

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M.
HOMESTEAD-FELCO ROOM**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Edmund Rainville, and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

Guests: Pam Bolster & Barry Domina, NWSWD; Bethany Remmers, NRPC; John Kiernan, Phelps Engineering; Mario Dupigny-Giroux, VTrans; Jes Alexant, Marshall & Colette Ploof, John & Nilah Cote, Tim Hopkins, Fran Hopkins, Robert Berger, Richard & Mary Boudreau, Dan Favreau, Judith McLaughlin, Robert Cormier, Hugh Gates, Ricki Calderwood, Susan Clark, Mike Lawyer, Rolland Rainville, Agnes Mercier.

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Northwest Solid Waste District: Peter welcomed Barry Domina and Pam Bolster from NWSWD to the meeting. They are here to discuss the joining of the NWSWD and its benefits. Peter reviews our current SWIP requirements; in the past we shared costs with Highgate for Household Hazardous Waste. Highgate has joined the district leaving the cost to be borne by Franklin alone. Legislation of Act 148 recycling mandates are making it difficult for the town to continue with its own SWIP plan. It will be illegal to throw out any kind of recyclable products. It will be less expensive to join the district than regulate on our own. Pam stated the district offers a wide variety of services; drop-off sites, special collection events, recycling, electronics disposal, composting, reuse center, enforcement of illegal burning. There will be new reporting and educational requirements. No SWIP plan will be needed for the town; as part of the district we will follow their plan. Pam reviewed all benefits and the advertising and notification of events. The district has no plans to raise rates; are very stable at this time. Cost to join is \$2.50 per capita (\$3,512) for buy-in to the assets/liabilities of the district and can be spread over 5 years; annual yearly cost of \$1.00 per capita (\$1,405). Lisa advised to hold two HHW events for the town alone would cost about \$5100 per year; this is just not affordable. The Town can leave the district by approval of a town vote. Offer compost containers and recycle bins at a reduced price. If we join late in the year the rates would be prorated to join. The board advised the plan is to have a town wide vote on August 26 during the Primary Elections; we could become a member shortly thereafter. Lisa advised we would like to hold a Household Hazardous collection event in the fall after joining. Peter thanked Pam and Barry for attended and they exited the meeting.

Rte. 120/Middle Rd/ Morses Line Rd intersection: Peter explained the changes to be made as discussed with VTrans. There were requests at town meeting for further discussion and review. Mario Dupigny-Giroux from VTrans was here to discuss the changes. There will be stop signs added and the corner from Main St/Rte. 120 to Morses Line will be narrowed for a more direct corner. The plan is to change at minimal costs to the proposed and VTrans will study further to see if this is working. Bethany with NRPC would like to see a traffic turn count; Mario states he has one, to see what would be the best fix. Bethany gave the recent traffic counts; Middle Rd, 170/day, Morses Line Rd, 450/day, Main St, 1300/day. Robert Berger states from Middle Rd onto Rte. 120 the stop signs are an issue when towing a trailer. There is not enough distance to clear the other lane of traffic when turning off Middle Rd going east. Maybe warning signs or speed limits need to be added. More review needs to be done to find the proper fix; maybe a direct 4-corner stop would be best. Many options were discussed. The board thanked Mario for attending and he exited.

Franklin Fire District #1: Peter began with introducing John Kiernan with Phelps Engineering who has been assisting the Town with this merger review. Peter reviewed the points of interest as handed out. Marshall states he has been operating the system since 1978, it is the best simple system in the state; always have clear tests. In 1990 the system was upgraded and approved by the state without a main meter; now the state wants a main meter put on with a fire flow valve which will be costly. The state charges water districts for their usage and wants a better monitor of the usage. The state is also requiring a chlorination system. Marshall always promised to keep the rates low and not to use chemicals. Lead/copper testing will only need to be done every 2 years now not every 6 months. The enforcement is ridiculous with a private owned system. Operator license renewal needs to be done every 2 years and classes must be taken. John Kiernan has reviewed the system and there are no big liabilities for the town to take over the system; it is in good shape. It requires a maintenance operator not just volunteers; there are licensed operators in the area that would work part-time with Franklin. The state deficiencies are mandated by the EPA;

Marshall has communicated with the state for an extension of two years due to the merger of the district.

John Kiernan states deficiencies are:

- Main meter
- Chlorinate to disinfect – no overflow release of chlorinated water
- Lead and copper pipes are slightly corrosive.

Cost to bring to state standards are approx. \$25-50K. This cost would be paid strictly by the water users as it is now with a long term bond. Currently the rates are \$200 per unit per user for volunteer maintenance and daily operation as well as the current loan. Proposed rates would need to increase due to upgrades and hiring of a part-time operator. Last year the FFD#1 paid the state \$616 for the permit to operate. The district would remain as its own entity within the town operations.

Judy McLaughlin asks what happens if there is a “no” vote to merge. John Kiernan advised that FFD#1 is a municipal entity and have authority to tax and operate; the water district users would have to do due diligence to continue to bill users and operate the system on their own. Makes sense for the town to continue the operations of the system.

Proposed rates should be sent to the water users and info regarding the details of the merger to the town as a whole to sell the merger. John discussed the details of the new charter as drafted.

Rolland Rainville asks about the spring lease he currently has with the water district. The spring has not been used for years and should they consider with this merger removing it from the charter/ownership.

Marshall reviewed how the system always has fresh water with the valve settings he controls. There is a stand-by chlorination method for emergencies but the state does not like it.

Peter advised they plan to have a vote on the merger at the August 26 Primary Election. There will need to be two votes; one by the FFD#1 members to merger out and one by the town to merge in. There will be a second required public hearing in August before the vote regarding the merger.

John Kiernan reviewed with the board an application to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Priority List for project grants. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to accept the application and Peter to sign. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Member concerns:

- VT Rural Water membership; Marshall has used them as a resources many times and are great help with questions, though they have not paid to join. The cost is approx. \$200 for membership.
- Garala letter: the board reviewed the letter that was drafted. Lisa will make changes and board ok for Peter to sign as written.
- Paving: bids were reviewed; Ed/Brooks made a motion to spend \$80,000 for paving with Pike Industries based on past years' experience and satisfaction with service. The ton rates are not that far apart to justify changing vendors. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- Buoys at the north beach; Lisa needed to confirm what the boards wishes were. Divide the boat launch from the swim area with 3 – 20” buoys at 50 ft. apart, attach with chains to 5 gal pails filled with concrete.
- Dewing Bridge: Munson will be doing the boring testing on Friday the 19th at 8:00, Ed will be there from the board. Yvon advised the workers risk insurance we are purchasing for the project will be coverage for a year. Court from Munson will submit paperwork.

Yvon/Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
June 19, 2014

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

These minutes were approved at the July 9, 2014 meeting.