

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.  
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

**Guests:** Sue Clark, Jean Richard, Carole Richard, Michelle Guilmette, Marshall & Collette Ploof, Polly Gadbois, Pierrette Bouchard, Denis Bouchard, Betty Rainville, Kim Gates Maynard

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., pledge of allegiance was said.

**Agenda amendments:**

New Business- add pressure washer discussion

Minutes- add approve January 11 minutes

Town Clerk Concerns-add weed harvester grant discussion

All members voted in favor, 5-0 approved.

**Public Comments:** none

**Public Budget FY17 review:** Pete went through the general points of changes to the budget

- Health insurance premium up 4%; highway budget down due to employee change
- Ambulance is budgeted for entire amount of contract as the off-set with the ambulance purchase is done. June 2017 will be the end of the contract; will renegotiate new contract.
- Haston Library-funding is reduced due to a carry-over of funds from FY16.
- Building Maintenance-\$7,500 for brick work on the town office, \$6,550 to paint remaining two sides of town hall, \$1,500 for town hall floor refinish, \$2,000 for town hall water line work, \$1,000 for library floor refinish.
- Paving-plans for Dewing Rd, Stanley Rd, and Riley Rd to resurface the existing pavement; hope to be eligible for VTrans grant funding this year.
- Gravel-reduced due to roads being in good shape after inspection by VTrans recently.
- Repair & Maintenance- regular and includes \$2,000 for grader tires.
- Fuel-reduced due to a drop in prices.

Jean- clarified the paving will be for existing resurfacing only, not new roads; Pete advised yes.

Michelle-asked about the up/down of Health insurance costs; Lisa stated it is due to the HRA-deductibles that the town pays a portion of as needed. If the claims are low there is an extra carry-over of funds from that budget line.

Jean-discussed the fiscal year change and the headaches it has caused; may iron out as we move forward from the 18 month budget. It is difficult when the budgets are 6 months plus into the future to make estimates of revenue and expenses to be accurate.

Yvon addressed the truck purchase-Mac vs. International. Yvon states the International specs out much better than the Mac for a much better price; Clark's is also giving us \$55,000 for trade where Mac is only allowing \$30,000. With interest rates low, new emissions for next year and increasing prices, now seems like a good time to trade truck #2 (2006 Mac).

Andy states we will need to update some of our other equipment soon as well; roadside mower and loader.

**Morses Line traffic ordinance-public informational:**

Pete discussed the time line of events that lead to adoption of the amendment to the traffic ordinance on Morses Line Rd from west of Dandurand Rd for .9 miles (just past Taft's) to reduce to 40 mph from 50 mph. June 30 meeting Ed brought to the board concerns of citizen in the area that were requesting a lower speed limit. NRPC did a traffic study that was reviewed by the board at the Sept 2 meeting. Sept 16 the board discussed the area in greater detail and did letters to the area residents dated Sept 18 inviting them to the Oct 6 meeting; we were looking for public input, 2 people attended from the same residence. Nov 4<sup>th</sup> the board voted to make the amendment to the traffic ordinance to lower the speed limit to 40 mph. The ordinance amendment was posted as required and a petition was received and signed by 76 voters to rescind the amendment to the ordinance.

Polly Gadbois asked why the change was made. Ed advised due to the blind driveways and hills, no shoulders for walkers/bikers that frequent the area making it dangerous. There were 4 accidents over last summer in this area.

Michelle Guilmette asks is it patrolled? And what deters the drivers. Pete advised once the ordinance becomes effective the board would ask the Sheriff's office to patrol the area while in town.

Sue Clark states there are no signs to change the speed back to 50 mph once out of the speed zone; board advised they have not been put up yet.

Ed states it takes an extra 18 seconds to go through the .9 mile zone at 40 mph vs. 50 mph. The board has tried to do the right thing by reducing the speed for safety concerns. Law enforcement agrees with the lowered speed limit.

Andy states it was on the agenda for 5-6 months and no opposition was heard from the residents.

Marshall Ploof-as the petitioner he was asked by residents to make a change for those that did not agree; felt it is a speed trap. Many towns people are opposed to the reduction and are unhappy with it

Kim Gates Maynard states as a past board member, all requests/complaints should be received in writing for the board to act upon. People need to be responsible for their own driving habits; cannot fix them all.

Ed states the board is sworn to protect the people-would feel bad if it was changed back to 50 mph and an accident happened due to speed. Collette states the speed has not changed-are not following the new signs. Ed spoke with a legal friend who stated once a town knows of a safety concern/problem that is brought to their attention and acted upon, a lawyer could look at how the town handled the road regarding accidents, state study and recommendations. The board could be liable for not making changes.

Marshall thanked the board and appreciates the efforts of the board. He asks if the NRPC study could be included in the town report. The auditors will look at, maybe posting to the website, facebook and email list. Copies can be made available at town meeting as well.

Pierrette Bouchard states when people grumble you can't act on all of it. People need to be responsible for their concerns and file in writing with the board. Pete states the board always invites people to attend a meeting with concerns; many don't come and the issue is dropped. The board looks at studies and the issue for a time before deciding if it is a serious issue to act upon.

**Warning review and sign:** Pete read the warning aloud.

- Article 9: changed the wording from "hear" to "receive and discuss" the reports of town officers.
- Article 10: regarding the traffic ordinance; change "disapprove" to "rescind" and move to Article 15 after the budget articles.
- Warning approved as written other than above changes; board members signed.

**Minutes:** Minutes of January 6 and 11 were reviewed. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ed abstained, 4 voted to approve, motion passed.

**Review and sign bills:** The board reviewed and signed bills.

**Town Clerk concerns:** Lisa advised the weed harvester grant application is due February 1<sup>st</sup>. She will put the grant together and asked if Pete could stop to sign as the next regular meeting will be too late. Brooks/Yvon made a motion to allow Pete Magnant to sign the completed weed harvester grant application due Feb 1. All members vote in favor, 5-0.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Yvon asked the highway crew to take the pressure washer that they were having issues with to Franklin Rental for maintenance review. It is a 1500# pressure washer but only putting out about 450# due to corrosion in the motor and other worn parts. Franklin Rental has quoted \$1,355 to replace the motor and go through the machine to repair what is needed. A new machine of the same size is \$2,960 to buy. Our current machine is in pretty good shape otherwise. Andy/Ed made a motion to repair the current machine for \$1,355. All members voted in favor, 5-0.

**Selectboard folder:** none

**Member Concerns:**

- Ed advised he had done some homework regarding truck prices vs. models. The price for the new International is very stellar and we will not find a better deal. Ed advised the ladder at the town hall back stage has been removed per request of VLCT.
- Brooks advised that Tom Gates, Schoolboard member, would like to get together with the selectboard regarding personal issues. Pete asked Town Clerk to invite the school board to the February 17 meeting.
- Yvon would like to further address the Library personal issues in the near future.

- Pete asked the Town Clerk to invite Howard and Jeremy, Highway crew, to the Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting regarding Act 64 storm water changes as the state group and Franklin Watershed will be here.
- Andy advised gas was stolen from the highway garage last week; the lock was cut off the pump. Howard replaced the lock and has put up a game camera to view the area. Andy discussed the old steam jenny that we still have from when the old garage burnt. Board agreed to post for sale by sealed bid.

Next regular select board meeting will be Wednesday, February 3<sup>h</sup> at 7:00 pm in Town Clerk's Office.

Brooks/Ed made a motion to adjourn. All members voted in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk  
January 21, 2016

***These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.***  
These minutes approved at the February 3, 2016 meeting.