

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

Guests Present: Heidi Britch-Valenta, Kyle Lothian, Judith McLaughlin, Alyson Racine, Library Chair, Russell Colvin & Charles Swanson, Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc.

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

Watershed:

Heidi reviewed the grants that the Watershed has received for water testing, culverts, Ag projects. The board advised we also received the Better Back Roads grant for Dewing Shore stabilization. There is a permit with ANR that needs to be applied for to work in the lake. Heidi passed around pictures of culvert/erosion work that has been done on Patton Shore Rd, more is planned. Heidi was thanked and exited the meeting.

Planning Commission:

Kyle and Judith came to present to the board documents that the planning commission has been working on. They have created a checklist of items and steps that are needed to convert a seasonal dwelling to year round use. Pete clarified that we are not encouraging conversion. Judith advised these are just guidelines for residents to know what is expected to convert, working on making the process more transparent. The building permit has also been modified to include more information. The Select board advised that they would review the documents and advise of approval/changes by the January meeting. Kyle and Judith were thanked and exited the meeting.

Sidewalk:

Russell Colvin and Charles Swanson from Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc attended the meeting to present their case for payment approval of the additional \$11,835.32 over the contract of \$20,300 and review the process of the inspection contractor. Bids were opened and accepted in February, the contract was done to include scope of work as part-time. Hoyle, Tanner was advised that the project was using AREH funds and needed to be full-time; 6 weeks of inspection. They adjusted the bid to include these hours. Scott's concern is that the bid was done low to get the job and then adjusted as necessary. Russ advised that J.C. Antone had extra work/change orders to be done from the plans of Stantec. This added additional inspection time. Testing of materials was done by Hoyle, Tanner. Additional road survey work was done for the town. Discussion on inspector's time sheets not being verified by the town. Charles advised log sheets and time are all on file with HT. The board advised they will discuss further and notify them. Russell and Charles were thanked and exited.

Board discussed the issue with a curb cut not being to their satisfaction. Extra work done by J.C. Antone for the town did not need inspection. Pete/Harvey made the motion to reduce the bill by \$2,500 to the amount of \$9,335.32 approved for payment; reflecting the cost of the extra inspection and cost to grind the existing pavement to correct the curb cut. 3 members voted in favor, Scott & Peter Kittell voted no. Motion passed to make payment of \$9335.32 to Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc to close contract.

Town Clerk's Concerns:

- Sidewalk plowing around Square Rd last week during the large storm was difficult to get to. The highway dept is asking for assistance with large storms to have the walk done throughout the day to keep up with the accumulation. The board asked Lisa to do a letter to the school board asking for assistance or permission for the town to hire someone to use the school blower when necessary.
- Lisa is still working with Deb Perry from NWRP on the Efficiency VT street lighting grants.

- Maternity Leave as tabled at last meeting. Board discussed further and voted not to pay maternity leave time; able to use vacation time as available.
- Adams subdivision issue: Stipulation and order was received from Amanda Lafferty, lawyer, for board review. All members voted in favor and approved of Ms. Lafferty signing on behalf of the town.
- Garage Fire: The Town insurance company has settled a claim with HP Fairfield for damages of the town garage fire. The town must sign a release that we have no other claim action to be taken relating to this issue. The board voted to approve the release; Scott signed on behalf of the board.
- Lyle Glidden and Robert Bender have asked the post office personal for the town to put a shim on the sidewalk curb in front of their residence for the mail delivery to their mailbox. The board is not able to get involved as Main St. is a state highway. They will have to contact the State highway dept.
- Stair treads: Lisa spoke with two vendors about the treads. She got a quote of \$1000 from Paul Gates to replace with all new treads or a carpet runner, same cost. A-1 flooring recommended just replacing the broken/missing treads that he could match and would re-glue the other loose ones for \$210. The board approved of A-1 doing the work. Lisa will contact them.
- Bills: Board members reviewed and signed bills.
- Minutes: Pete Magnant /Peter Kittell made the motion to accept minutes of November 8. All members in favor, approved.

Town Hall Use:

- Kevin Gagne from Highgate has asked about using the town hall for his Remote Control Club group during the winter. They have model planes, helicopter, trucks, ect that they want to continue to use for the winter. Lisa spoke with Mr. Gagne for more info. The board discussed and voted to deny this use of the town hall.

Old Business:

- Town hall trees – Peter has spoken with Bruyette's Tree service about cutting the box elders. They quoted \$850 to do the job. Gabree's quoted \$1000 and the town would need to clean up the wood. Lisa has called Bruyette's to do the job before year end. Board approved.
- Junk ordinance:
- Carl Vieta phoned and advised he is still slowly working to clean up. The trailer is being dismantled and will be gone soon.

New Business:

An ordinance for open burning/incineration was presented to the board; a requirement of the SWIP. Copies were given to all members for review. Ordinance tabled for discussion at January meeting.

Budget:

Alyson Racine, library trustee/chair presented the library budget to the board. They are level funding at \$27,777 as last year. They understand the state of the economy and are working hard to maintain an affordable budget. They will use savings funds/fundraising to cover the balance of costs.

Lisa presented a cost to replace the town clerk computer that is 7 years old. She budgeted \$800 for the replacement; the cost for a new system is \$1000. Peter/Lynn made to motion to approve of this increase. All members voted in favor.

The board discussed the overage in budget money in legal fees. They would like to hold the monies in reserve for next year.

The board will meet on January 5th to work on the 2011 budget.

Selectboard Folder:

- Resignation from Martha Jane Olmstead from the Homestead Board of Directors, as of 2011 town meeting.
- Letter from Barb Varin asking to reconsider her request to list the break down of votes when not unanimously voted. Pete/Lynn made the motion to indicate the split of votes if not unanimous. All members voted in favor.
- Letter from Sandy Jones regarding damage to her property/lawn by her neighbor's horses and the sign which "prohibits vehicles past this point". The board asked Lisa to draft a letter to the Ovitt's about their obligation to repair or pay for repair of the damages. They must also maintain a fence to keep their horses or the town will pick up and board the horses at the owners cost. Also that the sign they have erected must be removed. A town road may not be blocked or restricted from access. Lisa instructed to also draft a letter to Ms. Jones about getting two quotes for the repair in the spring.
- File copy of a letter done to VTrans requesting signs in front of the office/library, "no parking here to corner".
- Chief of police luncheon invite – no one interested
- Franklin County Court assessment budget meeting notice
- Letter from Bob Delorme regarding the veteran's exemption increase to 40%. Requesting the board put the increase on the warning for 2011 town meeting. The board voted to put on the warning and signed the return request of Mr. Delorme.
- Web site policy presented to the board to protect the town from misprints, misrepresentation, ect. that may appear on the town website. Peter/Scott made the motion to approve the use of the policy. All members voted in favor of posting the policy.
- GMTA notice of merger.

Park & Ride/Homestead Drive:

Notice from the attorney regarding the hold on Environmental court hearing until this issue is resolved. Scott has received summary judgment affidavits for signature by him and Gilbert Dewing.

Other Business:

- Sand shed - Peter visited Swanton, Highgate and Berkshire's sheds. Swanton is 40x100 and holds 3000 yds of sand. The board will review location and size options. Also cost and financing needs to be looked into. Peter will get price quotes on a few sizes.
- Brush cutting is awaiting delivery of the tractor to be done before year end.

Member Concerns:

- Morses Line Border meeting on Thurs, Dec 16th at 6:00 in Highgate, Lisa will post notice.
- Stop signs on Browns Corner Rd/Durkee intersection have not yet been put up, Peter will check into.
- TAC meetings-Scott is unable to do any longer; need another member to participate. Pete Magnant will do beginning Jan 1 for a year.
- Inquiry on purchasing a small plow truck with dump to do small jobs as discussed at 2010 town meeting. The board does not want to make such purchase.
- Howard has asked to be paid for a week vacation as he has not been able to use much of his time. Was to be on vacation w/o 12/6 and the storm made him unable. All members approved of paying for 1 week vacation.

The Select board will meet at Peter Kittell's on December 30th @ 7:30 to sign year end bills. The next regular Select board meeting is January 10, 2011.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
December 16, 2010

These minutes are not official until approved at the Selectboard's next regular meeting on January 10, 2011. These minutes were approved January 10, 2011.