

# FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD MEETING

## JANUARY 18, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

### TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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

**GUESTS:** Michelle Guilmette, Jean Richard, Carole Richard; Auditors; Maurice Lamothe, VSP; Claudette Carswell and Nancy Wilson

At 7:00 p.m. Peter M called the meeting to order. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Claudette Carswell from the East Franklin Cemetery Committee and Nancy Wilson, Cemetery Commissioner were here to discuss the future of the town cemeteries that are cared for by volunteers. The East Franklin Cemetery Committee has been funding the basic care expenses for such, but the future needs of these five town cemeteries has become greater and there is a need for funding to maintain them. The Willard needs a new fence and Prouty needs to have some tree removal. The town needs to consider funds for future budgets. Peter advised that the highway crew may be able to assist with larger jobs that are needed. Nancy will put together a needs list in the spring of work to be done. She has applied for grants for fences but was not awarded funds. Mrs. Carswell and Mrs. Wilson were thanked and exited the meeting.

Maurice Lamothe from VSP stopped by to check in with the board on any needs and what is going on in town. Plan to have an officer present at town meeting for public relations. Spread the word that the department is looking for police officers.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** Peter asked to add to town clerk concerns #7– resignation of Zoning Board of Adjustment member and Watershed grant RFP for engineering study. All in favor

**MINUTES:** Brooks/Yvon made a motion to approve the Jan 4<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Discussion had and corrections made to clarify member concerns regarding changes to salaries and sick leave; “these are Fed and State laws”. Ed and Andy abstained, 3 members in favor of changes, motion passed.

#### **FY18 FINAL BUDGET REVIEW:**

Budget Narrative additions: General fund

- Fire dept increase from \$16,000 to \$20,000
- Borrowed funds expense – interest on loans for Sand Shed, Fire Truck, Highway Truck.

Highway fund

- Gas & fuel increase to \$18,000 due to gas price increases
- Insurance premiums decreased to buildings, vehicles, liability, workers comp.
- Blacktopping decrease due to moving funds to a pavement sealing line.
- Sand/salt increase by \$2,000 over last year due to price increase in salt.
- Repair & maintenance decrease by \$4,000 due to purchase of new truck
- Shop & tools are sub-accounted under each line.
- Yvon presented a quote for a snow blower for the Kubota tractor; \$3,300. Include as an article on the warning for voter approval.

Information for the public budget meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. Discussed the slide presentation and what the board wanted to present. Peter wants to make sure the voters are aware that they did not overspend the FY17 budget causing the tax rate increase.

- Present the new balance sheet with additional info.
- Articles for the sidewalk, recreation dept, and snow blower.
- Highlights to budget: difference between the FY17 and FY18 budget.
- Budget narrative points for highway and general.

Reviewed the warning and articles; Pete asked to add an article for the snow blower. Want to include a non-binding article for input on renewable energy projects. The new State guidelines for towns will need to be included in the town plan, would like the voters to have input on what they would like to see in town.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPT:**

- Better Roads Grant – discussed the needs; apply for the Webster Rd cross culvert that needs to be replaced and reset to prevent erosion down the road. Lisa will put this grant together.
- Certificate of Highway Mileage for VTrans was presented for review. The board approved without any changes to the mileage or classifications. Brooks/Ed made a motion to accept the certificate of highway mileage, all in favor. The board signed the certificate.

**TOWN CLERK CONCERNS:**

- Franklin County Animal Rescue (Humane Society) contract for 2017 was discussed. We have not signed a contract for the past two years; board agrees not to sign for this year. We will continue services as necessary as in the past.
- Weed harvester grant- will be finalized by town clerk and signed at the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment resignation received from Chris O'Shea. The board accepted his resignation and signed a "thank you" letter to Chris for his many years of service.
- Watershed Committee has drafted an RFP for the engineering study of the garage lot run-off with an ERP grant. The board is good with the RFP as written by John Barrowed of the Watershed.

**REVIEWED/SIGNED BILLS:** The board reviewed and signed bills. Discussion of pavement sealing equipment and what type of products are used – rubber vs. asphalt. Peter has brought this up as a TAC meeting and many towns were interested in this process; need to consider who owns the equipment; maintains it, and is in charge of its care. Ed advised the State of VT VTrans budgets continue to be of concern; there is less income and greater expenses to maintain the roads and bridges. This may affect the funding towns receive in grants for our local projects. Need to look closely as our highway maintenance needs and funding costs.

**MEMBER CONCERNS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Yvon has spoken with Catherine D. from NWRP about roads; money has gotten tighter in town budgets and how to maintain our roads for the future. Road inventories are important to keep up to date. Over weight permits and farm vehicles on the roads is a concern with costs of repairs due to their use.
- Jeremy Barnum is concerned with residents coming to get sand for personal use while our trucks are moving about the lot. This is a safety concern that the board needs to address.
- Andy advised he has called Jordan St. Pierre about completing the removal of the tree in the park. He has had an inquiry from the vendor that maintains the Homestead lot about purchasing salt from the town; Peter advised we are not set up to sell salt to others.
- Peter has received a request from the Planning Commission for a list of drilled wells in the Town of Franklin. The water district is looking for options of other water sources if the Webster spring were not able to be used. Lisa advised the town is not required to maintain well information. We need to look at the town land rental and adjusting the acreage of tillable; does Mr. Rainville intend to rent again this year? Lisa will check with him.
- Lisa discussed the change of office hours with the board. Changing to Mon, Tue, Fri 8-4, Thurs 8-6 and closed on Wed. The board is fine with the change.

At 9:31 p.m. Brooks/Ed made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 1, 2017 AT 7:00 PM  
PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 26, 2017 AT 7:00 PM AT THE SCHOOL

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Larivee  
Town Clerk/Treasurer  
January 20, 2017

**These minutes are not official until approved at the next regular board meeting.**  
These minutes were approved at the February 1, 2017 selectboard meeting.