

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010 AT 7:00 P. M.  
FRANKLIN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**PRESENT:** Scott Choiniere, Peter Kittell, Harvey Bushey, Lynn Paradis and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

**GUESTS:** Heidi Britch-Valenta, Peter Magnant, Kim Gates Maynard, Tim Magnant, Diane Gates, Marilyn Hackett, Diane Pierce.

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**WATERSHED:**

Heidi Britch-Valenta enters the meeting to update the selectboard on the Better Back Roads grant that was applied for. The grant was awarded for the work to be done on the Swamp Rd ditching for \$10,000. The town will receive the funds after the work is complete. Heidi advised the culvert issue at the beginning of Patton Shore road which needs to be replaced will need a conditional use determination permit and public hearing. Heidi received an Environmental Conservation survey/loan document for septic work in communities. Peter advised the town was survey many years ago and did not find it feasible to construct a village septic system. Heidi would like to pursue the opportunity for a communal septic system at the lake for neighborhood hook up in the effort to clean up the lake if it would be feasible. There may be 0% loans available for a project. The Watershed has been working with campers with the septic surveys to determine the needs and where located. Heidi asks if the town is interested. The board agrees to a meeting with the Environmental Conservation group to get more information. The board thanks Heidi and she exits the meeting.

**LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD:**

Scott called the meeting of the Liquor Control Board at 7:20. The board reviewed the applications for the Franklin General Store and Byam's Store. No discussion. Peter/Lynn made the motion to accept and sign the Liquor and Tobacco licenses as written. All members in favor and signed. Motion to close Liquor Control Board meeting at 7:24 by Scott/Lynn, all in favor.

**TOWN CLERK'S CONCERNS:**

Sidewalk: Lisa advised the board that the bids for the RFP on the Construction inspector has been posted and is due by Feb 19. Board needs to meet on Feb 22 @ 7:00 town clerk's office to open bids.

Closeout agreement: The Carriage House has an annual closeout agreement stating that they have not made a profit during the last fiscal year according to their loan documents with Community Development. Lisa reviewed the audit to verify and the agreement must be signed by the board chair. Peter/Lynn made the motion for Scott to sign the agreement.

Grand List: The Selectboard must sign the 2009 Grand List verifying that there are not suits pending against the town. As there are none; the board signed the grand list.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January 11, 2010 board meeting and the January 21, 2010 budget meeting were presented. Peter/Harvey made the motion to accept the minutes as written. All members voted in favor, minutes approved.

**BILLS:**

Board signed bill and orders. The selectboard would like to see on the payroll warrants the hours worked. Lisa will work with the new software to have that appear on the reports.

**TOWN MEETING:**

Diane Gates came before the board to discuss the prayer at town meeting. Mrs. Gates would like to see a policy on prayer. She has spoken with Paul Gilles at VLCT. Mr. Gilles states the State House of VT opens each session with a prayer of various denominations. Mrs. Gates would like to come to a solution that will satisfy everyone and not continue to have the confrontation at town meeting. Tim adds that if the 2/3 majority for approval of prayer is spoken that he feels an invocation should be given. He is saddened that prayer has to be done away with. Diane Gates asks Marilyn Hackett if this issue is about her civil right justice and is advised that yes, she feels her civil rights are violated. Tim feels prayer is a responsibility of respect for our elders, continuity, focusing everyone on the intention at task. Mrs. Gates also adds that individual ethics and beliefs of each person are different and one person should not feel alone or violated by town meeting prayer. There should be a sense of peace and a balance of democracy. Would like to encourage prayer of some kind to not remove tradition. Marilyn Hackett speaks of a couple problems she sees: This is not town business; it is not necessary;

not on the agenda; abuse of the constitution and does not merit continued abuse; government has a secular purpose and any form of prayer is sure to exclude someone. Tim advised last year he tried to ignore the invocation and skip over it but was stopped by the town's people asking for it. After taking a straw poll majority won and the invocation was done. Ms. Hackett spoke with the Secretary of State and she advises it is up to the Moderator as to having a prayer or not. Violate the first and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments of the constitution. Scott advised the board needs to get input from legal council and Ms. Hackett she would involve her legal council as well. Kim speaks that there is no perfect compromise and someone will be unhappy. Tim would like to speak with the board about their wishes for town meeting day. Peter Magnant advised the board he is interested in running for a Selectboard position. The board thanked everyone and they exited the meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Scott gave the board members a breakdown of the truck and tractor price comparisons to have at town meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Harvey advised the board that he is selling his brush cutter and tractor. We want \$5,000 for the mower and will give the town first chance to purchase if interested. Peter will check if our tractor will be big enough to handle the mower.

Town Hall rental policy was discussed as to what should be charged for usage. The board voted to write a policy as follows: Non-profit community groups that do not charge for the activity may use for no charge. A group that uses for profit or charges for a function will be charged a fee of \$10 per hour. Lisa will write up a policy for the file.

Lisa advised the board that the town garage appears to have a moisture issue with extreme mold growth. Peter advised ventilation fans were installed when the garage was built. He will speak with the highway boys about running the fans more to get the moisture out. If this does not help the board will speak with VT Energy Efficiency on the best way to handle.

#### **SELECTBOARD FOLDER:**

Certificate of Mileage from VTrans was reviewed. The ancient trail we have was discussed and noted on the paperwork. The board agreed that there are no changes to the mileage and all members signed the certificate.

Training conference for Planning Commissions. Lisa has also given a copy to the Planning Commission.

Kenworth trucks information for purchases.

Adams/McLaughlin notice of phone conference and mediation proceedings.

Auditors request for a policy on mailbox replacements. The board discussed what costs were and options they may give for replacement of a mailbox when it is destroyed by the snowplows. Board agreed that the mailbox would be replaced with a like/similar box that existed. The property owner should not have to get a cheaper one to replace it because the town destroyed it. Lisa will write up a policy for the board.

Franklin Tel attorney requested moving the mediation date of April 1 back to May. The selectboard discussed and Scott/Peter made the motion to leave the date as April 1, all members voted in favor.

The board received the resignation from Jamie Boudreau as animal control officer. Motion made by Harvey/Lynn to accept the resignation, all members voted in favor.

#### **MEMBER CONCERNS:**

Lisa suggested that the library receive their town funds in full as an assessment to their account which would make the budget and bookkeeping easier for the library to follow throughout the year.

Scott/Peter made the motion to adjourn at 9:13. All members voted in favor/meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A Larivee, Town Clerk

**NOTE:** Minutes not official until approved at the next regular scheduled board meeting on March 8, 2010.