

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013 @ 7:00
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Kyle Lothian, Wayne Laroche and Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk

Guests: Cody Paradis, Larry Myott, Nancy Johnson, Peter Benevento, Larry Smith from Vermont League of Cities & Towns, Aaron Porter, Tiffany Renaudette, Will & Megan Ruprecht

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of allegiance was said.

Public Comments: Cody Paradis was here on behalf of his Eagle Scout project to install a lighted flag pole in front of the building. He gave us the planned location and time line in which to complete the project. The board has given him their support in the project. Mr. Paradis was thanked and exited the meeting.

Health insurance/VLCT: Larry Smith was welcomed to the meeting. Larry gave an overview of the new health insurance coverage with the Vermont Health Exchange; there are two options: Blue Cross and Blue Shield or MVP.

- October 1 the town needs to set up their account on the exchange for the 2014 coverage
- November the employees will need to go on-line to the exchange and choose their health plan.
- The employer must benchmark the coverage with a specific plan or dollar amount to contribute to the premium. The employee chooses their plan accordingly and pays the difference if the premium is higher.
- The employee who pays a portion of the premium does so pre-tax
- HRA will continue to be used if opt to, unless the town discontinues coverage
- No penalty for not offering coverage to employees however would pay in to state for over 3 employees at \$42 each.
- Fed tax credit available to individuals who purchase with the exchange for premium costs over 9.5% of income.
- VLCT has Health Advocates who are available to assist employees with make choice of which plan to purchase.
- Rate comparisons were given from our current plan to the other options available.

Larry was thanked and exited the meeting.

Messier Road/Class 4: Residents of the class 4 portion of the Messier Rd entered the meeting to discuss with the board a proposal to upgrade the class 4 road with equipment assistance of the town and they purchase the product, reclassify to class 3 and the town to maintain. They are frustrated with 4-wheeler/truck traffic tearing up the road. Dandurand Rd has a "dead end" sign and is gated beyond Dandurand farms; request the same for Messier Rd. Mr. Porter advises there is .3 miles of class 4 road to be upgraded to extend beyond the Ruprecht property in which they agree to have a turn-around area. Put up the "dead end" signs to prohibit this unnecessary traffic. The Webster Road residents had asked for upgrade/reclassification years ago and have based the upgrades in the same manner. Figure approx. \$7000 of materials to do the job and request the town to bond with the three residents for \$2500 each for the cost to be repaid over 5 years. The road would need tree removal, stone fill and a culvert. The board will discuss further and be in touch with the residents.

LCCA: Peter Benevento and Larry Myott were welcomed to the meeting. Larry advised of a joint Watershed forum meeting on August 30 @ 7:00 to discuss lake quality projects. LCCA representatives went to Newport regarding the shoreline protection act-HR526. Mr. Benevento would like to know the schedule for the weed harvester, and where operates; will to work with the town next year for more hours/coverage. Kyle will take Peter out on the harvester. Kyle advised additional unloading sights are needed to save travel time for such. Lake Dunmore uses suction removal at approx. \$135,000 year. LCCA is experimenting with using weevils which they are growing right now; Ann Bove will be here next month to assist with locating them in the Blackwoods area. The Swam Lake trip for Sept 14 has been postponed until July 2014. Members thanked and exited the meeting.

Minutes: July 9 regular, July 22 VTrans, July 23 public information meeting. Discussion had no changes made. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Review and sign bills: Board members reviewed and signed bills.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Tax Rate:** reviewed the tax rate for the 2013 bills. Resident \$1.5426, Non-Resident \$1.8325. Yvon/Wayne made a motion to approve the tax rates as printed. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Efficiency Vermont agreement:** The town is looking into street light upgrades to LED. Efficiency VT will do a cost analysis and work with rebates through Vermont electric on the cost of the upgrades. The town must sign an agreement with them. Pete/Wayne made the motion to sign the agreement. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **VLCT loss control** non-compliant list was reviewed and discussed. Kyle is working with the highway crew to get all issues in compliance.
- **FFD light:** discussed the street light in front of the fire station. VEC will install for free but cost to the town is \$99.45 for the wiring to do so. The direction of the light was discussed, face toward street like other lights.
- **Fascia painting:** Lisa got three quotes for the painting of the fire escape fascia. Henry Neuberger, \$1000, Mike Lambert, \$1700, Eric Gerard, \$700. Kyle/Wayne made a motion to hire Eric Gerard to do the work. Lisa will advise all parties.
- **Hot water heater** in the town office has problems. Kyle will look at what is going on with it.
- **ZBA member:** Jill Pidgeon has voiced interest in being on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Pete/Kyle made a motion to appoint Ms. Pidgeon to the ZBA. Lisa will send an appointment letter.

Old Business:

- **Grissom Dog:** Complaint from the Cooper's about the dog being on their property. Yvon has spoken with the Grissom's about obedience training; they have been in touch with Swanton Rec but do not have a set date yet. Advised fees have been paid on-line but cannot print a receipt.
- **Dewing Bridge:** Reviewed the rebid proposal with changes to scope of work. Want to get bids before town meeting in case we need to ask for additional funding for this project. Kyle asked about cleaning the culverts and the causeway to Millpond; if that would allow better water flow and the culverts would not have to be replaced. Wayne states it would not make a difference as the culverts are 3 times undersized for the proper hydraulics of the lake/millpond. Board approved the bid to be published and due on Oct 4 for review at the October board meeting.
- **Sand Shed:** Yvon looking for board confirmation to order the tarp; white is the approved color. He will line up the ground work and concrete construction to begin right away as they require a three week cure time before the building can be set. The only bid that Yvon has been able to receive for the ground work/drainage is from Heath Wright for \$16,650. Pete/Wayne made a motion to accept the bid of Heath Wright for \$16,650 to do the drainage/ground work. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

- **Ambulance Contract:** The Enosburgh Ambulance Service (EAS) draft contract agreement to maintain coverage with EAS was reviewed. They will increase by 3% per year over the next three years of the contract. Pete made a motion to accept the draft contract; Lisa will be in contact with EAS for the contract to sign at the next meeting.
- **Class 4 road policies:** Discussed the current class 4 road policy and necessary upgrades to be reclassified as a class 3 road. The board will review and discuss further at the next meeting.
- **Camp roads:** the highway crew has put gravel down on the Hammond Shore Rd without the approval of the board. Kyle states this is not to be done. The board advises no work is to take place by the town on the private camp roads until this issue is discussed at town meeting with the voters or approved by the board in advance.

Selectboard folder:

- Fish & Game letter from Mike Wichrowski regarding selectboard letter sent to the commissioner. The dock will be installed in spring of 2014, delayed due to many other issues this year.
- Howard Vanslette vacation request reviewed and signed by Kyle.
- Millpond water system: letter from DEC regarding coliform level violations.

- Thank you from the Historical Society for board assistance with moving items to the cabin for them.
- State Highway 411 permit for the paving work to be done in the ROW of Rte. 120 on Main Street.

Member Concerns:

- Kyle stated Ron asked about purchasing a load of gravel for personal use and trucking with the town trucks as a benefit as in the past. Board advised they need to see the written policy of such before approving.
- Kyle would like to see the cracks on Hanna Rd, Browns Corner Rd, and Morses Line Rd pavement to be crack sealed to preserve the road for further life. Peter/Yvon made a motion to crack seal Browns Corner Rd and Hanna Rd as quoted by Demag Seal Coating for \$5,300. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- Wayne advised the stone that were put on the beach have held up well. Will watch in the spring to see how the winter affects them.
- Kyle would like to see the highway site cleaned up and organized.
- Yvon discussed the Better Back Roads and paving grants that are available to the town. Richard Boudreau on Towle Neighborhood Rd states his road needs work.
- Yvon advised at the last joint Highgate arena meeting Highgate decided to take control of the arena project and will manage the upgrades.
- Pete reviewed the VTrans structures grant documents for Dewing Bridge to be signed and returned. All members in favor, Pete signed.
- Pete met with VTrans last week regarding the intersection of Rte. 120/Main St/Morses Line Rd. Have determined that it is a dangerous area and will reengineer for better safety and visibility.

Kyle/Wayne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
August 15, 2013

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved by Selectboard on September 10, 2013.