

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 @ 6:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Ed Rainville
Arrived late: Andrew Godin, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

Guests: Joe McLean, Town Attorney and John Kiernan with Phelps Engineering;
Entered at 6:30: Marshall Ploof, Pat Allain, Mark Racine, Mike Lawyer from FFD#1
Prudential Committee

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of allegiance was said.

Franklin Fire District #1: Mr. McLean and Mr. Kiernan are welcomed to the meeting to discuss the details of the FFD#1 merger with the Town of Franklin.

Executive Session: Peter Magnant/Yvon Dandurand made a motion to enter executive session for contract negotiations. The board discussed the need for executive session. The motion was voted down by the four members present.

Peter gave a brief history to Mr. McLean and Mr. Kiernan regarding the FFD#1 voting to dissolve and wanting to merge with the town. Have discussed with Marshall Ploof the state mandates and upgrades that are being pushed on the water district.

Mr. McLean states the FFD#1 must have a meeting and vote with the Prudential Committee and its members to get voter approval to discontinue the FFD#1. This could be done at the same time that the town holds a public hearing and vote for approval of accepting the merger. Will have to do a public campaign to "sell the merger" of the FFD#1 to the town municipality; would need to put together a list of pros/cons for voters on the water system. At the Australian ballot vote there will be a need to have two checklists; one of FFD#1 members and one of the entire town, two votes will take place at the same time.

Mike Lawyer has been in contact with Tim Raymond from the State of VT to ask for an extension due to the merger/change of ownership for the required updates they are demanding. The extension has been granted for one year except for two items; the corrosive survey of the cooper/lead pipes and the monthly reports for meter readings. Not sure about how to handle these items as this time. Marshall Ploof advised the system was installed in early 90's with all new infrastructure. Mr. McLean states he will need a plan of the updates with a timeline of upgrade work to be performed; needs a list of the existing liabilities of the system, the original cost to install was \$750,000 and currently have a mortgage balance; what state requirements are needed to be done and costs to upgrade. John Kiernan advises there are rural development grants and loans available with specific guidelines. There are planning loans available for engineering of the needed upgrades; the debt can later be added to the upgrade project loan. The operator and yearly maintenance would not be covered under these funds.

Ed Rainville asks what are the enforcement ramifications for non-compliance with the state upgrades. Mr. Kiernan advises the state is getting more enforcement strict so eventually we would have to meet the standards.

ANR does have a Priority Project list for grants for work that the FFD#1 could apply for at this time as the deadline is in May 2014 and could transfer this project to the town later.

Mr. McLean and Mr. Kiernan were thanked for attending tonight's meeting and exited.

Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to adjourn the meeting with the FFD#1. All members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

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Guests: Howard Vansette, Highway Foreman; Tom Townley, Tim Magnant.

Peter Magnant opened the meeting at 7:13. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Public Comments: None to be heard

East Franklin Street Lights: Jim Benjamin has been in contact with Peter to advise the selectboard of his safety concern at the intersection of Rte. 120 and 236 with the removal of the street light. The board discussed his concern. Arnold Byam has also voiced concerns

with there not being enough light now. Yvon visited East Franklin at night during the rain and felt the lighting was not an issue. There is a change in lighting with the LED vs. old lights. Peter has asked Mr. Benjamin to submit a petition signed by residents about keeping the other two lights on in East Franklin. The Town Clerk has not received such a petition. Gerald Gates recently had a conversation with Peter and the state will mandate the use of LED street lighting in the near future; Franklin is ahead of the mandates with the changes being made. The board would also like to remove the light at 5264 Main St by the Maynard's as there are several in close proximity here.

Highway Dept.: Howard entered the meeting to update the board of highway operations. Peter asked if an outline of spring/summer work to be done had been completed. Andy stated not yet as they were waiting for the snow to melt first. Dana Stetson has done work on the grader to repair oil leaks; gaskets replaced, pistons done. Howard asks about doing the work on the intersection of Rte. 120/Morses Line Rd. Peter advised that the public wanted to have a public meeting for input regarding this intersection before it is completed. Howard will speak with the land owners about removing the bushes from the blind view. Dewing Bridge project was discussed; the board would like to meet with Jim Cota from VTrans and Munson Earth-Moving as well as the highway crew to review the contract and details of the project. April 25th at 10:00 am in the clerk's office was set for meeting; Yvon will also speak with Greg Bouchard about being clerk of the works. Andy would like to see the sand pile start to be brought in early so it can be done in layers for better drying. Howard advised they plan to sweep the village and corners during school vacation. Ed also suggests that there are many dead trees around town in the ROW that should be cut as they create a hazard. The board would like a follow-up on the probation status at the next meeting. Lisa advised the board that Ron had submitted an accident report on April 3 about twisting his wrist the week before; to have it on record.

Minutes: Minutes of March 11, regular meeting; Brooks Sturtevant/Yvon Dandurand made the motion to approve the minutes as written. All members voted in favor, motion passed. March 4 Town Meeting minutes were reviewed. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to approve with minor changes. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Reviewed and signed bills: The bills were reviewed and signed by the board. Ed has some concerns with repairs of equipment that were rather costly; suggests that pricing/inquiries be done with the board before such repairs. Purchase orders should be used and signed by Road Commissioner.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- Highway state financial plan; reviewed the report that was done by Lisa Larivee to be submitted to VTrans District 8 for highway aid to transportation. Peter Magnant/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to approve the financial plan as written and all members signed.
- Class 2 paving grant with State of VT: discussed and reviewed the work to be done in which applying for on the grant. Want to resurface Morses Line Rd with a one inch top layer from the Highgate line east for two miles. Lisa Larivee will complete and submit the grant to VTrans.
- PACIF equipment grant: VLCT offers grants to its insurance members for purchase of safety equipment and items to prevent injuries/claims. The town is applying jointly with the fire dept. for safety gear and signs. The grant is a 50% match of funds. All members in favor and Peter Magnant signed the grant application.
- Mapping contract for VCGI grant: tabled until later date; awaiting information on requirements of VCGI.
- NRPC officer list: Peter Magnant reviewed the list with the board of 2014 updates to boards and officers. Peter signed the list of updates
- Solid Waste District: The Town Clerk gave the members the pros/cons of joining the Northwest Solid Waste District and prices to do so. A one-time membership fee would be \$3512 with annual fees of \$1405 based on per capita. The membership fee can be split over 5 years. With all the changes in Act 148 with the State of VT regarding recycling and compost mandates it is becoming much harder to adhere to the requirements. With Highgate joining the waste district; we are left to hold hazardous waste days on our own as we were sharing the cost with them in the past. It is very expensive (\$3200 x2 events, May & Sept). The board discussed the required changes and agreed to go to the voters for approval to join the waste district. Lisa Larivee will speak with Northwest Solid Waste about what needs to be done for joining. The board will plan for a public hearing and vote at the same time as the FFD#1 votes.
- 225th Birthday celebration of town: discussed the request of the Historical Society to have a celebration in conjunction with the Memorial Day festivities on May 26th. Town Clerk has suggested a banner noting the event and a cake with activities done by the

Historical Society. Board has agreed to spend \$200.00 on the event for banner and cake; Historical Society to do the planning.

- **Haston Library Acct:** The Town Clerk has moved the banking account of the library from Merchants Bank to TD Bank for better interest rates as the current account has had changes.
- **Carriage House closeout reports** were discussed to follow-up on the questions from town meeting. The funds were received from VT Community Development by the town; they then were loaned to the Carriage House construction project. The amount of \$261K is forgiven after 30 years as long as the covenants of the VT housing authority are followed. The \$130K does not need to be repaid unless there is a \$50K of excess funds held by Carriage House.

Old Business:

- **Personal policy:** tabled until later date; awaiting information from attorney.
- **Rte. 120/Morses Line intersection:** requests from residents for a stop sign and flashing light coming from Lake Rd onto Morses Line Rd at the Middle Rd intersection. Need to inquire with VTrans if a state permit is needed for work to be done at this intersection. The board will hold a public hearing before work is performed.
- **Dewing Bridge:** The Town Clerk will invite Jim Cota from VTrans on April 25, at 10:00 to meet the board and Munson Earth-Moving. Yvon will speak with Greg Bouchard about being present as well; discuss what is expected of him during the project.
- **Grading:** Yvon has called and gotten prices for hiring the work done; will cost \$1,000 just to truck the grader to Franklin; would be pretty costly. To lease would be \$6500 per month (3 wks. and 1 wk. free) would prorate if used less time. Suggest using stinger tips as the blade edge to do better work. Ed states these stinger tips are carbide and expensive. Yvon asks if the grader is too light can it be weighted. Andy has spoken with the highway crew and they state it is not too light; they just don't want to cut too deep into the blue rock that has been put down to lose the base. Ed has spoken with other towns that have long teeth ahead of the blade that break up the surface for better grading. The Town Clerk will inquire with VTrans on grading schools/training for the highway crew.
- **Sheriff contract:** Reviewed the contract from Franklin County Sheriff; coverage from May 1-Oct 1, 2014 and May-June 2015 for 125 hours to total \$5,500 as approved by voters. Contract states for minimum of 8 hour shifts, this time would not give coverage on a weekly basis. Weekly hours need to be 4 hours for 28 weeks to get the desired coverage. Town Clerk believes that's what we will get, this is a template contract and hours will be adjusted as necessary. Yvon Dandurand/Andy Godin made a motion to accept the contract as written. 4-yes, Ed voted no. Contract not signed until hours are confirmed with Sheriff Norris.
- **Traffic Ordinance:** reviewed to confirm accurate listing of individual road speed limits and signs. Need to add Middle Rd and Riley Rd at 35 mph as posted. Town Clerk will modify ordinance for approval at May meeting.

New Business:

- **Franklin Watershed:** AmeriCorps workers will be working in town this summer. Town Clerk asks if there are any projects they can assist with. The board has no work for them at this time.
- **Town Hall Roof bids:** discussed the bid proposal for replacing the entryway roof that is leaking for posting in the newspaper. Board agrees to install a standing seam roof to match with the rest of the building. Ed Rainville will head up this project and look at the condition of the roof.
- **FEMA December storm:** Lisa Larivee, Andy Godin and Howard Vansette have met with FEMA regarding a claim for December storm damages. FEMA pays for 75% of expenses, the town 25%. The town may use volunteer labor as part of the match. Lisa asks for a list of who did volunteer work cutting trees out of the road, time spent and equipment used. The highway crew will be renting a chipper for road side clean-up of brush that will be claimable with FEMA.
- **State Education Bill H883 "school consolidation":** Peter Magnant discussed what he has read regarding the consolidation of schools into districts and the elimination of supervisory district offices. Tim Magnant entered the meeting as a school board member with grave concerns as well. New school districts would operate as a single large school unit working from one budget split between them by student population. There is a possibility that small schools could be eliminated in the future and students bused to other neighboring schools. Suggest writing a joint letter from the selectboard and school board to the legislatures objecting to this consolidation. Tim states we will lose our community control and our community as a whole would suffer. The bill is on the House Appropriations floor at this time. May not happen this coming school year but in the near future. All members are in agreement of writing a joint letter of objections to Bill H883.

Selectboard Folder:

- ANR is holding a meeting on April 16 in Montpelier regarding the Solid Waste issues of Act 148.
- VLCT insurance claims report.
- Better Back Roads grant application; no needs at this time known by the board.
- Dry hydrants grant application; no needs
- Property Valuation and Review regarding confirmation of reappraisals if applicable.
- Enosburg Village public hearing for changes to town plan/zoning regulations. Abutting towns must be notified.
- Forest Fire warden appointment to the State of VT. Burton Maynard was appointed as forest fire warden. Board signed appointment.
- Aquatic Nuisance grant funding has been awarded in the amount of \$4690 for operation of the weed harvester.

Member Concerns:

- Yvon Dandurand has spoken with Delbert Cook about operating the weed harvester. Mr. Cook is willing to operate it again but would like assistance as his son will not be able to this year; the LCCA may be available to assist.
- Yvon Dandurand stated work at the highway garage needs to be monitored for cost savings; some of the grader repairs that were recently done were very high priced. Ed Rainville feels they need to control costs by shopping around and speaking with board members for input.
- Yvon Dandurand has gotten a call from Richard Boudreau who has requested a traffic count to be done on Towle Neighborhood Rd. NRPC will do the count for the town. The board authorizes this to be done; Yvon will set it up.
- Peter Magnant advises that Bethany Rummings from NRPC has submitted a letter of support and a map with crosswalks marked for the town to attach to a request with VTrans for crosswalk markings in front of the clerk's office and the town hall crossing Main St in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School sidewalks.
- Peter Magnant will not be available for the regular May 14th meeting date; changed to May 7.

Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
April 11, 2014

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved at the May 7, 2014 meeting.