

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests: Howard Vansette, Jessica Draper-Franklin Watershed Coordinator, John McHugh-Boat launch greeter.

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

Agenda amendments: Add to Highway Department-Army Corps of Engineering permit for Pidgeon Hill project.

Public Comments: None

Minutes:

Yvon/Brooks made the motion to approve the August 19, 2015 minutes as written. Vote taken, Ed abstains, motion passed 4-0, 1 abstained. Yvon/Andy made the motion to approve the August 26th minutes as written. Vote taken, Ed and Brooks abstain, motion passed 3-0, 2 abstained.

Highway Department:

- **Morses Line speed limit:** NRPC submitted a traffic study at the board's request; it was set up just west of the Dandurand Rd. Board reviewed the results and discussed options; install curve signs with suggested speed reduction or change speed limit to 40 mph between just east of Minkler's to west of Taft's within the curves and hills of this area. It will be warned and noticed as necessary for adoption of new speed limit.
- **Gallup Road culvert:** a resident had advised of an exposed culvert at the surface on Gallup Rd. Howard has removed and fixed the spot where it was located. Discussed the Better Back Roads grant for ditch work on the Gallup Rd. Andy also suggested while there to dig the ditch by Bubby Richard's as it has filled in and will run over the road with a large rain fall. Howard would like to hire Leach's to truck stone in when they do this project, while the highway crew is trucking out the ditch materials so the ditch may be stone lined as they clean out.
- **Pigeon Hill Project:** Howard advised they have been installing the bypass road; the culvert is in and gravel is being hauled. He has put down mats on top of the temp culverts to protect them with large truck traffic; there is about 4 ft. of gravel on the road. Should be done this week. Work signs have been ordered and they will install reflector posts from Lafayette to guide the temporary road sides.
- **Road side mowing:** Howard asked about use of the tractor, when they will be done using it with the weed harvester. Yvon stated they are still working on the problems with the harvester and should only need the tractor for a couple more weeks, than it will be available for road side mowing.
- **Sand:** Howard advised they have about 30 truckloads stored to date; they haul when they can.
- **Army Corps of Engineering permit:** Lisa has spoken with the Army Corps about necessary permits for the Pidgeon Hill project. Work can be done under the category I general permit; the town needs to submit a self-verification form for the work. Brooks/Ed made a motion giving Peter authorization to sign the Army Corp permit. All in favor, motion passed.

Franklin Watershed: Lisa introduced the new coordinator, Jessica Draper, who replaced Alisha Sawyer. Jessica was here to discuss the VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant with the Selectboard. The Watershed would like to assist with doing some projects as listed in the recent storm water study done with Friends of Northern Lake Champlain. The town needs to be the signer of the grant; there is a 20% match of funding, the FWC may also assist with match of in-kind funds. Andy will review the study to prioritize some projects. The grant will be for the next fiscal year projects. Jessica will invite the board to the Sept FWC meeting to discuss areas of concern. Jessica was thanked and exited the meeting.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Town Hall Grant/Bids:** Two bids were received for the listed work requested. Tim Hopkins bid on the exterior painting/facia work. To scrape, renail, and paint the facia on north side: \$477. To scrape, renail/repair, and paint the entire north and west sides of the building; \$5,605. Bid from Bronson/Johnson Seamless gutters to install rain gutters on the north side

of the building for a bid of \$1240. The board discussed the need for snow guards as well, or the rain gutters will easily be damaged. Yvon/Brooks made a motion to accept the Bronson/Johnson gutter bid of \$1240 for the north side of building. Ed abstained, 4-0, 1 abstained, motion passed. Will request bids on the snow guards for the lower roof and repair/paint of the fascia from Bronson/Johnson as well. Brooks/Yvon made a motion to accept the bid from Tim Hopkins Painting for the north and west sides of building to be scraped and painted for \$5605 as quoted. 5-0 all members voted in favor, motion passed. Gutter work is eligible for grant funding, but the exterior painted is not; will be paid with voter approved funds for town hall work.

- **Library pillars/brick work:** Lisa gave information to the board regarding the options for the new bases/rings. Composite/fiberglass vs. wood. The board would like to see the pillars/bases repaired as the original, made of wood. Ed suggested using tamarack or cedar. Pete will speak with Tim Hopkins and Yvon will talk to Donald Rainville about machining the new bases/rings. The repointing of the bricks was quoted by Jay Lawrence; \$1200 for repair of the front entrance area; \$6300 for the upper building and chimney that needs work. Lisa will speak with Jay about work just around where the pillars are before they go back up.
- **Copier purchase:** Lisa recapped the information regarding purchasing a new copier. Brooks/Yvon made a motion to approve the purchase of a new Canon 4225 copier from Symquest in the amount of \$5681 with the reserved funds for this purpose. 5-0 all members voted in favor, motion passed.
- **Pidgeon Hill project:** Lisa reviewed the budget and the match funds needed for this VTTrans emergency grant funding. Estimate to need approx. \$15,000 in match from town; Yvon/Brooks made a motion to reduce the paving budget line by \$15,000 to \$110,000 for these emergency repairs that need to be done. 5-0 all in favor, motion passed.
- **Town Clock:** Lisa will touch base with Dave from the Clock Shop regarding the final tuning to get the clock running again.

Old Business:

- **Park & Ride Closure:** Ed has contacted Wayne David, Agency of Transportation, regarding the closure of the park and ride. Ed contacted prior board members regarding this issue to get information of what took place. Ed spoke with Mr. Davis about the claim that if it were closed we did not have to repay the grant; Mr. Davis stated that was never said. If that were the case the grant funds would not have been paid out. Mr. Davis advised that the board should write a letter to the Secretary of Transportation with all that has transpired to ask to be exempt from repayment. Also do a letter to Wayne Davis asking for a legal time line to deal with the situation and a resolution.
- **Weed Harvester update:** Yvon has been working with Aquamarine on the issues. Have ruled out being a hydraulic problem. A new fuel pump was overnighted to us to arrive today. Yvon asked the highway crew to install the new pump and a new fuel filter on Thursday morning so it can be tested again. Temps have been taken at several locations and are running hot on the motor; seems to be losing fuel. Yvon will continue to work on until it is resolved before storing for winter.

New Business:

- **Sexual harassment policy:** The board reviewed the policy as recommended by the attorney. Ed/Yvon made a motion to approve the policy as written. 5-0 all members voted in favor, motion passed. All members signed the policy.
- **Town Hall user policy:** The board reviewed and discussed the current policy. Need to update the large crowd usage. Will discuss further at the next meeting.

Selectboard folder:

- State of VT letter regarding new fees to register dams in towns; Bullis Dam will need to be registered annually and a fee of \$200 paid beginning May 2016.
- Chester's Pride-seminar on animal cruelty.
- Budget/Town meeting training by VLCT on Sept 30.
- Swanton Wind packet regarding the wind turbines projected to be installed in Swanton.

Member Concerns:

- Pete spoke with Hugh Gates regarding the buyout of the Carriage House by the Franklin Homestead Inc. The board needs to do a letter of support of this merger to Housing Vermont, as part of the funding was a grant/loan from the town through the VT Community Development Block Grant for low income housing.

Next regular select board meeting will be September 16th at 7:00 pm.
Next water commissioner meeting will be September 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Brooks/Yvon made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. All members voted in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
September 3, 2015

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.
These minutes were approved at the September 16, 2015 meeting.