

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Scott Choiniere, Peter Kittell, Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Kyle Lothian, Lisa Larivee (Town Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Kim Gates Maynard, Paulette Tatro, Alyson Racine, Bryant Reynolds

Scott Choiniere called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Tri-Town Committee:

Kim and Paulette were here on behalf of the Tri-Town Committee to discuss the proposed article for the warning for town meeting. Kim stated the makeup of the committee; 2 members from each town, Highgate, Swanton, Franklin and a member at large from Sheldon. The item on the warning will ask for \$2750 from Franklin, which is based on population of each town, to conduct a facility feasibility study less any grants received. The amount of \$25,000 is needed for the study. The goal of the committee is to have a work proposal ready for a final vote during the November election; 1. Renovate existing building, 2. Renovate and enhance existing building, 3. new facility. The study will also give income potential. Highgate has approved the article for the warning. Swanton meets the 17th.

Highgate has a capital fund with about \$90,000. They are also eligible for a HUD grant for ice repair. If the three towns approve the study and the project moves forward all these funds will be applied to the project. MAHA is doing well with attracting income with other recreational activities.

Kim requested a page in the town report to explain the history and detail of the work of the committee so the tax payers are informed. Kyle asked how the facility will be operated if it were updated. Paulette advised the three towns would make up a board of directors, would not be run by select boards. Kyle/Peter Magnant made a motion to include in the warning the article as suggested by the Tri-Town Committee. 5-0 All members voted in favor, motion passed. Kim and Paulette exited the meeting.

Haston Library:

Alyson Racine and Bryant Reynolds entered to present the Library budget to the board. Alyson submitted a new budget with reduced figures due to the surplus of funds from 2011 due to the librarian resigning and reduced book ordering. Board approved the budget and thanked Alyson and Bryant.

Town Clerk's Concerns:

- Road weight posting: Discussed the submission to the state of the road weight posting restrictions for March 15 through May 15. Same roads as listed in 2011 at 24,000 pounds. Lisa will submit online to state.
- Highway mileage certificate: Reviewed the addition of the legal trail, LT1 for .90 miles, along the Highgate border which the state has added. Scott/Peter Kittell made a motion to approve the updated map and certificate of mileage. 5-0 All members voted in favor, motion passed. Certificate signed by board.
- Minutes: December 12, Scott/Kyle made the motion to approve as written. 5-0 All in favor minutes approved; December 22, Peter Kittell/Yvon made the motion to approve as written with changes, 5-0 All in favor, approved with changes; December 30, Peter Magnant/Yvon motion to approve as written. 5-0 All in favor minutes approved.
- Final public budget meeting will be January 26 at 7:00 at the School Library.

Weed Control:

Lisa advised that the LCCA had been in the office regarding the article for the warning and signatures needed. The article is seeking approval of submitting permits and grant applications to the state. Board discussed previous decisions approving permit application process only; funding must go to the voters for approval. Scott will speak with Larry Myott.

Old Business:

Fish & Game dock lease: Kyle has spoken with several other towns about the process of installing and removing the State Fish & Game docks. All these towns advise they do not install or remove docks that the state takes care of this. Board discussed, Peter Magnant/Yvon made a motion to split the install/removal of docks with the state; they will install in the spring and we will remove in the fall & store. Scott-no, Peter K & Kyle-abstain, Peter M & Yvon-yes, motion failed. Scott/Kyle made a motion for the state to take care of docks installation and removal. The town will store them. Peter M-abstain, 4-yes, motion passed. Scott will contact Mike at F&G.

Park & Ride/Municipal lot: Scott has been contacted by the VLCT PACIF attorney that a settlement with Franklin Telephone has been reached for \$5,000 for their damages. Kyle/Scott made a motion to accept the settlement of \$5,000 with PACIF to Franklin Telephone. Peter K-no, 4-yes, motion passed.

Town Hall doors: The new front doors should be installed on Tuesday, the 10th.

Lake Level: The lake level remains high and no action will be taken at this time.

New Business:

- Hull property logging: The Hull family is logging on their property off of Apple Tree Lane. They have asked permission to cross the grass strip from Apple Tree Lane across the parking lot of the town property. Scott/Yvon made a motion to allow the use of Homestead Drive with permission of all other parties and crossing of the town grass area and parking lot. The Hulls are responsible for all town property damage to be repaired to original condition. 5-0 All members voted in favor, motion passed. Lisa will do a letter to the Hulls and copy Franklin Tel and Homestead Inc.
- Prayer lawsuit: Board discussed the opinion given by our attorney on how to proceed with Town Meeting 2012 pending lawsuit.

Selectboard folder:

- Letter from Yvon to Kim, with Tri-Town Committee, regarding feasibility study and available funds that Highgate has.
- Town Meeting tune-up workshop information
- Stitzel,Page and Fletcher, town attorney, letter received of legal rate increase for 2012.
- Franklin County Court budget proposal and invite to meeting.
- Letter received from State DEC regarding a kerosene spill in 2009 at a camp on Patton Shore. It has been cleaned up and resolved.
- Letter from the state advising of denial of the Tri-Town municipal planning grant applied for by Highgate for the arena.
- The permit for the Dewing Shore Stabilization project has been received from the state. Project work needs to be done between July and Nov. Lisa will contact Better Back Roads to inquire about an extension of the grant beyond July 1st.
- VT Recreational and Surfacing Co – do fencing and many other items.

Members Concerns:

Franklin Telephone submitted requests to the town of items to be considered concerning the Highway property lot.

- Peter Magnant has spoken with Bob Mays from the Homestead Board; have concerns with Homestead Drive being public and the loss of use of the municipal parking lot for Homestead residents and employees, this would be detrimental.
- Engineering of the Town lot for sand shed and entire lot area should be looked at. Lisa will contact Cross Consult and Ruggiano to get updated quotes on proposed work from 2010.
- Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

Budget:

- Gas-Fuel: discussion of 2012 projected costs, Yvon expects them to be high.
- Paving: Morses Line resurfacing and Fire Dept
- Repair & Maintenance: Loader center pin, loader tires-\$1800, Grader rims-\$1800.
- Shop & Tools: \$375 each for radios for loader & grader, \$200 torque wrench, increase for heating oil.
- Highway Dept Engineering Study: include funds to have a study done.

Executive session:

Peter M/Scott made a motion to enter into executive session at 9:56. 5-0 All members voted in favor.

Discussed personnel issues. Peter M/Peter K made a motion to exit executive session at 10:17. 5-0 All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Public budget meeting January 26 @ 7:00, Franklin School Library

Next regular Select board meeting will be February 13, 2012.

Scott/Kyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 5-0 All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
January 10, 2012

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved at the February 13, 2012 meeting