

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests: Howard Vansette, Bob with Pike Industries, Jay Denault, Mike Lawyer with FFD, Tim Hopkins

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Agenda amendments: None

Public Comments: Tim Hopkins entered the meeting to discuss the repair of the library pillars with the board. Both pillars have rot damage at the bases and have gotten worse in the past year. Tim suggests removing them and storing in a dry place for repair of the bases and replacement of the pedestals they sit on. Tim will speak with Ed about assisting with the repair. The highway crew will be asked to assist with removal. Tim was thanked and exited the meeting.

Minutes: Brooks/Yvon made the motion to approve the June 30, 2015 minutes as written. Vote taken, 3 in favor, 1 abstain, motion passed.

Highway Department:

- **Pigeon Hill Culvert:** options were discussed and prices of each. The Contech aluminum arch culvert with aluminum wing walls/heads is approx. \$50,000 and a concrete structure approx. \$100,000. Must complete the work by October 1st per ANR. Town Clerk will put together a bid packet including: the Contech ALSP arch culvert specs to measurements, hydraulic study, public meeting before work commences, diverting water during construction, road to stay open one-way, and fill needed per Road Foreman. Send to Munson, St. Onge, ECI, and G.W. Tatro. Bids will be due Aug 4 and opened at the Aug 5 board meeting.
- **Paving contract:** The board discussed the paving contract with Bob from Pike Industries regarding the price. Bob advised the crude oil prices have dropped so the new price would be \$72.93 per ton (\$1 less than quoted) need to do right away. Will complete Homestead Drive and as much of Moses Line as possible. Will determine the funds available for paving after finalizing the Pigeon Hill project costs.
- **Riley Rd/Rte. 120 road side mowing:** discussed the view of tall grass/cattails when exiting Riley Rd. onto Rte 120/North Sheldon Rd. Howard advised ditches have been cut back on Rte. 120 at this intersection.
- **Colton Road/Stanley Road Intersection:** Howard advised he has rented the boom mower from the Town of Berkshire for \$100/day to cut back roadside brush. He has trimmed back this intersection pretty well. Howard is not sure that making this a "T" intersection will make much of a difference on the views. He is waiting for the opinion of James Marshall from VTrans that has reviewed the intersection also. Board will review at next meeting.
- **Towle Neighborhood/Stanley Rd intersection:** discussed the paved apron and condition of. Howard will remove the broken blacktop and smooth with gravel at this intersection.
- **Foreman pay rate:** Howard questioned getting a cost of living raise this year. Pete advised with increases to health insurance and uniforms no raises were given. The board will review and discuss again.

Fire Truck: Mike Lawyer with FFD entered the meeting to discuss the purchase of the new fire truck with the board. The price has gone up about \$1,600 since last year's quote. Total cost of \$227,164 is due on delivery of the new truck in approx. March 2016. Need to order by August 1 or the price will increase again with the next year's model. Lisa discussed the financing of the truck with a local bank at approx. 1.3% interest on \$160,000 for four years after delivery; first payment will be raised with 2015-16 taxes. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to accept the fire truck proposal from Desorcie Emergency Products of \$227,164 with town funds as approved by voters at town meeting of up to \$209,000 including interest, balanced to be paid by the Franklin Fire Dept. All members voted in favor 4-0, motion passed. Pete signed the purchase contract. Mike was thanked and exited the meeting.

Review and Sign Bills:

Board reviewed and signed bills and warrants.

Act 46 School Consolidation: Jay Denault was welcomed to the meeting to discuss the school consolidation act. Pete reviewed the county meeting of other school boards and supervisory union boards that they attended on June 7 regarding this subject. Have concerns of how this affects Franklin Central School. Jay was a MVU and Supervisory Union board member for 11 years. The state tried the consolidation issue in 2004 with S194 – cutting supervisory unions from 60 to 16; this did not pass.

- This session Act 46 was passed and will limit our local school boards to a regional board that will control all budgets and operations of schools; would be made up of Alburg, Swanton, Highgate and Franklin.
- The new stipulation is that by July 1, 2017, if the schools do not have a consolidated agreement the state board of education will do it for them.
- If the individual schools vote “no” to consolidating, the vote will be declared “unessential” by the state and will still be forced to do so.
- The VT Constitution states “towns shall provide a school in each town to educate your children.” This violates the state constitution to force this on towns.
- The small schools grants have been taken away.
- Legislature now will remove the town’s “Hold Harmless” funding if they do not consolidate by 2017 and have put a budget increase cap of 2% on schools.
- If a school closes and sells; any construction state aid grant funds that were used will need to be repaid to the state upon such sale.
- Act 46 section 13 use of “notwithstanding” is very deceptive to use as the acts used to enforce consolidation have been repealed.
- Pete advised the state will pay \$5,000 to supervisory unions to do a study on consolidation in their districts.
- Jay feels we should join with other small school/town boards that may also be in danger of closing to fight this issue.
- The oaths of office of our legislators may also be in violation, “to not cause harm to the people”.

Jay was thanked for his information and exited the meeting.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **FFD#1 loan refinance:** The loan that FFD#1 has with People’s Trust Co must be refinanced as it is under their federal id #; the merger documents have been sent to the bank to prepare the documents for the next water commission meeting to sign.
- **Town Hall wedding:** Ms. Calderwood has asked about using the town hall for a wedding reception in May 2016. Discussed the policy of charging for large group events. The board is ok with her using the town hall with a small fee; the policy will be reviewed before then.
- **Jenny’s Barn permits:** The Town Clerk has received five catering/wedding liquor permits for weddings in August and September. Advising the board of such and the Town Clerk is able to approve and sign off on.

Old Business:

- **Personal Policy:** Members present would like to wait until the entire board is present to adopt policy; tabled until August 5th meeting.

New Business:

- **Morses Line speed limit:** The board discussed the concern at the last meeting regarding the speed limit in Barnumville. The Town Clerk will request a traffic study from NRPC for this area and then we will revisit.
- **AmeriCorps:** The AmeriCorps group will be here for two weeks August 3-14. The board discussed any possible projects for them to do; no projects at this time.
- **Highway Foreman rate of pay:** The board discussed the request of the highway foreman for a raise at the federal cost of living rate of 1.7%. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to increase the Foreman’s rate of pay by the cost of living to \$19.50 hour. All members voted in favor, 4-0; motion passed.
- **Paving contract:** Yvon/Andy made a motion to accept the paving contract at a rate of \$72.93/ton with Pike Industries to complete Homestead Drive and Morses Line Rd with remaining available funds. Total funds for paving undetermined at this time. All members voted in favor, 4-0; motion passed. Pete signed contract.

Selectboard folder: None

Member Concerns:

-Brooks advised the weed harvesting is going well. Not a lot of weeds due to high water and cooler temps.

- discussed the water rate increase for next billing cycle; the board needs to approve soon to finalize the rate.

-Pete would like to thank Jeremy Barnum for the work in the clock tower to keep the birds out.

-Yvon asked about the emergency management plan with Mark Toof. No updates yet.

- the harvester has been assembled; the hydraulic system will be installed this Thurs; Fri will be a testing of the machine. Will be shipped down mid-next week.

-Andy advised Howard has looked at new road-side mowers for next year's budget. Also need to consider the snow removal equipment for next year.

Next regular select board meeting will be August 5th at 7:00 pm.

Brooks/Yvon made the motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
July 16, 2015

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.

These minutes were approved August 5, 2015