

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Andrew Godin, Ed Rainville (entered at 7:20), and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

Guests: John Kiernan, Phelps Engineering; Howard Vansette, Road Foreman; Peter Benevento, Larry Myott, Debbie Bushey, LCCA; Kim Gates Maynard, Marshall Ploof.

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

Agenda amendment: Peter requests to add to the Town Clerk concerns the NWSWD agreement. Move from old business: Dewing bridge updates to highway dept and Weed harvester update to LCCA discussion. All members are in favor.

Public Comments: No public comments

FFD#1 merger: John Kiernan was welcomed. He handed out a list of points of consideration moving forward with the transition of the FFD#1 merger. A letter of certification of the vote results needs to be sent to the Secretary of State for Legislature acceptance of the merger. Peter had spoken with Steven Beyor, so he is aware of the merger.

- form a Water Commission with three members – one a Selectboard member.
- Public outreach to water users of future plans and rates
- Licensed operator needs to be hired.
- Drinking water loan funds that have been preapproved to apply for are Federal funds. Would need to meet federal guidelines for these funds.
- Town median household income vs. water district user's household income may drive the loan rate of the federal loan. May be able to get a lower rate with local bank than federal loans.
- John will forward a proposed agreement/contract for Phelps Engineering to do the technical support, permits, and construction options for the town for approx. \$10,000.
- Peter advises the board is not ready to appoint water commissioners tonight, will plan another meeting to select the members of the commission.
- John advises the state is looking at the following deficiencies: a meter to measure flow from the spring to the holding tank; meter from the tank to the system users; automatic chlorinating system needs to be added and a way to control overflow of chlorinated water from running on the ground.
- John will send an RFP to the town for hiring an operator.

John was thanked and exited the meeting at 7:38.

Highway Dept.: Howard gave an update of the Dewing Rd bridge project. The hole is dug and culverts are gone; stones have been put in for the base. They will be ready for footings. Ruggiano must inspect before the structure is set. Next Wednesday the footings will be set, the bridge will be set on Friday. Howard advised they can use bank run gravel for the backfill once the base is filled.

Rte 120/Morses Line/Middle Rd – VTrans has been asked to look at the intersection again for the corner from Morses Line. Need to continue with the state for engineering of the corner. Howard has been asked to remove the cones for the time being as this reconfiguration is not currently working.

Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood Rd-the yield sign from Towle Neighborhood will be removed; want a 3-way stop with stop ahead signs at all three routes. The speed limit will be left at 35 mph as currently posted.

The board discussed the need to find an extra driver for coverage when needed.

Homestead Drive was discussed for the work that needs to be done. Kim advised there are cables that cross; water issue in front of the FTC building. FTC will work with the highway dept to place drainage for the water issue on their property and mark the cables. We will need to do this work this fall to allow for settling before paving in 2015.

FELCO Foundation: Kim advised the board that the FELCO Foundation was formed by the Franklin Light Co when they were sold as a memorial. They offer grants for funding of Franklin community projects that will be in memory of the company; would like to see recreational opportunities in the community. Kim wanted to make the board aware of these funds.

Kim gave an update on the MAHA rink project. They are looking to replace the ice surface before ice is put down in October. The group is working with Highgate for a bond vote of \$909k at the November elections to fund the updates and upgrades needed. There have been donations and funds given in support of the project to date.

LCCA: Peter welcomed the LCCA members to the meeting. Pete Benevento discussed the media support the lake has received. There will be a legislative forum on Monday, Sept 15 in St. Albans with Franklin Watershed and Friends of Northern Lake Champlain regarding the \$45million in funding coming. LCCA would like to show a presence for support of assistance to clean up Lake Carmi. The state has sent a team of three folks to review the lake. Dept of Health would like to train local people to test lake waters for toxins. LCCA and the state are meeting with the state park operators about lake condition and improvements. LCCA would like to try to get funding for another weed harvester. They are looking at all options for lake cleanup: ag practices, septic updates, road runoff, the pollution all needs to be stopped before the lake condition will improve. Pete B advised they are still pushing for the use of herbicides; would like to hold a public informational meeting in the spring with a town vote around July 15, 2015. Pete B asks the board if they are willing to support a public meeting; would they announce at town meeting of the dates for this meeting? Ed speaks that if the five members of the board are against the application, why would the board support and publicize a meeting with LCCA. Phosphorous is the main issue of the lake that needs to be cleaned up before other methods take place. Larry has considered the use of alum in the lake which absorbs the phosphorous. A floating island at the inlet of Marsh Brook is being looked at as well by FWC to absorb phosphorous.

Peter Magnant advised a petition signed by 5% of the registered voters would be needed to hold a special town meeting and vote on the herbicide issue. Would be warned within 15 days of receipt and has to be held within 40 days of warning.

Pete B advised the water testing reports can be found on the FWC website. The LCCA members were thanked and exited at 9:00.

Town Clerk Concerns:

Alarm panel: the alarm panel has been triggering the alarm for no reason. The panel was installed in 1994 and is in need of updating. The service tech as done a temporary fix for the time being, but need to consider replacing. Cost will be \$2100.00; will hold off for now and review the budget later. Lisa will check on getting a grant for replacement.

Town hall roof: Lisa has not gotten any bids for the work; one person is interested but cannot do work until June 2015. Andy will be in touch with Lucien Laroche about bidding the work.

Historic Preservation grant: Lisa is working on a grant for the drainage work on the north and east sides of the town hall. Board approves of the grant submission with a 50 % match which will be awarded in 2015.

Library compost: The library would like to do a collection area for composting of leaves from the community next to the compost bin in the back yard. They will fill the composter as needed with the leaves. The board discussed and felt they did not want that here as it is not the proper location for a potentially large leaf pile.

Tax sale attorney: Lisa advised the board that they needed to appoint a tax sale attorney for the Town of Franklin. The board discussed what was done in the past. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to appoint Timothy Hawkins to do the tax sales for 2013/2014. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Community National Bank: Lisa has received an update cash management agreement and resolution from Community National Bank for the general checking account. This allows the town to do ACH payments and payroll. The board reviewed and authorized Peter to sign.

Northwest Solid Waste Management: Lisa has received a membership contract agreement for joining the NWSWD. The cost to join the NWSWD is \$2.50 per capita and \$1.00 annually per capita for services. The board reviewed and signed the contract to join.

Reviewed and signed bills: The bills were reviewed and signed by the board.

Minutes: Minutes of August 13 regular meeting; Yvon/Andy made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Pete asked to add the dates of vacation that was approved for the highway foreman. All members voted in favor of the amendment and minutes were approved. Minutes of August 25 special public hearing; Yvon/Andy made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Pete advised there were not member concerns. All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Speed limit on Rte. 120:** The Town Clerk or board has not heard from VTrans about this request for reducing the speed as requested. Pete will call Jim Cota to inquire.

- **Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood Rd:** The board discussed the proposed changes to be made with reducing the speed limit and stop sign additions. Decision of board to leave the speed limit at 35 mph and make a three-way stop with stop ahead signs.

New Business:

- **Traffic Ordinance amendments:** The board reviewed the amendments to be made to the ordinance. Yvon/Brooks made a motion for a three-way stop at Dewing Rd/Towle Neighborhood Rd; remove the yield sign coming from Towle Neighborhood Rd. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Yvon/Ed made a motion to keep the speed limit from Rte 236 to Berkshire town line on Dewing Rd at 35 mph. All members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Salt Contract:** The board reviewed the salt contract from Cargill at \$78.44 per ton. This is a large increase from last year's price. The prices are based on state contract pricing. Pete asked Lisa to check other town's prices and the state price to be sure we are getting the same price. Pete will sign at a later date.

Selectboard Folder:

- VTrans has sent a letter regarding the sidewalks requested for Main St in front of the office and the town hall. The sidewalk at the office was denied; the one at the town hall was considered as it connected the safe routes to school route. The town would need to make a ramp connection from the sidewalk in front of the town hall to the street to meet the crosswalk. Tabled at this time. Yvon will speak with Brian Sartwell about costs for new sidewalks on Main St. going north.
- Scott Choiniere would like to purchase ¼ ton of salt for his driveway. The board agreed and Mr. Choiniere must get the salt weighed and give a slip to Lisa to bill accordingly.
- Yellow Dog mowing bid for the school lawns.
- Bullis Pond dam inspection report from the State of VT. The dam is in fair condition.
- Ruth-Ann Kravesky wrote a letter to the select board regarding the poor condition and water quality of the lake. Asking the board to act and join forces with other town groups in cleaning up Lake Carmi.
- Homestead Drive letter: Andy will work with Franklin Tele on the drainage issue and regarding the underground phone lines.
- Solar Park information for the town to consider with the town land.
- The school board has invited the select board to meet with them on Tuesday, Sept 16 at 6:00 to discuss the mowing of lawns and snow removal for next year. The select board will join the Planning Commission at their meeting at 7:00 on the 16th.

Member Concerns:

- Andy inquired about the brine application for this winter. Yvon advised at the NRPC meeting last month they were told that the grant that NRPC had applied for to aid in purchasing brine application equipment had not been received. The town will not make any changes this year.
- List of library issues from Trustees regarding repairs they are requesting.
- Andy inquired about the guardrails at the garage; they are old and probably will never be all used. They will keep a few sections and recycle the remainder.
- Sand shed: do we have enough sand for the winter, need to use balance of budget for salt purchasing, \$4,200 left.
- Seeding of yard near the drains needs to be done to prevent gravel runoff.
- Ed has concerns with the corner of Middle/Morses Line/Lake Rd. Does not seem to be working well and is still not correct. Suggest removing the cones until a better solution is engineered by the state. Need to continue to push for a resolution.
- Yvon discussed the mowing and snow removal of the town and school. Need to look at all options.
- Pete would like to have a meeting on Sept 22 at 7:00 to discuss and choose water commissioners and discuss hiring an operator.

Ed/Yvon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Next meeting on October 8, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
September 15, 2014

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting. These minutes were approved on October 8, 2014.