

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Members Present:** Peter Kittell, Peter Magnant, Scott Choiniere, Harvey Bushey, Lisa Larivee (Town Clerk/Treasurer)

**Guests Present:** Heidi Britch-Valenta, Tom Clark, Rural Assistance Program, Don Robisky, State Facilities Engineer, David Breed, Jim Cameron, Polly Perkins, Deb Perry, Howard Vanselette, Roland Lontine, Jon Gates, Tim Magnant, school board members, Kim Gates-Maynard

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Septic Feasibility Study/Watershed:**

Heidi reviewed the work that has been done to date on the study of septic systems around the Lake and water quality issues. She advised that there is state funding available to do more in depth studies and options. Don Robisky from the State of Vt explained that these funds are not a grant or loan really. These costs do not have to be repaid-they would be incorporated into the cost of a system/facility if one were installed. If nothing is built the cost of the study is paid by the state. The study helps to determine if there is a problem, solutions and cost estimates to repair the issues. The study can be done on the Lake properties and the village district at the same time. Estimate for the work would be around \$50,000. Heidi advised that Bill Butler from Georgia spoke with the Watershed about what they have done and their study. The town would need to sponsor the grant program. The Watershed could develop their own entity such as the water district and build their own project at the lake based on the study. Study costs would be split by areas if the project were not done entirely to repay the costs. Town would need to hire its own engineer to do the study and the grant reimburses the costs. Tom Clark, Rural Assistance Program, advised he is available to assist in any way the Town requires. Suggest that the town create a "Waste Water" committee to work on the study and project. Board thanked all present and exited.

**Street Lighting:**

Deb Perry, NWRP, was here to present to the board the information gathered to date on updating the street lighting to LED. Efficiency VT has incentive grants to assist with updates of lighting. The town has 29 street lights that are being considered for replacement to LED. Advantages to LED; have an increased life span, lighting is better and efficiency. There are currently two options; the town owns & maintains the lights or we buy the lights and rent the pole from VEC and they will maintain. VEC does not currently have a LED light program but are being pushed to update street lighting; NWRP will be in touch with VEC about the new incentives. If the town wants to see savings immediately we could eliminate some lights. Deb suggests being in touch with Green Mountain Electric to get a free demo of the new lights. The town should also be in touch with VEC to encourage them to accommodate updates and share the savings with the towns. Scott advised Deb with NWRP to move forward with the program and get the town project ready for the VEC updates when available. Bethany Rummors will be taking over the project for Deb Perry. Ms. Perry thanked and exited.

**Sidewalk issues:**

Scott welcomed Jon and Tim to the meeting. The board suggested to the school board members of making Square Rd a one-way street from the school to Hanna Rd; would remain as is from school to Main St. The corner is narrow and dangerous for traffic. The board is also looking for assistance with plowing the sidewalk when there is a large storm. The school board advised they do not have the staff to plow for the town. The highway crew has spoken with Mr. Lothian on Square Rd and he is willing to volunteer to plow with the town/school tractor. The school board is ok with this. The board has asked Lisa to check with VLCT on insurance coverage for volunteers.

Tim advised he would like to review the warning before it is finalized. Board thanked and exited.

**Highway Crew:**

Boy and Ron welcomed to the meeting. The board reviewed the health insurance changes and wage rate increases with the highway crew. The health insurance has had an increase of 17% in premiums. The board has changed the plan to a higher deductible HSA Plan of \$4500 and will contribute \$1500 to the HAS, leaving \$3000 for the employee to pay. The salaries are receiving a 2% increase. There are earning incentives to the employees to participate in health programs. Lisa will let the crew know what is available. Ron questioned his rate increase. He would like to be increased to be closer to the Foreman salary. Discussed work experience and years of service to the town. The board advised they would review further and advise. Highway crew thanked and exited.

**Executive Session:**

Scott/Harvey made the motion to enter into executive session at 8:25 regarding highway salaries. Harvey/Peter Magnant made the motion to exit executive session at 8:45, all in favor. Raises will remain at the 2% increase of current rates.

**Beach issues:**

Kim entered the meeting to discuss the warning for the beach. She has requested that an article be on the warning to allow the towns people to vote on the gift of the beach. Kim recommends that if the town is granted the ownership of the land a policy and procedure must be written on the use of, docks, and other activities of the beach; how information is to be presented, notices to the public, and loss control. The public must have input of any activity or decisions that pertain to the beach.

**Town Clerk's Concerns:**

- Public budget meeting is set for January 26 @ 7:00 at the school library. The board would like to meet at the Clerk's office at 6:30 before the budget meeting.
- Better Back Roads grant for the Dewing Shore Stabilization has been received and was reviewed by the board. Peter Kittell/Peter Magnant made the motion for the Chair to sign the grant, all members voted in favor.
- Bills: Board members reviewed and signed bills.
- Minutes: Pete Kittell /Peter Magnant made the motion to accept minutes of December 13. All members in favor, approved. Scott/Peter Kittell made the motion to accept minutes of December 30. Discussion on overage of contract with Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc on sidewalk project. Scott, Peter K, Peter M voted yes, Harvey voted no, motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- Sand Shed options: Clear span has quoted \$40,000 for a 55 x 75 building, the concrete with frost walls and 6 ft walls are separate, Peter K is waiting for a price on the concrete. Swanton has a new building that cost \$125,000. The board will continue to research prices and options. Lisa will work on an article for the warning and financing information.
- Ordinance Prohibiting open burning. Peter Kittell/Peter Magnant made the motion to adopt the ordinance. Peter/Peter voted yes, Scott/Harvey voted no. Issued tabled to next meeting for further discussion.

**Selectboard Folder:**

- Highway Certificate of Mileage was reviewed and discussed. There has been a slight addition to Class 2 roads and a decrease to State highways. Board members approved of the changes and signed the certificate.
- State weight restrictions were reviewed and discussed. The State list approved as is for restricted dates of March 15 through May 15. All members approved and signed.
- Northwest unit for special investigations thank you letter for assessment.
- Franklin County Home Health thank you letter for assessment.
- FCID thank you letter for assessment.
- Copy of letter done to the Ovitt's regarding horse damages for file.
- VT Land Trust notification letter of approval of Greg Finch farm land.

**Member Concerns:**

- Discussion of septic study with the Watershed group. Majority of the board would like Heidi Britch to move forward with the grant for the feasibility study of the lake and village septic issues. Heidi will be notified and asked to present grant info the board at the Feb meeting.
- Review of the Planning Commission documents presented at the Dec meeting. The new building permit application is acceptable to the board. The information on conversion of seasonal property to year round was reviewed. Found to be confusing as written, there have been additional requirements to amend the current zoning. These include needing emergency access, 2 car off-road parking, state approved septic. Also need to include the requirement for potable water. Peter will present the Planning Commission with the new amendments and suggest the need to waive the lot size for year round if all other five criteria are met.
- Peter recommended Chris Bolton as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Peter Kittell/Scott made the motion to appoint Mr. Bolton to the board. Peter, Scott, Harvey voted yes, Peter Magnant voted abstained, motion passed.

**Budget review:**

The board discussed rolling over \$45,000 of the unexpended 2010 budget for the sand shed funding. Lisa will review writing of the article to include holding funds and approval of the sand shed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Harvey/Peter Kittell. All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk  
January 13, 2011

***These minutes are not official until approved at the Selectboard's next regular meeting on February 14, 2011.***