

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Ed Rainville; Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk and Andy Godin arrived at 7:00.

Guests: Coni Pell, Attorney; Howard Vansette, Road Foreman; Mary Boudreau, Burt & Kim Maynard, Jean Richard, Richard Boudreau, Betty Rainville.

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Legal Counsel/Executive Session: Coni Pell explained the Jim Phelps accident and injury. Peter Magnant/Brooks Sturtevant made the motion to enter executive session at 6:37 pm to discuss the Phelps mediation. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Peter Magnant/Ed Rainville made the motion to exit executive session at 6:59 pm. All members voted in favor. Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to approve the ratification of the mediated settlement for the Phelps injury litigation. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Agenda amendments: none

Public Comments: Mary Boudreau was welcomed to the meeting. She was present to discuss road conditions with the board. There was a large sink hole on Towle Neighborhood Rd all summer that was not repaired until August; she was upset that it took so long for it to get noticed. She also has concerns with the condition of the winter roads. She drives bus and the roads are often bad in the mornings and not taken care of for driver safety like they should be. The highway crew needs to be out earlier and pay more attention to road conditions especially on the east side of the lake where conditions are often worse than in the village. Mary also wants to be sure the incident with highway personal does not happen again this winter; employees should be reprimanded for their actions. All residents should be treated with respect in regards to road condition complaints.

Highway Dept.:

- Webster Road ditching has been fixed and will work better with a wider ditch and stone work. The drain cover and pipe have been removed which was holding the water up.
- Morses Line Rd culvert has been replaced and reset.
- Homestead Drive has been dug up in the area of concern and drainage from Franklin Telephone lot has been put in. A good base has been put down to allow settling for paving in the spring.
- Gallup Road ditching has been done in the area where there was no ditch before.
- Hot patching did not get done; has gotten too late in the season now.
- Vacation concerns were discussed. The board does not want both men out for a week at the same time. Ron will take the first week of hunting and Howard the following week. Howard has got extra drivers if needed for a storm with one highway member not available. The rate of pay was discussed and set at \$13.00/hr. for the extra drivers.
- Howard advised he has three loads of salt in storage at this time. He would like to install a gate on the salt shed so the public cannot take salt for personal use; he feels a lot of salt is being taken. The board is fine with that and Yvon has offered the Town a gate for the salt shed.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- Buoys and dock at the lake have not yet been removed. Ed will get the buoys out of the water. Lisa will call Fish and Game as they were responsible for removing the docks and the town will store them. Peter and Yvon will speak with John Giroux about storing them on his property as it is close to the lake.
- Health Insurance renewal rates were reviewed. The current plan is with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for the Silver high deductible plan; the rate increase is 9.5% over last year. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to continue with the BC/BS silver plan the same as in 2014. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- Drama Club-Debbie Berger has asked to use the town hall for a production. They started auditions Nov 1 and will hold a show in Feb. Board is fine with her request.

- Alarm panel has continued to be an issue. It has a cracked circuit board and sounds a trouble alarm for no reason and needs to be replaced at a cost of \$2100 as quoted. Lisa will check with VLCT PACIF for grants they offer on such safety equipment and advise the board before replacing.
- Weed Harvester final grant paperwork was reviewed and needs to be signed. Total cost submitted for the grant in 2014 is \$8889; the grant funding is \$4690. Brooks Sturtevant/Andy Godin made a motion to approve the final grant letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- Humane Society contract for 2015 was reviewed and cost of the service contract of \$500.00 discussed. The board does not feel we get any services for this fee and find that the Franklin County Humane Society is not user friendly when we need to turn over a dog. We still get charged for any dog that is brought to them above the contract cost. Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to approve and accept the FCHS holding agreement/contract for \$500.00. 4 against, 1 abstain (Andy), motion failed. Contract not signed.

Old Business:

- **Homestead Drive project cost sharing.** Burt and Kim, Jean, Richard and Betty entered the meeting and were welcomed. Peter asked Burt about the work that has been done. Burt advised the drainage and conduit from FTC building has been installed under the road and is working well. The lot is dry now. There is still an area of concern at the corner turning toward the Homestead on the right edge that needs to be repaired before paving. Kim asks about the whole road being resurfaced; from Main St to the Homestead will be done. Discussion on the need for more drainage tile to be installed to be sure the water is removed from under the road before paving; will review again in the spring to see what it looks like. Drainage should be set three feet down with stone on top for better permeation. Kim is concerned with the width of the road and keeping the same as it currently is; Peter states that is the plan. Peter asks about the cost sharing for the repair of Homestead Drive; all parties are in agreement of a three way split as stated in the shared drive agreement. Kim would like to include in the paving to be done FTC's two drives and they will pay for those. The guests present were thanked and exited the meeting.
- **Main St/Middle Rd/Morses Line Rd intersection** was discussed. A letter from TAC/Northwest Regional Planning Commission was read in support of the town's efforts to redesign the intersection for safety concerns. The town will forward this letter of support with their letter to Mario at VTrans asking for further engineering review for a permanent fix to this intersection. Jim Cota has advised the board that the current design plan should be used to cut out pavement traveling west to Morses Line Rd.

Minutes: Minutes of October 8 regular meeting and October 27 emergency meeting for grant approval; Yvon Dandurand/Ed Rainville made a motion to accept minutes as written. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Minutes of October 23 emergency meeting for education tax rate approval; Yvon Dandurand/Brooks Sturtevant made a motion to approve as written. 4-1, Andy abstained, motion passed.

Review and sign bills: The bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Franklin Watershed-Alisha Sawyer: Alisha will not be attending tonight.

New Business:

- Updates to personal policy: tabled at this time
- Hay land contract: Andy states the current contract holder only mowed the land once this year and did a poor job. They need to do a better job of maintaining the land and cutting off the crop to keep it healthy for future use. Yvon will speak with David Woods about the town's expectations.

Selectboard Folder:

- Letter from the auditors requesting selectboard report for town report.
- Letter from Governor Shumlin replying to town regarding condition of Lake Carmi. Bruce Bushey has invited the board to the next Franklin Watershed meeting on November 20th. He has invited the state reps from several departments to discuss work on Lake Carmi's condition.
- Email from Rob Cormier regarding interest of being a member of the Planning Commission. Board feels that would be a conflict of interest with Judith on the board. Lisa will reply to Mr. Cormier.

- Email from Dave Bennion regarding interest on Planning Commission board. Peter Magnant/Yvon Dandurand made a motion to appoint Dave Bennion to the PC board. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Lisa will send a letter to Mr. Bennion.
- Letter from Friends of Northern Lake Champlain requesting a donation for support of their continued efforts to clean up the lakes. Tabled at this time.

Member Concerns:

- Andy advised that Hugh Gates wanted to give the board a heads up that the lights at the municipal parking lot are not LED and should be replaced as well.
- Ed asked about the costs for Wright's Excavation work on 10/20 and 10/21. Where was this work done; was for Webster Rd and Morses Line Rd.
- Ed has been told that the Agency of Natural Resources has stated that the Dept. of Ag is doing a good job with farmers to aid in cleanup of Lake Carmi. Ed has asked for the number of farms that have been reprimanded with fines for bad work done.
- Ed advised there is lots of dead trees around town in the ROW that need to be cut down for safety concerns. He is willing to offer his services for cutting them down.

Next regular and budget meeting will be December 10 at 6:30 pm.

Employee review meeting will be on December 17 at 7:00

Brooks Sturtevant/Ed Rainville made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
November 14, 2014

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