

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Andy Godin, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Guests: Carole Richard and Michelle Guilmette, Auditors; Kathleen Engstrom and Bryant Reynolds, Haston Library.

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

Agenda amendments:

Add to Old Business: discuss Morses Line Rd traffic ordinance petition
All members voted in favor, 4-0 approved.

Public Comments: none

Minutes:

The minutes of December 16 were reviewed. Minor changes/corrections were made. Yvon/Brooks made the motion to approve the minutes of Dec 16, 2015. All members voted in favor.

Library Budget Review: Kathleen, Librarian, presented the library budget to the board, asking for \$38,000 from town funding for FY17 as there will be a carry-over of funds from FY16 of approx. \$7,000. Half of the carry-over (\$3,500) is designated for memorial funds and grant money to be spent in FY17. Capital expense of \$600 is to upgrade a new computer. Bryant commends the library for continued growth of programs for adults and children this year to 112 programs. Kathleen and Bryant were thanked and exited. Michelle and Carole spoke of the vacation/sick time that the librarians get as part-time employees that the auditors have noted. Discussed the rising library budget for a small community needs to be controlled.

Town Clerk concerns:

- **Highway O/T:** Lisa wanted clarification on calculating O/T with vacation/holiday time within the week. The new personal policy is vague so wanted to be sure of the board's intent with such. Pete advised the vacation and holiday hours should be used as time worked in calculating O/T with over 40 hours.
- **Phelps bill:** Ok to pay as per the contract for work of the water district engineering study. Pete asks why the water commissioners are not authorizing payments/signing warrants of the bills for their department. The selectboard authorizes them to approve their bills.
- **PACIF grant:** Franklin Fire Dept has asked about using the PACIF grant to purchase turn-out gear. Andy advised we have a few items for the highway garage to put through the grant and Lisa advised about the railing on the front of the town hall that may need to be replaced to be accessibility compliant as noted on the VLCT/PACIF inspection of deficiencies. We will include the fire dept for the grant maximum.

Budget Review and preparations: Reviewed budget final draft. Andy discussed the need to look at purchasing a new plow truck to replace the 2006 Mack. The truck is beginning to show its age and is in need of frequent repairs. Yvon will get pricing on an International and Mack truck with plow package, as the current plow has been used on the past 3 trucks and also needs to be replaced. Yvon will ask the dealers to come look at the old truck to give us an idea of its value. Currently have \$61,000 in the equipment fund for a truck purchase. Will discuss at January 11, special meeting, to decide if putting an article on the warning for town meeting.

The park and ride issue was discussed as to include in the budget the \$41,250 for the grant received that may have to be paid back; working on a resolution with VTrans.

Yvon has priced a sweeper attachment to go on the shared Kabota tractor for \$2,200 to do the sidewalks with light snowfalls and street sweeping in the spring. Yvon will ask about the attachment being universal to other tractors as well for future trade-ins.

Warning review: Pete read the warning:

- Pete spoke with Bethany at NRPC regarding the proper wording of the article to the traffic ordinance petition. Lisa will follow-up with Bethany.
- Highgate Arena funding request discussed; the board voted not to include funding in the FY17 budget.
- Library budget approval as a separate article; request by someone last year at town meeting to vote on the library budget by its self. Pete feels as the town is funding a large portion that is included in our general budget there is no need to have a separate library budget article.
- The School board will need to vote for two members; as last year one declined the position and a member was appointed to fill the position until the next town meeting.
- Discussed adding an article for a new plow truck; need to confirm after further information is obtained.
- Start time of Town meeting discussed, would like to move start time to 9:00 AM to get more business done before lunch when there are more people in attendance. Brooks/Yvon made a motion to start town meeting at 9:00 AM. All members voted in favor. Lisa will mail post cards to the checklist of the town meeting time change, election/ballot opening time change; if cost in under \$100.

Review and Sign bills: Bills were reviewed and signed

Old Business:

- **PACIF** deficiencies discussed in town clerk business.
- **Morses Line traffic ordinance:** warning language discussed and Town Clerk has posted a public informational meeting with the public budget meeting on January 20th at 7:00 at the school library. Discussed removing the speed limit signs; not enforceable until the ordinance is final, will leave up for now.

New Business:

- **Watershed Management meeting:** Jessica from the Franklin Watershed has asked for the selectboard to meet with the State Watershed management group regarding the impacts that the clean water act will have on towns; the possible funding or lack of. Pete asked to schedule to meet at the Feb 3 meeting; Lisa will do a summary of the projects from the Storm water study that was done by Stone Environmental of the completed projects.
- **Rutland Resolution:** this resolution is regarding the input of the towns with large solar and/or wind projects that go through the Public Service Board (PSB). Towns are asking legislation to consider changes that will allow more input from the municipal boards in working with the PSB for approval/denial of projects. The board supports the resolution and will sign showing support.

Selectboard folder:

- Town meeting tune-up conference on Feb 3; Yvon would like to attend.
- Letter from Heidi in Highgate regarding the Arena assessment.
- PVR grand list information for 2015; CLA 103%, COD 20%. Listers review for accuracy.

Member Concerns:

- Andy asks what the school agreement is for use of the tractor to plow sidewalks in town. The school demands that they have first use and the town can have when he is done. Plowing of Square Rd needs to be changed to not push snow onto sidewalk.
- Yvon asked about spare driver training with snow plowing; Jake has not been trained. Grader training needs to be scheduled for Jeremy in the spring.
- Selectboard report: Pete read the report for the town report and changes were made by members
- Yvon will speak with Bethany at NRPC about the park and ride and assisting with a resolution from VTrans.
- Andy mentioned options for the park and ride paved parking area: use for highway storage of materials/install barriers for gravel, sand/salt mix while plowing for easier pick-up and to prevent leaching into drainage

Salary/benefits: discussed the health insurance benefits compared to the last 4 years. Board approved to leave the health insurance as is; paying 100% of premium and 50% of deductible to HRA account. Lisa thanked and exited the meeting

Executive Session: Motion by Brooks to go into Executive session to discuss personal salaries at 10:05 pm, all members in favor. Andy/Yvon made the motion to exit executive session at 10:15 pm. Pete made a motion to increase highway salaries for Howard and Jeremy by \$.40/hour, all in favor. Brooks made a motion to raise salary for Lisa by 2% (\$.41) and Sara by \$1.00/hour, all in favor.

Next regular select board meeting will be Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm in School library. Next water commissioner meeting will be Monday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Andy/Brooks made a motion to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. All members voted in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
January 7, 2016

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.
These minutes were approved at the January 20, 2016 meeting.