

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 @ 7:00
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests: Howard Vansette, Eric Gerrard, Alisha Sawyer, Franklin Watershed; Aaron & Kristy Porter, Tiffany Renaudette, Marshall Ploof, Michael Lawyer, Polly Gadbois

Peter Magnant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of allegiance was said.

Public Comments: None to be heard

Watershed Committee: Alisha Sawyer introduced herself as the new coordinator for the Franklin Watershed. She is working for Franklin as well as the Missisquoi River Basin group. She is requesting a support letter from the board for a joint grant application with the Missisquoi River Basin for an AmeriCorps worker. The state is using Lake Carmi as a bata test site for work being considered in Lake Champlain as well; as we have similar issues but are much smaller in size for monitoring. Alisha states she wants to be a resource for all parties; farmers, campers, and residents in the watershed to work together. She will continue to build on the work of past coordinators. The board reviewed the grant and Peter signed a letter of support from the town. Peter thanked Alisha for her continued support of the Watershed Committee.

Town Hall: Eric Gerrard has a quote for the board to replace the leaking roof on the addition/entry on the north side of the town hall of \$11,500 for standing seam, sheathing, and rafters also interior work as needed. Lisa is looking at grants available for all the work that is needed at the town hall.

Clock: Eric advised the clock work should be done and reassembled by Christmas.

Messier Rd/Webster Rd: Aaron Porter gave an update on the Messier Rd class 4 portion that has had some upgrade work done. After the letter received from the town stating all work/upgrades on the class 4 portion of the road had to be done at the resident's expense; they put down \$1800 of gravel. Would like to board to go view what has been done for work. The ATV traffic continues to be an issue with speed and tearing up the road. Mr. Porter states the town equipment already comes to the end of the class 3 portion, could continue to the end of the road at Ruprechts. Mr. Porter states they have followed the camp road issue and want to be treated the same as the camp roads moving forward. Feel a precedence has been set with the camp roads work being done and should also be done on Messier Road. If an article is put forth at town meeting on the camp roads would like Messier Rd class 4 to be included to be treated the same. Kyle advised in 1982, at town meeting it was voted that work on the camp roads would be left to the discretion of the selectboard of the work to be done; should continue to do so as previously voted. ATV incidents are unfortunate and cannot be stopped. Peter has spoken with the town attorney and was advised the town should not be working on private roads. Aaron would like the precedence that has been set for the camp roads to be the same for the Messier Rd class 4 as well. Peter states if the residents upgrade the road to class 3 standards the town would then take over full maintenance. Mr. Porter asks if the town would bond the residents for \$10,000 over 5 years; the cost of the upgrade work they would need to do to bring it up to a class 3 road. Can the class 4 road be gated to prohibit through traffic.

Art Leduc has sent a letter to the board regarding the class 4 portion of Webster Rd as well. He would also like equal treatment as the camp roads and Messier Rd. Mr. Leduc is willing to upgrade the class 4 portion to class 3 standards if the town would take over the road and maintenance. Lisa will send a letter to Mr. Leduc with the class 3 standards. The board requested that they speak with Jim Cota at VTrans about the class 3 standards and review of these two roads for work needed and cost to do so.

Highway Foreman: Howard reported the plow trucks are ready. Bethany at NWRP contacted him regarding available grants for equipment to apply brine to the roads. Cost would be \$.26/gal with 10% ice-be-gone purchased from the Town of St. Albans. Lisa asked to invite Steve Beauregard from St. Albans Town to the next meeting. Kyle states he had gotten two calls from residence today about the roads being icy. The highway crew needs to be more organized and responsible for the work to be done as required. Need to keep roads safe. Howard was thanked and exited the meeting. Kyle states he still has concerns with the highway personal and performance. Kyle exited the meeting.

Franklin Fire District #1: Marshall and Mike entered the meeting. Marshall states he has met with the state about the water system; they want the district to install a central flow meter at the tank sight. This is an extreme cost of approx. \$50-60K. The water district board cannot find people to serve on the Prudential Committee and have interest in the district. The Franklin Fire District #1 board has voted to dissolve the Franklin Fire District #1. When the district dissolves the municipality/selectboard takes over the responsibility and operation of the water system. Operators would need to go to school 2-3 times a year. Tim Raymond is the contact with the state on the water districts. Marshall suggests having an operator and a member of the selectboard to be in charge of the system. Sheldon has 3 trained operators who may be willing to be hired part-time by the town.

The Town Clerk will speak with VLCT regarding the charter of the water district and how this needs to be dissolved. JP Giuliani was the attorney who originally did this charter and may be of assistance. Aldrich & Elliot, an engineer for water systems has been spoken to about the state upgrades requested. They are willing to assist with this work. NWRP may also assist with the transition; Marshall would like the town to take over on July 1, 2014 as a municipal operation.

Minutes: Oct 3, dog hearing, Oct 8 regular meeting and Oct 10 Dewing Bridge bid opening, minutes read for approval. Peter/Andy made a motion to accept as read; all members voted in favor, motion passed.

Reviewed and signed bills: board reviewed and signed

Town Clerk Concerns:

- Ron Lontine thanks the board and town for the flowers sent to him after the death of his father.
- Drama Club: Debbie Berger is the new drama coordinator and has asked for the use of the town hall for a production. Board members are fine with drama using the town hall.
- Health Insurance: Lisa will be registering the town employees directly with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2014, as the VT Health Exchange is not up and running to date.
- Street Lights: Efficiency Vermont has done a comparison of the current rates vs. LED street lights. The cost to swap the lights to LED is \$5075; \$2900 of the cost to be paid by Efficiency VT and for the town would be \$2175;. The annual cost savings would be approx. \$813; energy usage of 11,642 kWh would be saved.

Old Business:

- **Ambulance Contract with EAS:** Polly entered the meeting to discuss the proposed changes made to the contract with Enosburg Rescue Service. The board approved the proposal of a 1% increase annually, from Jan 2014-July 2017 at a set price of \$20 per capita; changed from a 3% increase annually and \$28/capita to be in line with the cost of Amcare Service with Sheldon. Peter/Yvon made a motion to approve the contract as proposed, all members voted in favor. Peter signed the contract; Polly will hand deliver to the Enosburg Selectboard and Ambulance Service at their next meeting.
- **Grissom dog:** Lisa has e-mailed Mandy Grissom twice requesting a certificate of training for their dog as required from the original letter sent. No reply to date.
- **Crosswalk on Main St:** Bethany from NWRP has come and viewed the requested crosswalk location just south of the clerk's office. She will send a letter to Amy Gamble at the VTtrans pedestrian safety group requesting the crosswalk be reviewed again by the state.
- **Camp Roads:** The board discussed the camp roads further since sending letters to the land owners. No response has been received from the land owners regarding further action with the camp road issue. Nothing will be done on the camp roads at this time until there is further discussion with the land owners.
- **Cargill Salt Contract:** The town received an amended contract at a reduced price of \$61.67 from \$63.28 shortly after the last meeting. Peter signed the amended contract as salt purchases were needing to be made.

New Business:

- **Winter Operations Policy:** The highway foreman submitted a proposed winter operations policy to the selectboard for review and adoption. The board reviewed the policy as warned and asked the town clerk to post on the website as a draft for public input. The policy will be warned for adoption at the December regular meeting.

Selectboard folder:

- VLCT proposed membership fees for next year's budget.
- Animal Cruelty workshop
- Letter from Highgate about transferred dogs.
- VLCT Planning Forum and open meeting laws workshop.

Member Concerns:

- Greg Lussier contacted Yvon to thank everyone from town for all the help given during the construction of the sand shed. He was very pleased with how helpful everyone involved were. The informational meeting was very well presented as well. Yvon inquires if the sand shed is full to its capacity; should the town consider a push blade to assist in filling/pushing the sand up better.
- Lisa reminded the board that employee reviews should be done soon before year end.
- Discussed a date for abatement and to begin budget preparations; November 26 at 6:30 for the abatement hearing, at 7:00 for budget prep.

Peter/Yvon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
November 14, 2013

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. Approved by Selectboard on December 10, 2013.