

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

**Guests:** Howard Vansette, Larry Myott, Debbie Bushey, Sheryl Garalla,

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

**Agenda amendment:** Peter requests to move the weed harvester update to discuss with the LCCA; item #3. All members are in favor.

**Public Comments:** No public comments

**LCCA:** Larry Myott was present in place of Peter Benevento. Over the weekend the lake had a blue-green algae bloom. The State was notified and tested the water on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> to determine whether it is toxic or not. Larry suggests the board may want to get a sign made up to post on the beach; for closure if necessary depending on results.

The herbicide use continues to be researched and studied as LCCA feels this will be the best solution to resolve the milfoil. Eight lakes have used the herbicide within the state; not a cure all but would remedy to control the milfoil. The weeds are very bad this year. LCCA would like to hold a public meeting early next summer with the Selectboard and hold a ballot vote in August 2015 for approval of herbicide use. Peter states the board wants to remain neutral and not show support of the use by sponsoring a joint meeting. They will attend to get informed. Ed has done much research and found that fish survive in weed beds but are smaller in size, population is not affected. Herbicides are stored in the fat cells of fish. Larry states only for a short time. Algae and weeds are a big issue of the lake; phosphorus has collected in the lake bottom which continues to feed the weeds. Best management practices at farms needs to continue to improve as work continues with the lake.

Larry advises the town needs to contact DEC regarding the clean out of the Millpond spillway; much debris has accumulated on the top and bottom.

Larry asks about an update on the bridge. Yvon states the bridge is expected to be delivered about Sept 8-9. Munson will begin prep work on Sept 2. The road will be closed at this time until October 15th.

Peter Kittell has offered to allow dumping of weeds on his property if the harvester operators want another off load site in Blackwoods area. Lisa has inquired with the State for a map on the expanded area.

Larry advises that the LCCA has gotten grief about not accepting the \$5,800 that the town offered them to do work on the camp roads at Town meeting. Peter sent a letter to Peter Benevento about giving the group money to do work. The LCCA board voted not to get involved in doing this work themselves; therefore not accepting the offer.

**Highway Dept.:** Andy, Road Commissioner approved a vacation request for Howard for November 11-21, 2014. Howard states if it snows he will be here.

Road updates: Rte. 120/235, Middle Rd/Main St.; discussed the radius as designed by VTrans to cut out pavement. Howard has marked and coned but still appears to be confusing to travelers. The stop sign on Rte. 120 coming from the lake onto Moses Line seems to be good; reviewed the other stop signs as set. Peter will speak with Mario at VTrans and the need to continue to review the fix. Dewing Rd – Howard has installed the stop sign and stop bar and a “curve ahead” sign. The speed limit change will wait to be posted until the ordinance is adopted. Lisa will warn for the August 25 meeting to inform the public of the changes and final ordinance adoption.

Crack sealing bids were reviewed. Quote from Demag Sealing was for Swamp and Stanley Rd (approx. 10,000 ft.) for \$6559. Nicom would do Stanley Rd- 2 miles, Swamp Rd- 1.8 miles and Moses Line Rd. -.5 miles for \$4,000/day – 3 days to complete. Howard states that Stanley Rd from the Stanley farm to the Berkshire town line should be resurfaced; it is in need to repair. Moses Line Rd needs the rest of the road to be finished in 2015; the culvert needs to be fixed this fall to settle. Howard could get a paving box to repair the bad spots as needed this fall. The board discussed the crack sealing and agreed that the benefits are minimal for the cost; will wait to resurface next year; Howard will do patching.

Peter advised there is gravel on the Browns Corner Rd hill that needs to be swept from the road due to the heavy rainfalls.

Howard states his truck is still at J&B for repair of the exhaust cooler; it will be covered by warranty. It has been there for three weeks but should be back this week.

Garage clean-up and storage continue to be improved.

Lisa will contact David Woods about the haying of the land behind the garage that has not been mowed yet.

Yvon states the culvert by his barn driveway that crosses the road needs to be extended. It is very short making a direct drop off the road and a safety issue; he will assist the highway crew with the fix. Ditching on Gallup Rd also needs to be done this fall to prevent the run-off into the road that causes icing in the winter and flooding in the spring.

**Town Clerk Concerns: Tax rate:** Lisa presented the 2014 tax rate to the board. With the MVU budget not approved the residential education rate is only the state base rate; the additional amount based on budgets will be billed at a later date once budgets are approved. The non-residential billing will be in full. Residential rate \$1.386, Non-residential rate \$1.8934. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to approve the tax rates as read; all members voted in favor, motion passed.

The state implements a 3% penalty to late homestead declaration filers after April 15<sup>th</sup>; the town legislative body may waive the penalty if they vote to do so. With the constant changes to the rules for filing by legislation; residents are left not knowing what needs to be done. After discussion of the rules and penalties; Ed/Yvon made a motion to waive the late penalties on filings; all members voted in favor, motion passed.

**Town hall roof** work was discussed; Lisa will put out to bid again for fall work.

Discussed the grant that is due in Oct for historic preservation; Lisa will apply for the grant for the drainage work to be done in the spring.

**The library pillars** on the front of the building need attention. The base has rotted on one of them and dropped leaving the pillar unattached at the top. Ed will look at doing the wood replacement; Tim Hopkins is willing to assist with the painting. Mr. Hopkins will also look at doing some window repair work.

August 26 is the Primary election and FFD#1 merger & NWSWD membership vote. Lisa asks who will be available to count that evening for the BCA. Also informed the board of the Sept 9 MVU budget vote. Peter would like to put a notice in the St. Albans Messenger for publicity of the FFD#1 and Northwest Solid Waste vote and of the public informational meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Catering permits** have been received from The Abbey for two events at the "Wright's" barn on Rte. 120. The board discussed and is good with approving the permits. The Town Clerk will sign and return.

**Reviewed and signed bills:** The bills were reviewed and signed by the board.

**Minutes:** Minutes of June 24 joint with school board; Yvon/Brooks made a motion to approve as written. Andy abstained, 4 members approved, motion passed. July 9 regular meeting; Yvon/Brooks made a motion to approve as written; all members voted in favor, motion passed. July 23, special meeting; Yvon/Ed made a motion to approve as written; Peter would like to add under discussion of the paving on Morses Line Rd "the board approved the location of paving based on Andy's meeting with Pike" for clarification. Andy & Brooks abstained, 3 members voted in favor, motion passed with changes. Peter would like to have the minutes sent to him for proofing before posting a draft on the website if the board is in agreement. All members are fine with that.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Franklin Fire District #1:** The water district approved the merger with the town by ballot on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The town will vote August 26 to approve the merger. Peter has spoken with John Kiernan about when to take over for the town. Legislature must approve the merger and charter before official take over. Will warn for the Sept meeting to appoint a water board and hiring of an operator. The town has been approved on the priority list for the Drinking Water Loan Funds for \$100,000 at 3% to update the deficiencies the state is requiring.
- **Dewing Bridge:** Munson has advised they will begin work on Sept 2 and request the road closure from then until Oct 15. Lisa will send notice to Larry Myott and St. Albans Messenger for notice of the road closure; Howard will install notice signage next week. The gravel will come from Leach's as it passed the compaction testing. Munson advised as long as the level of the water over the dam is at 3 inches or less they will be ok; if higher water levels are present will require more pumping over the work area.
- **Shoreland protection act:** Robert Irish, ZA has spoken with Greta at NRPC regarding the changes with the State. She advises we update our bylaws to include the necessary detail of the act as pertains to the bylaws the town currently controls. The recommendation is not to take town designation; this would involve the town doing enforcement of the entire act of which much we do not want to be involved in.

Lisa will coordinate with NRPC and Mr. Irish to meet with the Planning Commission in September to begin bylaw updates.

- **Speed limit on Rte. 120:** The Town Clerk or board has not heard from VTrans about this request for reduce the speed at requested at the last month's meeting.
- **Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood Rd:** With the new stop sign and reducing the speed limit to 25 mph this should make this area a safer intersection. Jim Cota advised of removing about two ft. of pavement from the inside edge of the curve making the corner tighter and more square for the stop sign and slowing traffic.

#### **New Business:**

- **Traffic Ordinance amendments:** The board reviewed the amendments to be made to the ordinance. Added the stop sign on Rte. 120/Lake Rd/Middle Rd intersection; stop sign at Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood intersection; speed limit reduction on Dewing Rd to 25 mph. Brooks/Yvon made a motion to approve the revised traffic ordinance; all members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Complaint-4-wheelers:** complaint received about 4-wheelers racing up and down Main St; loud, no helmets, unregistered. Sheriff Norris has been notified and will patrol to reduce the problem.
- **Complaint-barking dog:** complaint received about a dog on Main St barking constantly. The owner will be sent a letter with the dog ordinance about controlling the barking.

#### **Selectboard Folder:**

- VTrans grants for sidewalks, walking paths; no need at this time.
- VLCT Town Fair on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Alisha with FWC: correspondence of RCPP grant accepted, she will be doing a master proposal of work at the Lake for phosphorus reduction.

#### **Member Concerns:**

- Ed advised Silas is willing to do Sunday's for weed harvesting; Yvon will speak with Delbert about a schedule.
- Andy asked about the dead tree at Dragon's on Messier Rd; Yvon was going to look at removing.
- Brooks asked if the town had ever considered using Facebook to disseminate information to residents. Many people use this media for information. The board will consider further.
- Yvon asked about setting up a meeting with the school board to discuss the shared use of the tractor for mowing and sidewalk clearing. Yvon is getting pricing for replacement of equipment.
- Peter advised he got a letter from James Benjamin regarding the street light at the corner of Rte. 120/Rte. 236. He is upset because it was removed. The board felt it was not needed in this area and on a state road. He was advised to attend a board meeting with a petition to reconsider; he has not been present. Jim Cota from VTrans has also corresponded with Mr. Benjamin.
- Town Clerk advised the office will be closed on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> for Bennington Battle Day.
- Peter asked about the tree that needs to be cut on Main St by VEC. Lisa advised they have been contacted and are way behind in ROW clearing but have us on the schedule.
- Andy advised we should seed around the garage area all that can be seeded to prevent run-off into the catch basin. He will speak with the highway crew.
- Peter advised the board they should be thinking about the 2015 paving plans. Morses Line needs to be finished; DHS may assist with the portion to the border crossing; Yvon is working on that. Homestead Drive must be repaved and fixed; Peter will do a letter to the shared land owners about work. Stanley Rd will need resurfacing.

Ed/Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Next meeting on September 10, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk  
August 14, 2014

***These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.***

Approved September 10, 2014.