

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013 @ 7:00
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests: Howard Vansette, Steve Beauregard-St. Albans Town, Bethany Remmers-NRPC, Gilbert Dewing, Robert Irish, Polly Gadbois

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

Public Comments: None to be heard

Brine Application: Steve Beauregard, St. Albans Town Highway Supervisor, was invited to the meeting to present to the board the brine application which they use. Gile Newbury from the State of VT has trained towns on its use. St. Albans Town has been using brine for five years. They apply the brine mixed with the salt from the truck spreaders. Have cut their salt cost by 1/3; if used 500# salt before now use 300# salt and 20# brine. Goal is to completely cut sand use on paved roads. Brine creates a chemical reaction with the salt that allows the salt to work instantly and stick to the road surface. Works best at 17 degrees and above; if temperature is below 17 degrees ice-be-gone is also used in the mixture depending on temps. The brine is a 23.3% salt/water mixture, use 40 gals per ton of brine to salt. Need to use hydraulic pumps for equipment to be most effective. St. Albans Town would sell to the town the prepared brine mixture ready for application. Steve was thanked and exited the meeting.

NRPC: Bethany Remmers from Northwest Regional Planning advised there may be grants available for equipment for brine application through the water quality division with the state if the town is interested to be in touch with her. NRPC has gotten a grant to purchase a hydro seeder for communities use. The towns would pay \$500 up front and \$50 per year. The seeder uses slurry of water, seed and mulch at approximately \$125 per tank/3 tanks cover a square acre.

Crosswalk: Bethany has looked into the boards denied request from the State for a crosswalk on Main St south of the library/office. Bethany advised there are criteria to be met but with the safe-routes-to school plan that was done a few years ago this is a component that ties into that. Need to do another letter detailing the criteria which are met with pictures. Bethany will do a map and letter of support; also will include a crosswalk in front of the town hall across Main St, at library/office location across Hanna Rd. Bethany was thanked and exited the meeting.

Highway Foreman: Howard advised the sand shed is working well, are using the grizzly for some chunks in the entry. Wayne spoke with Heath Wright about the drainage/grading for winter. They will get together to look at again, may need to review in the spring. Board may need to consider putting an end on the sand shed; the wind is blowing moisture into the building. Yvon got quotes from Greg Lussier; rear is \$6500 installed, front \$9300 installed. Howard was thanked and exited the meeting.

Zoning enforcement: Robert Irish entered the meeting to discuss zoning enforcement. Mr. Irish has done 2 letters to residents that have built without permits. Letters on lake front properties are also being sent to two residents that are living year round in violation of zoning regulations. Violations will be sent certified mail; they will be given one week to act/remedy the issue. If no reply then the violations will be turned over to the lawyer. Several decks have been constructed along Dewing Shore without permits, within 25 ft. of the lake and within the town ROW. They are not built on their own land. Letters will be done to camp owners about removing such as docks are done. The land owner will also be copied on the letters. Board approved of the letters being sent for enforcement of the zoning regulations. Mr. Irish was thanked and exited the meeting.

Camp Roads: Gilbert Dewing entered the meeting. He questioned the board whether a petition was needed for an article at town meeting regarding working on the camp roads. He presented a signed letter of authorization from the camp road owners encouraging the town to do work on private roads. Kyle states that in 1982 a vote was approved for the selectboard to do work at their discretion; our current board sees that the process needs to change due to liability. Have determined that a cost of approx. \$5800 was already being spent for such work. Suggest giving a grant for funding to LCCA to do their own work; rental of a harley rake would do a better job than our grader.

Ambulance Contract: Polly was present to discuss the negotiated contract from the Enosburg Selectboard regarding Enosburg Rescue Services. Enosburg has approved the contract at \$28 per capita for 1405 population for 3 ½ years to June 2017 with no increase in cost until such date. The reduction of the ambulance sale will be paid in full in 2014. Enosburg would like to have an advisory board of representative from towns served in the future. Kyle/Wayne made a motion to approve and sign the contract as written. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Peter signed the contract.

Polly advised that Franklin Rescue was down to two active members; they do not foresee becoming an active squad again. They have decided to turn their remaining funds over to the town with specific requests of how to allocate the monies.

Minutes: Nov 12 regular meeting, Nov 26 budget meeting; minutes read for approval. Yvon/Andy made a motion to accept as written; Kyle and Wayne abstain; 3 members voted in favor, motion passed.

Reviewed and signed bills: board reviewed and signed bills.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Haston Library Trustee:** Bryant Reynolds has submitted a candidate, Arthur LeDuc, for appointment to the library trustee board due to the resignation of Marcy Stefaniak. He will fill the vacancy until town meeting 2014. Peter/Yvon made a motion to appoint Arthur LeDuc to the board. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Contract for Franklin County Humane Society (FCHS):** Lisa discussed the contract as written for Jan-Dec 2014. The town will not cover/service cats as in the past; will write an addendum on the contract as such as advised by Rusty at FCHS. The contract annual cost is \$500 for the services of the humane society. Peter/Wayne made a motion to accept the contract, all members voted in favor. Peter signed the contract.
- **LCCA letter:** letter to Peter Benevento regarding camp roads to keep LCCA informed of the discussions of the board. The board will include an article for voter approval of a grant to LCCA for the work they will be in charge of.
- **Class 4 road:** need to review the policy in the event that class 4 roads cannot meet class 3 standard; work may be done as deemed necessary at the discretion of the selectboard.
- **Fire District #1:** Lisa has spoken with Abby at VLCT about the merger that needs to happen with the town and the fire district as they are two municipalities. A plan of merger must be written by both parties. Two public hearings need to take place and an Australian ballot vote for approval of the merger. Lisa will work on the legal details of the merger.

Budget Review: Lisa has prepared a draft budget from the last budget meeting.

- Sheriff line increased to \$5500 from June-Sept 2014 and June 2015 (5 months). Lisa will contact Sheriff Norris about hourly costs for next year.
- Kerm White from Berkshire has contact the town regarding selling gravel to the town. He had a new proposed pit he is looking to open up. The road commissioner will be in touch with Mr. White.
- Discussed salaries and the 18 month term for next year.
- The board would like to include articles for the Watershed funding request, camp road grant of \$5800 for private road work, and the Dewing Rd Bridge replacement needing additional funding of \$30,000.
- Budget meeting; next date January 7th.

Old Business:

- **Winter Operations Policy:** The board did a final review of the policy as written. Peter/Yvon made a motion to adopt the policy as of December 10, 2014. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Personal policy:** tabled to later date.
- **Rte. 120/Morses Line intersection:** The state will be installing all new signs at this intersection after review of the traffic flow and design to make it safer. The board approves of the new signs and redesign.

New Business: none

Selectboard folder:

- Second dog complaint received regarding the Tanner Abbot dogs at 5120 Main St. Board to send a second letter to the owner and an ordinance violation ticket will be issued.
- Franklin General Store violation of tobacco license laws.
- Franklin County Court budget meeting invite to the board
- Franklin County Humane Society thank you for funding for 2013
- Home Health Agency thank you for funding for 2013

Member Concerns:

- Grissom dog has not yet received obedience training as required by board. Send letter giving until Dec 17th to advise the town of training date. Animal Control will revisit if no reply.
- Signs on Morses Line Rd are in very bad condition. Holding off until VTrans grant funds are received as signs can also be replaced at the same time. Need to consider resurfacing Morses Line Rd soon as not to lose what has been done.
- Yvon has been working on getting pricing for hiring a grader to do spring grading. Would get a much better road as our grader is not really big enough to do a good job. Looking at hiring vs. purchasing a new grader.
- The board will meet on Dec 31 at 11:00 am for final bills and year end business as necessary.

Kyle/Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
December 12, 2013

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved by Selectboard on January 14, 2014.