

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Ed Rainville, Andy Godin and Lisa Larivee; Town Clerk.

Guests: Justin Rainville, Mike Lawyer (Franklin Fire Department), Howard Vansette (Road Foreman), Polly Gadbois, Peter Kittell (LCCA), Tim Magnant.

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

Agenda amendments: none

Public Comments: none

Highway Department:

Howard advised the gates have been installed on the salt shed to keep people out. The sand shed is working good; better than last year. They still are getting some freezing of the sand on the front of the building; need to shield the west wind from blowing in the weather. The sidewalks have not been getting the attention needed; the school tractor blower is not big enough and they have been babying it to get by for now. Howard made some shoes on the bottom of the blower which should help. Pete has concerns with Square Rd being narrow and needing to get the snow away from the curb. The highway crew could use the loader to clear the snow out. Passengers are not allowed to ride in the snow plow trucks with the highway crew. Discussed the need for a spare driver, Wayne Stanley not willing to cover any longer. Howard will speak with Jeremy Barnum about being available for plowing. Discussed the wage for the spare driver; Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made the motion to increase the rate of pay for the spare snow plow driver to \$16.00 per hour. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Reviewed the highway budget with Howard. Gravel ok to be dropped to \$30,000; the roads are in pretty good shape after last year. Chloride to increase by one load (approx. \$4600) and set at \$18,000 (4 loads). Blacktop set at \$125,000; to do Homestead Drive, finish Moses Line Rd, and apply for a VTrans grant for Dewing Rd and/or Riley Rd. Stop bars need to be done at all intersections of the Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood stops. Salt/Sand set at \$14,000 w/ increase in salt costs from \$62/ton to \$78/ton. Shop and tools set at \$8,000 which includes septic pumps, heat, electric, phone, and misc. supplies.

Review Warning:

Move article #8 for the Highgate arena behind article #11.

Discussed article #9-Watershed for \$5,000. Tim suggests doing an article for each year for the five years, do single years not as a lump. Board agrees one year at a time will be the proper way to do it.

Article #10 for the fire truck; discussed using Australian ballot for voting this article rather than from the floor. Lisa will check and see if that can be done or not. Need to include interest in the amount to be \$209,000 voted on for approval.

Article #11 for new weed harvester was discussed. Polly is looking into applying for a grant for equipment; we will continue to apply for the grant for operations. Ann Bove from the State agrees there is a problem in Lake Carmi, Lake Champlain and Missisquoi Bay; she will get info to Polly on equipment grants. Polly advised a new machine comparable to our current one is approx. \$49,000; a much bigger one is \$149,000. Peter Kittell feels the weeds are much worse than our small machine can handle. Peter K says our machine is old, purchased in 1985, and doesn't work with much efficiency at a four foot wide cut. Polly has spoken with Peter Benevento with LCCA about contributing as well. Polly asked about the funds from Franklin Rescue to the town for \$25,000 earmarked for water quality being available for these costs as well. Pete advised would need to finalize by Thurs, Jan 22 for the public budget meeting and final review and signing of warning.

Town Clerk Concerns:

The Historic Preservation grant has been awarded for the town hall work; roof, foundation, and drainage in the amount of \$14,512 with a 50% match. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to approve the grant and for Pete to sign conditions and acknowledgement. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Summit Alarm has given a quote to replace the alarm panel which is 20 years and faulting (\$2100.00). They also recommend replacing all the units of the system, alarm pulls,

detectors, ect. (\$1839). Lisa will apply for a PACIF grant with VLCT for such equipment at a 50% match to offset costs. Board approved of the purchase to replace the panel and all external units for the Town Clerk's office.

Review and sign bills: The bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Minutes: Minutes of December 10 and 29, 2014 regular meeting and budget meeting; Yvon Dandurand/Andy Godin made a motion to accept minutes as written. No discussion had, all members voted in favor, motion passed. Minutes of December 17, 2014, highway employee reviews. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to accept minutes as written; four members voted in favor, Pete abstained, motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Phelps lawsuit:** final sign off and acceptance of settlement received for our files from the attorney.
- **Northwest Solid Waste District:** need a town representative for their board. Town Clerk will post to the website.
- **Dead Trees:** Ed advises \$75-85 per hour for a log truck and \$25-30 for a saw operator to remove dead trees from the town road ROW. The highway crew would need to clean up the limbs and debris. Ed is willing to go with the crew to notify land owners before this is done. Estimates two days at approx. \$1,000 cost (equipment rental line).

New Business:

- **Health Officer:** resignation received from Polly Gadbois as Health Officer as of January 1, 2015. The board accepts her resignation and Lisa will do a letter of thanks. Discussed the pay compensation for the health officer.
- **Legal Trails:** The State of VT has changed legislation regarding mapping of town highways. Legal trails will need to be mapped on the town highway map as of July 1, 2015 or they will be discontinued and not considered town row's any longer. Shady Maple Lane is believed to be a legal trail that continues through the property of WBS (K. Corey). The Town Clerk will research to review further at the February board meeting.
- **Weight Limit postings:** The road weight limit restrictions for March-May posting were reviewed. Ed Rainville/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to post at 24,000 lbs. for roads as listed for 3/15/15 – 5/1/15. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Highway mileage certification:** The highway mileage certification was reviewed. No changes to our highways this year. All members approved and signed.

Selectboard folder:

VTrans letter regarding the speed limit change on Rte. 120 from Riley Rd to Dewing Rd. A hearing will be held Jan 23 in Montpelier for public input.

Letter from MVU regarding a donation for the substance free party. The town does not contribute.

Franklin County Court notice of the public budget meeting.

Thank you letters from many groups who receive assessments from the town.

Member Concerns:

- Pete inquires how the weed harvester use is affecting the lake; some thought it does more harm than good. Need to have a plan of action for this article before including on the warning.
- Yvon has spoken with Greg, who installed the sand shed, regarding ends. Greg advised they would be approx. \$15,000. Yvon feels the board should consider them in the future.
- Ed considers the discussion with LCCA, regarding the weed harvester important but feels it is late to present for this year's warning and there are still many unknowns. More information is needed.
- Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to warn the new fire truck for Australian ballot if available for the public vote. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Town Clerk will look into.

Next regular meeting will be February 11 at 7:00 pm.

Board will attend the Franklin Watershed meeting on January 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the FELCO Room at the Franklin Homestead, Clerk's office will warn for the boards attendance.

Ed Rainville/Brooks Sturtevant made the 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
January 20, 2015

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.
Minutes were approved at the February 11, 2015 meeting.