

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

Guests: Michelle Guilmette, Jean Richard, Carol Richard, Polly Gadbois, Mike Lawyer, Howard Deuso, Brian Barnum, Corinna Stanley, Scott Korhonen, Pam Greene

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Peter thanked Lisa and the Auditors for all their hard work in preparing the budget and town report.

Agenda amendments: move item #4 Franklin Rescue Service funds for water quality to after #5 reading of warning. All in favor

Public Comments: none

Review Budget:

Peter began by stating the board was aware of the hard times for people last year with paying on an 18 month budget; the board tried to level fund or cut the budget as best they could this year.

General fund budget

- Ambulance service is the full amount of cost this year as the ambulance has been paid off by Enosburgh. Franklin Rescue Service had given funds to the town to off-set the costs for services. The amount of \$9196 will be used to off-set the cost making the actual cost to tax payers this year \$30,144.
- Building Maintenance line is new this year for \$7,000. With the town hall grant from Historic Preservation of \$14,512 this is a 50% match grant; as we had raised \$10,000 last year we need to raise the remaining \$4,500 this year to complete the work applied for in the grant. The amount of \$2,500 is for window and facias painting at the town clerk's office.
- Sheriff line will remain at \$5,500 for the 12 month period to get more coverage for a longer period.
- Legal fees have been cut due to no current pending legal issues.

Highway fund budget

- Health Insurance is up 9% this year
- The chloride budget was increased from 3 to 4 loads to better maintain road conditions.
- Equipment fund line is up by about \$5,000 this year. In the past years we were allocating \$25,000 for the truck payment and equipment fund account for future purchases. As the truck is now paid off, we will put \$10,000 in the fund for future purchases. There is approximately \$46,000 in the equipment fund currently.
- Salt/Sand line has been increased due to the high price increase this year.
- Gas/Fuel line has been reduced due to the drop in gas prices; hope to be able to take advantage of the lower prices.
- Blacktopping line has been increased to \$125,000. The budget was not all used last year due to the Dewing Bridge project and concerns of cost overages on the project. The project when well and left us with an underspent budget line. Have increased this year with the savings from last year. Plans to do Homestead Drive, rest of Morses Line Road. Will apply for a VTrans paving grant for Dewing Road and Riley Road.

Corinna Stanley asks what portion of Dewing Road would be paved. The board states the currently paved portion above the State Park Road. Corinna asks about redesigning the intersection with Towle Neighborhood at the same time, as it is better with the stop signs but still some concerns; need to narrow down the corner or make as a "T" would be best.

Mike Lawyer asks with cuts to the gas/fuel line are we going to have issues in the future. Yvon states prices are staying low and leveling for now, may go back up in the summer but is really unknown.

Scott Korhonen asks about Sheriff costs; is there a contract? Lisa states she has not heard of an hourly price increase; we will finish off our contract in June 2015 and then write a new one for next year.

Polly asks about the Ambulance cost off-set. Lisa advises the funds are reserved in the liability/reserve lines.

Review of Warning:

Peter read the warning aloud. No comments or changes made. The Board signed as written; Lisa will contact the School board for signing.

Franklin Rescue Service (FRS) funds:

Peter reviewed the donation from FRS given to the town to be used for water quality improvements at Lake Carmi. The Selectboard is responsible for approving the spending; however they would like input from the LCCA and Watershed. Polly asks to use the funds for purchasing a new weed harvester.

Polly has spoken with Peter Benevento regarding the specs he has gotten; she forwarded them to the board. Polly has met with Ann Bove from State of VT ANR this week about grant funding. Advised we can add the purchase to the Aquatic Nuisance Grant that we currently apply for to cover operational costs. Polly will confirm that funds can be awarded for both pieces individually; would not want the town to lose their funding if the equipment funds were denied. Do not want to see the funds going to staffing for FWC. Yvon thanks the FRS for the funds, he would like to have the support of the voters as to where to spend funds. Not just for the selectboard to decide. Ed thanked Polly as well for her dedication to the service. He asked should we get thoughts of what the Watershed Comm. has info of and their input. Michelle states we need to be careful on wording of items for interpretation. Peter would like to have a discussion at town meeting of what the voters would like to see the spending of the \$25,000. Brooks-would it be prudent to look at all options for weed control and the best use of the money. Additional dump areas would be more efficient. Peter states the board is in support of a new weed harvester but need to make the best decision. Polly was looking at a harvester for \$62,000 and \$30-35,000 for a conveyer. The grant due Feb 11 can include equipment and operations. Polly would like the board's approval of spending the \$25,000 contingent upon voter approval at town meeting and we can turn down the grant if the voters do not approve. Edmund Rainville/Yvon Dandurand made the motion to utilize the \$25,000 gifted from Franklin Rescue Service to apply for a 50/50 grant for a weed harvester subject to voter discussion at town meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Polly suggested that the LCCA could take over the administrative work of the weed harvester, work out the schedules, and coordinate the tractor and dump sites with volunteers to assist with any items necessary. Do a lease for maintenance and operation. Peter states there may be some apprehension with this decision due to tension with LCCA and the Selectboard.

Other business:

The Town Clerk was asked by the highway crew to draft a letter to the property owner on Kennison Road regarding parking vehicles in the ROW, leaving no turnaround spot for the plow truck creating a safety hazard. The board reviewed the letter and Peter signed it to be sent.

Brooks Sturtevant/ Edmund Rainville made the motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
January 26, 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.