklin. Joyce Hakey stated the psychologist is 2 days per week at \$22,000 for the year. She has a full case load and also does the Special Education evaluations so school does not have to contract out.

Richard Mercy thanked school for great education that kids are getting.

Ed Rainville-FNWSU- Gov Shumlin wants to reduce number of supervisory unions across the state, need to be aware of cost drivers affecting our town. Budgets are going up significantly, need to be aware of and question it.

Sue Clark stated that her granddaughter attends Franklin and has celiac disease and has been accommodated so well, Carolyn Bushey does an amazing job with the hot lunch program.

Jonathon Gates-Gov Shumlin's ideas create more expenses and responsibility at the FNWSU level, shifting from the local school, trying to make them change way things are currently done; Franklin has the lowest cost per student with some of the best results in the state.

Marilyn Hackett works for a school system, all program leaders go through criminal records processing through their central office.

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to close school meeting. All in favor, meeting closed at 10:48.

Bryant Reynolds advised that one week from Wednesday, March 12 the town was charted 225 years ago.

CLOSE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND ENTER REGULAR TOWN MEETING

Town meeting entered at 10:56 a.m.

Article 8-To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing nominated Tim Magnant. Gilbert Dewing ceases nominations. All in favor, Tim Magnant elected as moderator.

Article 9-To elect a Town Treasurer for a three-year term.

Johanna Godin/Jean Richard nominated Lisa Larivee. Andy Rainville ceases nominations. All in favor, Lisa Larivee elected as Town Treasurer.

Article 10-To receive and act upon the reports of the several town officers.

*** Auditors**

George Godin/Sue Clark made motion to approve Auditors report as written. All in favor, motion passed.

***Select board, Road Commissioner, paving progress report & road maintenance**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Selectboard, Road Commissioner, paving progress report and road maintenance reports.

Gilbert Dewing believes that important information has been left out of this report in regards to past selectboard meetings and private camp roads discussion. Quoted minutes from past board meetings about private camp roads and spoke about lake property & roads. 31% of town taxes come from lakeshore property, most are nonresidential properties for land only, not buildings; issue not put in the warning as requested; letter recorded in the Franklin Land records giving the Town permission to work on private roads by people signed on the letter; remove docks from Lake Carmi-letter sent by Zoning Administrator on the request of the Selectboard.

Campers asks for grading & gravel a couple times of year; they're not on check list, can't speak at town meeting, town doesn't want to repair the roads-town should be more accommodating to these tax payers,

Kim Gates-Maynard questioned road commissioner's report, comment about doing brine on the roads vs. salt; where would it be stored and what is the status of the master plan, is there a design review process for the intersection at the end of town?

Andy Godin-brine would require an outside tank at the garage to store it, always on hand and would be supplied by St. Albans Town; master plan has not been worked on as there is more grading and landscaping to be done.

Kim Gates-Maynard requesting a public meeting on the intersection design of Rte 120/Morses Line Rd.

Peter Magnant-plan has been designed by VTrans; plans are at the office for the public to review. Meeting can be arranged before work is to be done, not a significant amount of work to be done, would be more of a T intersection.

Susan Clark do we have the equipment to apply brine? What would be the expense to have that?

Peter Magnant stated we are working on getting a grant through Northwest Regional Planning to purchase the needed equipment, not in the budget as a plan to do.

Aaron Porter would like to know what the selectboard's response is on what Mr. Dewing had to say.

Peter Magnant states at the August 2013 selectboard meeting they learned that work was being done to camp roads without selectboard knowledge; grading they knew about but not work and gravel, campers were going directly to the highway dept. to make requests. The selectboard should be aware of all work & expenses being done. Selectboard sought out legal advice, all were unified that the Town should not be working on private property; gov't entities should not be competing with local business as town could be taking work away from private industries, undercutting people that would want to be getting that business.

Selectboard made the decision that the Town would no longer work on private roads; roads are not to the Town's standards, Town equipment is much too large for most of the roads. Selectboard understands the campers concerns; the selectboard was going to put an article on the warning for \$5800 to support the LCCA for road maintenance, LCCA declined due to the same liability issue. 501C entities are eligible to receive Better Back Roads grant funding to help with road work that LCCA could apply for.

Johanna Godin-how many camp roads was the town taking care of? Peter stated he is not sure on the number but it was not all of them. Who was taking care of roads if Town was not?

Kyle stated James Mullen was taking care of his own road by a fee from campers and Blackwood's has an association to maintain its road.

Bob Berger asks about the intersection at the north end of Town; plan on addressing traffic coming from Lake Road into Town.

Andy Godin addressed the question, more questions will be asked of the VTrans engineer about Lake Road traffic onto Morses Line Road.

Peter Magnant stated the idea is to come to a T from Morses Line Road

George Godin would a circle or round-about be an option? Peter Magnant stated due to lack of traffic and elevation not a viable option; when not a lot of traffic study shows people just cut straight through and do not use circle as intended.

Marilyn Hackett stated that a design with four corners and all directions stopping is what would work best to prevent more accidents.

Polly Gadbois LCCA is not currently a 501C.

Tim Abbott-property owner, not just camper; lot of tax money there. Disappointed in selectboard, challenging them again in public; are all roads up to certification/standards in this town that are being cared for?

Peter Magnant stated all roads that are taken care of by the Town are Class 3 or above.

Sue Clark states she spent her youth at Lake Carmi and had been the Town Clerk for many years. As a camp owner on Patton Shore they collected money from all campers to maintain roads. An agreement in 1970's at Town meeting was made to grade all roads and put some gravel. Not a great practice, as anyone could request work to be done on their private road/driveways; lawsuits to follow against the town for such practice. The selectboard is looking at the best legal interest of the town.

Peter Magnant states past history was left at the selectboard's discretion.

Kyle Lothian states that campers get a bad shake and have to look at the best interest of everyone. The \$5800 amount was figured based on services & supplies that they were already getting on roads. One LCCA member was in direct contact with the highway dept whenever his road needed work. The Town cannot hire the contractor; we suggested giving money to LCCA to hire the work done and take care of it. LCCA denied the idea. The days of the wink & nod are gone, too much liability. Feels that the issue should still be thoroughly discussed.

Hugh Gates thanked board for addressing the issue; raises issue on lawsuit re: intersection of Beaver Meadow and Browns Corner Road. Peter Magnant stated insurance company (VLCT) is handling.

Jay Denault questioned what it would cost to make these private roads Town Roads?

Kyle Lothian stated in order to make them Town Roads they would need to be a 3 rd road, not wide enough now for 2 cars to meet; easements were looked into, numerous things were looked at and the selectboard tried to resolve with what would work for everyone. Landowners would also have to sign over their land to the Town. Peter Magnant stated landowners do not want to widen roads, creates more speed issues too.

Jean Richard could there be an Australian ballot vote on the roads with the water district vote? What will the water district merger with the Town have for an effect on the budget?

Peter Magnant stated that Franklin Fire District #1 voted to dissolve; in turn the Town would have to take over as a municipal water district. The water district informed the selectboard that the State was pressuring them to make many changes. Rates for the water users may need to be increased to cover the cost of new equipment, clerk, assistant, and water maintenance person. Still at the beginning stages of merger, there will be 2 informational meetings prior to the merger.

Andy Rainville brought up the north end of Town intersection and questioned how many accidents have there been there in the past 20 years?

Peter Magnant stated VTrans sees it as a safety issue as well as many Towns people.

Gerald Gates stated there is a lot of runoff from that intersection (from Lake Road down Main Street) runs right towards his house and he had to do work on his basement because of all the water.

Vote taken, all in favor. Reports passed as written.

***Planning Commission and health officer & cemetery commissioners**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept Planning Commission, health officer and cemetery commissioner's reports. All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Zoning administrator & Zoning Board of Adjustment**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept Zoning Administrator and Zoning Board of Adjustment reports. All in favor, reports passed as written.

*** E-911 Coordinator & Emergency Management Coordinator**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept E-911 Coordinator and Emergency Management Coordinator reports. All in favor, reports passed as written.

Lucille Rainville questioned the removal or change of 911 addresses. Sara Rainville stated that it's due to 911 requirements and all changes should be updated with the state, so if you remove a building the Town should be notified.

Cecil King questioned duplex addresses. Sara stated should be an apt or unit number with the same street number. Judith McLaughlin stated it also has to do with the Census Bureau.

All in favor, reports passed are written.

***Franklin Homestead & VT Community Development Block Grant**

Sue Clark/Polly Gadbois made motion to approve Franklin Homestead & VT Community Development Block Grant reports. Kim Gates-Maynard wanted clarification on the no payments were made, were no payments due? Wants it noted for future. Lisa Larivee stated her understanding that if there is no profit then no payments are due; will make note for next year's report.

Marilyn Hackett questioned the numbers and terms in the report. Lisa Larivee states it was not town money originally, was a grant that filtered through the town, not sure what happens after the 30 years. Jean Richard stated will have to dig to find out more information, need to show significant profit in reserve and currently do not. Marilyn Hackett questioned if at the end of the 30 years does the town have to pay it back? The Town will look into it.

Vote taken, all in favor, reports passed as written.

Jean Richard/Imogene Rainville made motion to recess for lunch. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m.

Tim welcomed State Representatives Chuck Pearce and Steve Beyor to speak.

Chuck Pearce discussed committee work as well as education and transportation budget funding.

Steve Beyor discussed local school boards & budgets. Approached the State about keeping Lake Carmi State Park open later in the fall, seems to have gone over well and will be done; shoreline bill-his vote would be NO as the bill stands now, there will be no local control with the Senate version of the bill. The town level knows best what is going on around their water ways. Don't have to create a bill to create a plan, tell EPA that. State would have better ways to protect the water at the state level than having the EPA do it. Local control better then federal govt. Fish & Wildlife board-deer herd population control, season lengths according to statue.

Chuck Pearce & Steve Beyor answered questions the public had.

Meeting re-entered at 1:17 p.m.

***Lake Carmi Campers Association and Franklin Historical Society**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept Lake Carmi Campers Association and Franklin Historical Society reports as written.

Greg Bouchard questioned the weevils that were released into the lake and their status. Polly Gadbois states 5 big fish tanks of weevils were raised during the summer, they were released where milfoil reached the surface at south end of the lake; she does not know the status of them currently.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Watershed Committee report & financial report**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Watershed Committee report & financial reports as written. All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Haston Library trustees report, Haston Library combined report, Haston Library & Eben Racine memorial funds and Haston Library window refurbishment funds**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept the Haston Library trustees report, Haston Library combined report, Haston Library & Eben Racine memorial funds and Haston Library window refurbishment funds as written.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Comparative balance sheet and treasurer's report**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to accept Comparative balance sheet and treasurer's report.

Kim Gates-Maynard-1-ending cash balance is up to \$115,000 in 2013 from 2012, why?

Lisa Larivee-reserves make up \$99,000+ of that number

Kim Gates-Maynard-computerization line & surcharge/restorations

Lisa Larivee- funds come from recording fees on things that are recorded in the land records; computerization, up keep of records, preserving items in the vault.

Hugh Gates questioned if the recreations funds should also be included in the reserves as they are assets?

Lisa Larivee said for now yes, they are income but the hope is to turn that over to the school for after school programs or other activities.

Hugh questioned if the \$100,000 loan on the sand shed has been paid off? It's a liability that should be shown.

Lisa Larivee stated no it has not been paid off, we can add it for next years.

Judith McLaughlin questioned the accuracy of the Town report if that was excluded.

Lisa Larivee stated it was an oversight, not done on purpose.

Hugh questioned the payment to Community National Bank for \$110,000. Lisa Larivee stated that was a loan in anticipation of taxes.

Jean Richard stated it was an oversight not putting the balance of the sand shed loan on the balance sheet. The first payment of \$23,539 was raised in the 2013 year in taxes, the balance of the loan is \$86,500 as reflected in the treasurer's report on page 32 under Art#14Sand Shed note.

Kim Gates-Maynard asks of the interest rate on \$86,500, why didn't we borrow from our reserves/cash on hand to pay? Something to consider for the future.

Peter Magnant stated they were concerned about running out of money sooner than later. Michelle also stated that some reserves cannot be used, ie Franklin Rescue Service.

Vote taken, all in favor, reports passed as written.

***Delinquent tax report**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve delinquent tax report. All in favor, report passed as written.

*** Equipment fund & dog report and recreation department**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Equipment fund, dog report and recreation department reports.

Kim Gates-Maynard would like to know who oversees the recreational money and what the input is from the community on this department.

Lisa Larivee stated that in the past the recreation department was run by private citizens/group, nothing had been done for numerous years with the money so it was handed over to the Town. The idea was to give to school for after school or summer programs.

Kim Gates-Maynard asked that the community have input & discussions on what are done with this money. Peter Magnant stated that it will be on the next regular meeting agenda to deal with.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Select board general orders**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Selectboard general orders.

Hugh Gates-Franklin County Sherriff Dept. was paid \$3440. Did they fine anyone? He understood last year that 75% of fees would return to the town.

Kyle Lothian stated that \$1467 has been paid to the Town; there was a total of \$5514 in fines written. Does not know why we have not received 50% back, some still may be going through the process. Town or state roads, still get money for as long as the Town ordinance lists each of the roads.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

*** Select board highway orders and weed harvester orders**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Selectboard highway orders and weed harvester orders.

Kim Gates-Maynard-1-septic pumped at garage 3 times? 2-VT offender work program, what is that for?

Andy Godin stated the septic usually is pumped out twice, not sure why was done a third time. Lisa Larivee stated VT offender work program cost is for street signs.

Polly Gadbois asks about the summary of weed harvester, how much of a grant did the town receive this year in grant funding?

Yvon Dandurand stated that the town received no funding for 2013; there is no more money in the program, town is on their own.

Hugh Gates-page 43 sand & salt-\$14,219.88 for salt; was told would be 75-100% savings, why not showing one?

Yvon Dandurand states we have already gone through more this year than budgeted or anticipated due to the storms.

Curtis Ploof questioned the status of all the equipment, noted the truck was getting paid off. Are we planning to get anything new? Andy Godin stated no plan at this time, will discuss it at a later date.

George Godin asks what is the oldest piece of equipment, the grader. Should we be looking at replacing it?

Yvon Dandurand stated that we are exploring options to have an outside company do the grading; our grader is too light to grade what is currently being put on the roads and working well.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

***Franklin Fire Department report & fire department treasurer's report, Franklin Rescue report & rescue treasurer's report**

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve *Franklin Fire Department report & fire department treasurer's report, Franklin Rescue report & rescue treasurer's report.

Kim Gates-Maynard would like to see in the Franklin Fire Dept (FFD) written report the number of calls in the future. Also more information on the gear and equipment purchased.

Justin Rainville explained the UTV was replaced and that 5 sets of new turn-out gear were purchased with VLCT grant funds.

Kim Gates-Maynard-Franklin Rescue Service (FRS) donated \$5000 to FFD for equipment, doesn't see it in the FFD report. Thinks that it is generous that FRS donated their funds, thinks there should be some public input on it as well.

Sara Rainville stated that the \$5000 is under FFD donation income.

All in favor, reports passed as written.

Article 11-Will the voters of the Town of Franklin approve Franklin County Sheriff coverage in the amount of \$5,500?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve Franklin County Sheriff coverage in the amount of \$5,500.

Polly Gadbois would like to know how many hours does this cover and how will they be spread out.

Kyle Lothian said he is unsure, same rate of \$45 per hour as last year.

Robert Cormier wanted a break down on incidents. Kyle Lothian stated is was 80 hours, 30 tickets were issued of \$5514 in fines, as many warnings as fines were given; speeding 21 tickets, 3 driving license suspended, 2 no insurance, 4 stop sign violation, 1 traffic

accident, 2 agency assist, 1 assault, 1 sex offender registry check, 1 controlled sub, 1 domestic, 1 vin check. Johanna Godin would like to have in writing the reimbursement rate. Yvon Dandurand added not all of the roads were in the ordinance when we started but they have since been updated/added. Judith McLaughlin inquired if all the roads are now in the ordinance. Yvon Dandurand responded yes.

Vote taken: 52 in favor, 19 opposed. Motion passed.

Article 12-Will the voters of the Town of Franklin appropriate \$10,000 for work at the Town Hall to include but not limited to electrical upgrade, entry roof, entryway as a 50% grant match?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to appropriate \$10,000 for work at the Town Hall to include but not limited to electrical upgrade, entry roof, entryway as a 50% grant match.

Kim Gates-Maynard asked where the grant was from, also commented that she would like to be sure the historic architect would be kept in tack.

Yvon Dandurand stated they are looking at electrical updates, roof work and drainage issues. One grant is for roof only and the other is for the rest. Both grants cannot be applied for in the same year, the roof is the main goal of the Selectboard. Lisa Larivee stated the grant could be through historic preservation or cultural facilities, still researching both options.

Lisa Larivee/Peter Magnant amended motion to read "to see if the voters of the Town of Franklin appropriate up to \$10,000 for work at the Town Hall to include but not limited to electrical upgrade, entry roof, and entryway." Peter stated the reason the board wanted to amend the motion was because regardless of the grant, the roof work needs to be done.

Polly Gadbois questioned the quote for the roof work. Peter stated the quote for the roof is \$11,500 but feels that when/if put out to bid that it could be done for less.

Andy Rainville questioned how much of the roof would be repaired. Peter Magnant stated it's work for the entryway/lean to side, not the whole main hall roof.

Vote taken on amended motion wording. All in favor, motion passed.

Judith McLaughlin questioned if grant received, what is to be done with that?

Sue Clark believes that in order to spend grant money, you must have the grant included in the article.

Paul Gates feels that this needs to be addressed in 2 separate articles for 2 separate grants. Feels that the roof is the most important that needs to be addressed.

Marilyn Hackett appreciates the board researching grants to make repairs. Does the selectboard need the \$10,000 first to apply for the grant? Does the order of operation matter roof before electrical or after, etc.?

Yvon Dandurand stated money has to be spent/received before we can apply for a grant; roof is priority. Gilbert Dewing moves the question. Vote taken to cease debate, 67 in favor, 4 opposed. Discussion ended.

Vote taken on amended motion "to see if the voters of the Town of Franklin appropriate up to \$10,000 for work at the Town Hall to include but not limited to electrical upgrade, entry roof, and entryway."

Amended motion passed

Article 13-Will the voters of the Town of Franklin approve the sum of \$30,000 toward the completion of the Dewing Road outlet project?

Gilbert Dewing/Michelle Guilmette made motion to approve the sum of \$30,000 toward the completion of the Dewing Road outlet project.

Judith McLaughlin asked for clarification on the location of this road. Peter said it's on Dewing Road which is a town Road, from Lake Road to Route 236.

Robert Cormier questioned where the Town boundaries are on that road. Wayne Laroche said the edge of the Town's ROW, half of 49.5' from the center of the road. Robert Irish stated Town owns ROW not land under the road. What is nature and scope of work to be done? Wayne Laroche explained the project and how the double culverts are creating the problem with the lake level and erosion around the lake. Peter Magnant stated the Town received a grant for \$175,000 from VTrans, balance of \$168,119 to be used for project completion, \$15,000 was raised last year, need another \$30,000 to complete the project. Bids for the project came in high and the selectboard has worked with bidders to try to reduce the costs of the project with assistance from the highway crew.

Aaron Porter questioned why Town is doing work under road when they don't own the land. Wayne Laroche said that all culverts and bridges are maintained by the Town on all Town roads.

Robert Cormier questioned why docks are allowed on Dewing Shore but not on Town Beach land. Wayne Laroche stated Dewing Shore is a deeded ROW to Town; Town of Franklin owns north beach and it's on a state highway.

Robert Irish wanted clarification; the board needs more funds to cover the project from what was approved at town meeting last year? Selectboard said yes that's correct. Andy Rainville moved the question. Vote taken to cease debate 58 in favor, 9 opposed. Discussion ended. Vote taken on original motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Article 14-To see if the voters will vote an adequate sum of money to meet current expenses, deficit, and debt payment of the town as indicated in the proposed municipal budget?

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve \$915,780.05 to meet current expenses, deficit, and debt payment of the town as indicated in the proposed municipal budget.

Kim Gates-Maynard-page 35 general expense, emergency dispatch fee, are any negotiation taking place on this cost?

Kyle Lothian stated no, it is based on a per capita fee.

Kim Gates-Maynard-page 35 general expense, borrowed funds expense \$500 interest? She thought was going to go away?

Lisa Larivee stated it may after this initial 18 months budget period.

Kim Gates-Maynard-what interest rate would it be? Lisa Larivee state the last line of credit was at a 3-3.5% rate.

Kim Gates-Maynard-page 35 highway expense, chloride-why January-June expense? Andy Godin stated usually do first chloride application after spring grading.

Kim Gates-Maynard -\$5800 offered to LCCA, if that is what we have spent in the past why is the budget not reduced by that amount if they declined that offer?

Andy Godin stated point taken.

Kim Gates-Maynard-sand shed looks like it is being double charged.

Lisa Larivee explained that the \$113,000 expense is offset by the income of the loan. Budgeting the next years payment for this period.

All in favor, motion passed, budget of \$915,780.05 approved.

Article 15-To elect the following town officers:

A. One select board member for a term of three years. (by ballot)

Kyle Lothian nominated Brooks Sturtevant. Gilbert closed nominations. Clerk cast one ballot. All in favor, Brooks Sturtevant elected to selectboard for a term of three years.

B. One select board member for a term of two years. (by ballot)

Polly Gadbois/Robert Cormier nominated Judith McLaughlin. Gilbert Dewing/Johanna Godin nominated Peter Kittell. Greg Bouchard/Andy Godin nominated Ed Rainville. Each candidate was given a moment to speak. Paper ballot vote: 15 Judith McLaughlin, 24 Peter Kittell, 40 Ed Rainville. Ed Rainville elected as selectboard member to a term of two years.

C. One lister for a term of three years. (by ballot)

Gilbert Dewing/Irene Montgomery nominated Jean Richard. Andy Rainville cease nominations, clerk cast one ballot. All in favor, Jean Richard elected as lister for a three year term.

D. One auditor for a term of three years. (by ballot)

Jean Richard/Polly Gadbois nominate Michelle Guilmette. Gilbert Dewing, clerk cast one ballot. All in favor, Michelle Guilmette elected to auditor.

E. A trustee of public money for a term of one year.

George Godin/Bryant Reynolds nominted Susan Clark. All in favor, Susan Clark elected as trustee of public money.

F. A trustee of the Haston Library Fund for a term of one year.

Susan Clark/Bryant Reynolds nominated Kim Gates-Maynard. All in favor, Kim Gates-Maynard elected as trustee of the Haston Library Fund.

G. Haston Library trustees; two for three year terms, one for an unexpired term with one year remaining.

Jennifer Bright/Polly Gadbois nominated Bryant Reynolds, Art Leduc for three year terms and Susan Clark for one year term remaining. All in favor, Bryant Reynolds & Art Leduc elected for three year terms and Susan Clark elected for one year term remaining.

G. A collector of delinquent taxes for a term of one year.

Susan Clark/Brian Sartwell nominated Johanna Godin. All in favor, Johanna Godin elected delinquent tax collector.

H. A constable for a term of one year.

Kyle Lothian/Robert Irish nominated Burt Maynard. All in favor, Burt Maynard elected as constable.

- I. **A town agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the town is interested.**
Johanna Godin/Linda Hartman nominated George Godin. George explained his position. All in favor, George Godin elected town agent.
- J. **One or more grand jurors.**
George Godin/Bryant Reynolds nominated Douglas Clark & Aaron Porter. All in favor, Douglas Clark & Aaron Porter elected as grand jurors.
- K. **One representative to serve on the Franklin Homestead, Inc. Board of Directors for a term of three years.**
Jean Richard/Imogene Rainville nominated Elizabeth Rainville. All in favor, Elizabeth Rainville elected to serve on the Franklin Homestead Inc. Board.

Article 16-To see if the town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes for the needs of the town.

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes for the needs of the town.

Kim Gates-Maynard encouraged board to look at cash on hand and borrow from that before borrowing to get through until taxes are paid.

All in favor, motion passed.

Article 17-To elect a person, or persons, to act as cemetery commissioner(s) to care for the cemeteries in town where there is no one responsible to act in such a capacity.

Johanna Godin/Linda Hartman nominated Howard Vansette, Nancy Wilson and Jennifer Dewing. All in favor, Howard Vansette, Nancy Wilson and Jennifer Dewing elected as cemetery commissioners in town where there is no one responsible to act in such a capacity.

Article 18-To see if the voters will set the date of payment of property taxes paid to the treasurer to be October 15, 2014 before 3:30 p.m.

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve setting the date of payment of property taxes paid to the treasurer to be October 15, 2014 before 3:30 p.m.

Lisa Larivee stated that tax bills cannot be sent out more than 60 days prior to due date, we anticipate sending out a postcard to taxpayers ASAP reminding them that tax bills are going up due to previously approved 18 month budget.

All in favor, motion passed.

Article 19-To see if the town will vote to publish the names of all delinquent property taxpayers and amounts due and owed to the town as of December 31, 2014.

Jean Richard/Gilbert Dewing made motion to approve the publishing of the names of all delinquent property taxpayers and amounts due and owed to the town as of December 31, 2014.

Marilyn Hackett spoke on how this is a cruel thing to do as times getting harder and harder; shameful practice.

Majority in favor, motion passed.

Article 20-To elect any town officers to fill any town office that may be vacant at this time.

None had.

Article 21-To transact any other non-binding business thought proper when met.

Kim Gates-Maynard informed everyone that the Town of Highgate was voting on a bond today for the Highgate Arena, looking for support if it passes.

Kyle Lothian thanked Lisa & Sara for all their hard work and dedication. Wished the Selectboard best wishes in the future and thanked them. Hopes that the selectboard will continue to look at camp road and class 4 road issues.

Marilyn Hackett spoke on tax assessments and how they have been dropped. Lisa Larivee responded that they are still being done; all are explained on page 33 under tax assessments line.

Peter Magnant stated they are very sincere in there thanks to everyone that contributes to the Town and making it a wonderful place to live. He thanked Kyle Lothian & Wayne Laroche for their service on the board.

Aaron Porter discussed the problems with the class 4 roads. 1/3 mile is where the three houses are that is class 4, can't put up a gate or blocks to keep out traffic from one end, he encouraged Selectboard to keep open the talks about the class 4 road work as well.

George Godin talked on roads and private property.
Wayne Laroche thanked the select board and town. Road issues need to continue to be looked at to be done legally and correctly for the entire town.
Gilbert Dewing ideal place to live is in the Lake Carmi Valley.
Corinna Stanley stated that Dewing Road goes all the way to Stanley Hill in Berkshire.
Hugh Gates encouraged the Selectboard to have a special meeting in May to discuss the following issues: camp roads, water district merger, formation of a recreation department, Franklin Rescue Service funds for recreational development of town land.

Jean Richard/Irene Montgomery made the motion to adjourn Town Meeting. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Recorded in Selectboard minutes as of April 9, 2014

Attest: _____ Town Clerk

Selectboard

Peter Magnant

Yvon Dandurand

Andrew Godin

Brooks Sturtevant

Edmund Rainville