

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014 @ 7:00  
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING**

**Members Present:** Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Kyle Lothian, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

**Guests:** Michelle Guilmette, Jean Richard, Carole Richard, Kim Gates Maynard, Brooks Sturtevant, Polly Gadbois.

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of allegiance was said.

**Public Comments:** None to be heard

**Budget Review:** Peter begins by stating that this year there will be big changes due to the change in fiscal year to July-June rather than the calendar year. We will present an 18 month budget; the increase will not be 1 ½ times. It will be about a 34% increase for the total 18 months over last year's 12 month budget.

- Street lights: change to LED street lights, cost to replace all the lights will be \$5,100; Efficiency VT will pay \$2,900 our share will be \$2,100. This will save us approx. \$813 per year.
- Sand Shed: payment of \$22,721 for 4 years included in budget line.
- Watershed: requesting \$1,000 as in the past in the budget.
- Sheriff: We got a return of \$1,467 from fines/tickets issued to offset the last year cost of \$3,440. Have included an article for \$5,500 for the 18 month period.
- Clock: when will it be reinstalled by Eric; Lisa will check on.
- Health Insurance: shift costs as necessary to reflect actual 12 month budget from June-July.
- Library: large increase for town assessment; looking at history and budgets are similar to years past. The increase is due to savings account funds being depleted.
- Dewing Road Bridge: article for \$30,000 more to complete the project. Bids came in higher than budgeted. Bid was awarded with stipulation of approval by voters of additional funds. Kyle advises that the town received a hydraulic study of the Millpond dam and downstream stating that there would be no adverse effect on the area with the change of culvert size. May need to look at cleaning out the dam of debris and the channel from the lake to millpond. Polly asks if more stoning will be done on Dewing Shore for erosion control. The change in the culvert to better allow the natural flow and level of the lake will also help ease the erosion on Dewing Shore.
- Kim asks what the average value of homes is for comparison of the tax rate from 2013 to the increased 2014 with the 18 month budget. Jean states she can figure that average out easily. Lisa will do a comparison of the new rates for 18 months for town meeting so people will be aware of the increase on tax bills.
- Brookes inquired about what options there may be in town for development and growth of business or income producing ideas to produce more revenues to offset the expenses/budget. The small towns do not have lots of options for business growth. Applying for grants is our key resource.

Peter asks if there are any other questions regarding the budget.

**Warning review:** Peter read the school and town warning for town meeting aloud. One typographical error was corrected. Peter/Yvon made a motion to approve the warning as read with noted change. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

**Other Business:**

- Certificate of compliance for adopting the 2013 road standards was reviewed. Peter tabled until the next meeting to discuss when the entire board is present.
- Letter to camp road land owners was reviewed advising them that the LCCA declined the offer of funds for maintaining the private camp roads. Peter signed on behalf of the board and asked Lisa to send to land owners.
- Mailbox replacement letter was received from a resident about the snow plow damaging it. Lisa will contact the resident about replacement/repair per the policy.
- Volunteer coverage: Lisa has been in contact with VLCT about volunteer in any capacity being covered if they work for the town in any way. Our insurance policy covers them for liability should they cause any damage/negligence. They are also covered for injury with an accident policy that is part of our coverage.
- Polly asks what follow-up she should take with the dog incident of owners on Hammond Shore Rd. Due to the delay with the complaint coming in and not being written the board stated that nothing can be enforced at this time according to the dog
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ordinance. All complaints must be in writing. Dennis, Animal Control, will follow-up regarding the licensing of their dogs.

Kyle Lothian/Yvon Dandurand made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk  
January 30, 2014

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