

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014 @ 7:00
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests: Howard Vansette, Rusty from Franklin County Humane Society, Dennis Demar, Sue Clark, Bryant Reynolds, Kathleen Engstrom, Kim Gates Maynard, Tim Magnant, Justin Rainville

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

Public Comments: None to be heard

Highway Dept: Howard was present to discuss budget line items.

- Chloride-Howard advised we used more in 2013 due to a dryer spring; will conserve for 2014 considering the 18 month budget set at \$20,000.
- Gravel-set 6 month budget to \$10,000; 12 months at \$45,000. Roads are getting better with the gravel base.
- Shop/tools-includes the heating fuel which was very high in 2013. The moisture vent fan seems to run a lot and pulls out the heat; switch was not working properly. Has spoken with an electrician about replacing the switch. Need to keep the moisture issue controlled. The board suggests cleaning the snow off the trucks outside to keep from melting off in garage. Watch the usage of the fan to cut heating costs. 18 month budget set at \$12,000 for shop/tools.
- Howard advised due to the ice storm a chipper will need to be rented in the spring for road side brush cleanup.
- The board asked Howard about the incident last weekend on Towle Neighborhood Rd. Reminded both highway crew members that they represent the town and must keep a professional work ethic.

Humane Society Contract: Rusty from FCHS and Dennis (ACO) were present to discuss the contract and services received from FCHS. Rusty advised the contract is to house dogs and cats; though Franklin does not include cats.

- Health Officer and Animal Control Officer need to be present at bite hearings.
- Stray dogs can be brought to FCHS anytime and if are reclaimed by their owners; they are responsible for the fees
- Town is charged \$50 for care of dogs that are not reclaimed or adopted after 5 days.
- Dogs that have bitten and need to be held for 10 days can always be housed with FCHS and be reclaimed by owner after the time period.
- If dogs are seized from the owners for non-compliance of the dog ordinance there must be proper documentation and notices to the owners before being accepted at the FCHS.

Dog issues: T. Abbott dogs on Main Street have not been licensed and tickets not yet paid. W. Jarvis dogs on Hammond Shore have not been licensed and produced proof of rabies vaccinations. Lisa will contact Sheriff Norris to accompany Dennis for pickup; do a letter to Ms. Jarvis advising of dogs being held by FCHS for 5 days to reclaim. All costs to be paid by owner.

Rusty and Dennis were thanked and exited the meeting.

Haston Library budget: Sue Clark, Bryant Reynolds and Kathleen Engstrom entered the meeting to discuss the library budget for 2014-2015 with the board. In the past the budget has maintained at about \$40,000. The request from the town was kept small due to the large carryover of savings; the carryover has been used up and now the budget is supported mostly by town funds. Donations can vary from year to year and fundraising is limited with a board of 7 members. The library has grown to include many programs for the community from toddlers to the elderly. Technology continues to be upgraded to keep up with the environment we are in. The trustees are working on a 3 year plan. Members were thanked and exited the meeting.

Warning Review: Tim Magnant was present to review the warning for town meeting with the board. All looks to be worded well. Discussed who may want to attend the moderators workshop on February 11th; Tim, Peter, Yvon are interested. The public budget meeting will be January 23 at 7:00 at the Elementary School library. Tim was thanked and exited the meeting.

Highgate Arena update: Kim Gates Maynard entered the meeting to update the board on the Highgate arena project. The project board is starting a capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million; Highgate will be bonding for \$1.3 million at town meeting.

Sticks & Stuff has made a large donation of equipment and supplies from a rink in Derby that they purchased to use as a warehouse.

With demolition and removal of the old arena floor Kim is asking for in-kind assistance from the town highway crew to truck product away; this is planned for March 2015.

Kim asks the board if a master plan of the highway shop lot has been done. This has been discussed in the past and will be reviewed by the board in the spring; clean up and organizing is ongoing and will finalize the grading of the sand shed construction. Kim was thanked and exited the meeting.

Fire Department: Justin Rainville entered the meeting on behalf of the fire dept. Discussed the town clerk building fire alarm and why it is not dialing directly to 911 when there are issues. Town Clerk will look into the way the alarm is set up.

PACIF grants with VLCT for safety gear and equipment are available and the fire dept would like to apply for funds with the town. The Town Clerk advised the highway department could use chainsaw chaps and helmets and also new construction/work signs. Lisa will work with Justin on a combined grant application.

Parking issues continue to be a problem with the town office/library and the fire dept. Justin would like the fire station lot to be left open for fire member parking; maybe the graveled area behind the station can be expanded for more parking. There is also the use of the municipal parking lot by the highway garage.

The fire department is looking at purchasing a new tanker/pumper truck in 2015. The estimated cost would be \$225-250k.

Minutes: Dec 10, regular meeting; Dec 19 sand shed note signing; Dec 31 final bills review; Jan 7 budget preparation. Peter/Yvon made a motion to accept the minutes as read. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

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

Town Clerk Concerns:

- Tax due date: discussed the option of splitting the due date with the 18 month budget. No discount would be allowed for early payment. Lisa will review school tax payment requirements.
- Class 4 Messier Rd residents are looking for an update on decisions of the board on maintenance of camp roads. There are no plans to do work on private camp roads and no article will be included in the warning. No policy changes will be made for class 4/private roads.
- Contract letter with the State tax department for use of the Marshall and Swift cost tables by the listers in the CAMA/NEMRC system was reviewed. All members in agreement, Peter signed.
- Weed harvester grant application-Lisa has completed the 2014 application for the aquatic nuisance grant with Vermont Dept of Environmental Conservation. The board reviewed and Peter signed as necessary.

Budget review: The board reviewed the highway budget with the highway foreman at the beginning of the meeting and have approved the budget as written.

Old Business:

- Personal policy-discussion of highway vacations; should not be taken at the same time by personal leaving no one at the highway garage. Will need to review amending the policy.

Executive Session: Peter/Wayne made a motion to enter executive session at 9:17 pm regarding personal issues. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Yvon/Wayne made a motion to exit executive session at 9:37 pm, all members voted in favor. A Selectboard meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 20 at 7:00 to meet with the highway crew; executive session anticipated.

- Street lights were reviewed on the map done by NWRP as to their locations in the village and East Franklin. Light #1 in East Franklin by the Benjamin barn will be removed as it is on a state highway. Lights in front of Dick Wright's and the end of Hanna Rd will be looked at to see if any can be removed as well. Lisa is working with Efficiency VT and VEC on the change-over to LED in early spring.

New Business:

- Certificate of highway mileage from VTrans of the town roads was reviewed. Peter/Yvon made a motion to accept the certificate of highway mileage as calculated. All members voted in favor, motion passed. All members signed the certificate.
- Overweight road postings-no changes to be made from the past; posted from March 15-May 15 with a 24,000 lb weight restriction.

Selectboard Folder:

- Letters from ZBA approving the applications of Ruth Hayes and Mike Bovat.
- Department of Taxes notice of CLA at 105.44 for 2014.

Member Concerns:

- Andy asks if volunteers that work for the town in any capacity are covered under our insurance with VLCT and what is the town's liability? Lisa will investigate with VLCT.
- Wayne is working on the Lake Champlain TMDL state plan with DEC and updated the board of such; the Town of Franklin has a TMDL plan for Lake Carmi already in place. There are changes to the law coming that will affect road runoff, storm/ditch runoff and wastewater systems.

Peter Magnant/Yvon Dandurand made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
January 16, 2014

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved by Selectboard on February 11, 2014