

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008, AT 7:00 P. M.  
FRANKLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Peter Kittell, Harvey Bushey, Jamie Boudreau, Lynn Paradis, Scott Choiniere, Lisa Larivee, Franklin Town Clerk/Treasurer and Susan Clark.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**PERSONNEL ISSUE:** Sue Clark's last day assisting Lisa will be May 2, 2008. She presented to the Board a proposal whereby the town would extend her health insurance coverage rather than pay her for unused vacation time. It was noted that this proposal will be less expensive for the town and beneficial to both parties. Peter noted that the town paid unused vacation time to the last Town Clerk. Motion by Harvey/Jamie to approve the proposal. Peter asked if there was any further discussion/questions and there were none. All members voted in favor/motion passed.

**Solid Waste Grant:** Sue provided the Board with a narrative on the Solid Waste Grant that she and Lisa applied for. She informed that they will finish it tomorrow with a program on composting which will be presented at the school. She advised she will do a financial report and stated she feels it has been a very good grant for the town.

Sue noted that she may be doing some volunteer work. The Board thanked her and she exited the meeting.

**TOWN CLERK'S CONCERNS:**

**Haston Library Account:** Lisa informed the Board that the Haston Library funds have been in a non-interest bearing account. The auditors have asked that it be moved to an interest bearing account as it has a balance of about \$17,000. Lisa advised that she shopped around and found that the best deal is with the Merchant's Bank and it is an account with nearly double the interest of other banks and it still allows her to withdraw needed funds every seven days with no penalty. She advised that prior to moving the funds, she needs a resolution to be signed by the Selectboard. The Board authorized Peter to sign the resolution. The Board questioned Lisa about the account balance and learned that the library just purchased shades at a cost of \$3,000. In response to questions from the Board, Lisa advised that they sign the bills and she writes the checks, makes deposits, etc.

**Outside Lights:** Lisa informed the Board that she spoke with Gerard Trombley regarding the outside lights at the Town Offices/Library. He informed that for about \$300 he can install motion sensor lights at the end of the building and under the stairs which would work from the same "eye" whenever someone turns into the parking lot. She informed that Vermont Electric changed the light on the pole which has made it better, but it is still very dark.

**Humane Society:** Lisa advised that our contract with the Humane Society expired in July of 2007. She spoke with them and they are in the process of drawing up a new contract which we will, hopefully, have by May.

**Mowing:** Lisa advised that we have one bid for the mowing. Discussion was held on problems that were experienced last year. Harvey asked if the person bidding has a Certificate of Insurance on file with the town. Lisa advised that she was not aware of one. She will look into it as anyone doing work for the town should have a Certificate of Insurance on file.

**AOT Meeting:** Lisa reminded members of the AOT meeting scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Elevator:** Lisa advised that they are still awaiting the bracket for the door. Elevator is operable, but we could be cited if there were to be an inspection. Discussion was held on the problem and what needs to be done. Jamie will follow up.

**Dumpster:** Lisa asked about returning the dumpster this year. We usually have it for May 1st. Board authorized her to call and make arrangements for it again this year.

**Planning Commission:** Request to make memorial donation to the Little League in memory of Harvey Boudreau.

**Assistant Clerk/Treasurer:** Lisa informed that Sara Rainville will start May 1st as the new assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. She will be paid a straight hourly rate with no benefits.

**Regional Planning:** Has requested an update of all village officers.

**TAC:** Jamie has been attending on behalf of the Selectboard and Dan Larivee and Doug Clark from the Planning Commission.

**Minutes:** Lisa provided the Board with copies of the March 17<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes.

**Weed Harvester:** Scott advised that Kyle Lothian is interested in running the weed harvester this year. It was noted work usually starts mid-June and Kyle should submit his application.

**Website:** Upon inquiry from Scott, Lisa advised that she spoke with Kim regarding space on the website and Kim stated there is plenty of space. Scott asked Lisa to provide him with permits and other information so that he can put them in PDF format for the town's website. Barbara will also be putting minutes in PDF format in the future.

**Camp Septic:** Lisa informed the Board that someone came into her office inquiring about septic permit for a camp that is for sale at the lake. She advised there is a building permit, but a septic permit was never issued. Peter explained the problem and he will write a letter to the property owner regarding the situation. A system was apparently installed, but without a permit and

inspection before it was covered.

Peter asked members if there were any further questions for Lisa and there were none. The Board thanked her and she exited the meeting.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Greg Bouchard appeared before the Board. He stated he had been appointed to the Commission to fill a vacancy and did not realize that his term expired in 2008. He stated he did not receive/open the letter telling him he had not been reappointed prior to the last meeting and was surprised to learn he had not been reappointed. Scott apologized on behalf of the Board for the way it was handled. Greg stated that despite the fact that there are several “strong personality people” on the Commission, he enjoyed serving and would like to be reconsidered for reappointment. Jamie advised that he feels that Greg is very qualified to serve, but the problem was that he did not attend meetings. Greg acknowledged that his attendance was poor, but restated his desire to serve and stated he would attend regularly if reappointed. The Board informed him that there is a current vacancy and they would consider him along with other candidates.

#### **GREEN UP DAY:**

Greg asked about activities for Green Up Day. He was informed that Wanda Gates is the coordinator. Scott briefly outlined what is done. Bags are available through the Town Clerk’s office and the State picks them up. Lynn noted that she believes the boy scouts will be doing their work the week prior to Green Up Day as they have a camping trip scheduled for the actual weekend.

The Board thanked Greg and he exited the meeting.

#### **ILLEGAL DUMPING:**

Scott informed the Board that someone dumped a big pile of construction waste on the Barnum Road. He stated it will probably take a loader to clean it up and Harvey will look into it.

#### **DRAINS/TRAPS:**

Discussion was held on the need for the drains/traps to be checked to see if they need to be cleaned. Peter stated the amount of dirt/debris in them needs to be measured to see if they need to be cleaned. The last time they were checked, they were alright. Harvey expressed his concern that we check them regularly and clean them when needed because if it is not done it will cause huge problems. Discussion was held on cleaning, who has machines to do it and the cost of renting a machine.

## **PRIOR MINUTES:**

Motion by Lynn/Scott to approve the March 17, 2008 and April 2, 2008 minutes. Peter asked for any discussion or changes and there was none. All members voted in favor/minutes approved as submitted.

## **BILLS AND ORDERS:**

Reviewed and signed. Lynn provided members with the current budget information.

## **LAKE CARM:**

Peter informed members that he has received a TMDL plan for Lake Carmi. It is a plan by which they hope to reduce the phosphorus in the lake by about one-third. He advised that last summer the phosphorus level was about 23 parts per million and they hope to reduce it to 22. He further advised that the year prior to last, it was 40 parts per million because of all the rain we had that year. He stated that they feel that 18 to 19 parts per million is the lowest they will be able to reach as it has not been lower since the mechanization of agriculture. Peter explained that they want to do an inventory of town roads that may be eroding into the watershed. They hope to apply for 319 money and need a letter of support from the Selectboard. Once the State approves the TMDL plan, then they can apply for grant money. Copies of the report/plan were made available for members to review. The Board authorized Peter to write a letter supporting this plan.

## **TOWN ROADS:**

Discussion was held on the various town roads where there are problems. Lynn pointed out there is a big problem on the Swamp Road. It was also noted there are some problem areas on the Stanley Road. Harvey outlined for the Board what he feels must be done in order to resolve these problems. He also noted that he feels some of the problems may have been caused by overweight vehicles. If we actually see overweight vehicles using posted roads, then action can be taken. Scott noted that fabric was put down on the Barnum Road last year and he was wondering if it is holding up as there are some wet areas. Harvey stated the fabric would not stop water from coming up. Concern was expressed over the deterioration of the Richard Road and the other roads that will require attention. Harvey expressed his concern over road preparation and paving. He noted that there are mandated requirements prior to paving and he feels we need to ensure we are meeting those standards. He further stated he feels we should do no further paving until we have met those standards. He stated that in his opinion to do so is a waste of taxpayer money. He outlined what he feels needs to be done on the Riley Road prior to any paving.

## **TOWN TRUCKS:**

Howard Vanslette, Road Foreman, entered the meeting. Discussion was held on town trucks. It was noted that the new truck needs a part with an estimated cost of \$500. It was noted that the truck can be used without the part and we may want to consider doing so provided it will not cause damage to do so. Scott questioned whether or not the part would still be under warranty. Harvey will look into it.

The older of the two trucks is now in need of repair. It was noted that the box needs to be replaced or repaired. Harvey expressed his concern that the truck has now reached the stage where it will “nickel and dime” us. Discussion was held on repair of the box vs. replacement. It was noted that we can purchase a new box and then move it to a new truck in the future. Lynn expressed concern over doing so as she feels it might limit our trade options. It was noted that repair of the box and new tires which will be needed will cost us at least \$5,000 this year. Peter outlined the trade deal that was offered to us last fall and members questioned whether we should explore that option. It was noted that it will take four to five months to get a truck if one is not available on a lot somewhere. Discussion was held on motors, horsepower and various other options. Howard noted that he feels with repair of the box and new tires he can probably get another year out of the truck which is now ten years old with about 121,000 plus miles on it. He noted that except for a leak which has now been found, the cab of the truck is in good condition. It was noted that a decision will need to be made soon if we decide to trade.

#### **GRAVEL:**

Howard informed the Board that he will be getting green rock with the gravel from Leach. Howard stated he was really pleased with the way it is holding up on Rice Hill. Peter stated feedback has been that it is holding up pretty well, but does get a little “slimy” when it gets wet. Discussion was held on cost and gravel options available to us. It is anticipated that gravel will be needed on Pigeon Hill, Scott, Richard, Gallup and Riley Roads. Howard noted that we have 540 yards coming to us from Leach. Harvey estimated the amount of gravel/stone he feels would be required to bring the Riley Road up to standard before paving.

#### **TOWN GARAGE:**

Discussion was held on the clean up needed around the garage. Harvey noted they have done some of it and once the snow bank is gone they will do more. Discussion was held on disposal of the old guard rails. It was noted there may be people who would like them.

The Board thanked Howard and he exited the meeting.

#### **SIDEWALK GRANT:**

Kim Gates Maynard appeared before the Board. She advised that she just wanted to “touch base” with the Board on the grant. She advised that the contract is supposed to be out May 1st, but we have not yet seen it. Peter advised that he spoke with John Kaplan and has been provided

with the name of an engineering firm. They will be coming up to walk the site and will prepare a proposal. Peter noted they will try to design the project the way we want if at all possible. Then, there will have to be a couple of hearings held. Kim noted that there also needs to be an archeological and environmental permit obtained which will take about 60 days. Peter stated he contacted Jim Smith to see if he would be interested in being the “clerk of the works”, but he will be unable to do so. Peter questioned Mr. Kaplan as to whether or not it would require a person with an engineering background to be “clerk of the works” and was told it mainly calls for someone who is able to understand and keep up with the paperwork involved. Peter feels they will come up with the design this year, but that actual construction will not be until next year. Kim asked that she be notified when the walk around takes place as she would like to participate. Peter stated he would contact the engineering company and ask that we be notified when it happens. It was also noted that all correspondence regarding the grant goes to the Town Clerk’s office. Scott questioned whether local residents will have the opportunity to bid on portions of the work, such as the concrete. Kim noted that we also do not know at this stage if any rights-of-way will be involved. Peter stated that since it is along the street, we probably will not have that issue.

The Board thanked Kim and she exited the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Paving:** Funds and projects were discussed. Discussion held on possibly paving around the town garage and Peter expressed his concern over run off should it be done. He also noted that Homestead Drive and the pad in front of the fire station need paving. It was planned to pave Square Road this year, but since the sidewalks will not be done until next year, the projects will be put off until after they are finished.

**Computer Program:** To date, the Board has been unable to locate the computer program. Check to be made in a couple more places and if it cannot be located, another copy will be ordered.

**Scott Road Turn Around:** Peter updated members on status of the information which has been sent to our lawyer.

**Swamp Road:** Peter outlined for the members what he would like to see the road crew do to improve the water problem in the ditch on this road.

**Dirt Pile:** Discussion held on the pile at the Town Garage. Peter advised that it must be moved off Vaillancourt’s land. Harvey stated we will move it as it is good soil that can be used for projects.

#### **SELECTBOARD FOLDER:**

**Planning Commission:** Letter of resignation received from Jamie Boudreau. There are two candidates for the vacancy, David Lothian and Greg Bouchard. Both are qualified candidates. It was noted that Greg had the opportunity to serve, but did not attend meetings regularly. Motion made by Jamie/Harvey to appoint David Lothian to the unexpired term. Peter asked for any additional discussion and there was none. All members voted in favor/motion passed. Both candidates will be notified of the decision.

**Solid Waste Plan:** Correspondence received from Casella employee who is assisting St. Albans with their plan and who is willing to assist us. Scott expressed his concern over our administering the solid waste plan for Franklin. He noted that the regulations keep getting more strict and complicated. They are time consuming and require somebody who has the time and knowledge to complete the paperwork, reports and administer the program. He feels the town should consider joining the solid waste district. He noted that it would cost us \$3,500 to join and that \$2,000 of that cost can be obtained through the hazardous waste grant. That would leave the town only \$1,500 to pay. Peter pointed out that Swanton voters turned it down and Scott noted their cost would have been about \$45,000 not the \$3,500 Franklin would owe. Peter also noted that we would have to pay our share of any debt the solid waste district incurs. Lynn noted that we would also have a representative from the town sit on that board who would have a voice and vote on any debt.

**Correspondence:** From Watershed Committee outlining their priorities once the TMDL plan is approved. Correspondence is available for review by members. Matter discussed previously in this meeting and Board authorized Peter to send letter of support for this project.

**ZBA:** Notification of upcoming hearings.

**Correspondence:** E-mail from John Kaplan regarding engineer for sidewalk grant. Peter will make contact with them.

**Library/Town Offices:** Last winter, Peter and Richard Boudreau checked the attic because of ice build up. Richard contacted Efficiency Vermont regarding the problems and someone came up. They advised it is a ventilation/insulation problem and they deal with lighting. They provided a list of possible vendors who might be able to address the problems. Peter noted that insulation had been placed around a vent in the attic area which may have caused some of the problem. We did include funds in the budget to address the problems.

**Dry Hydrant Grant:** Peter gave the application form to Scott so that he could bring it to the attention of the Fire Department. One dry hydrant was installed in Bullis Pond, but the one for the Wright Pond was never installed. He pointed out that there is a deadline coming soon and the letter indicates that future funds for these project may not be available so it might be a good time to apply.

**Correspondence:** From Smith Technical Services advising they are not interested in

supervising the sidewalk project.

**Correspondence:** From State of Vermont regarding painting of lines on roads.

**Correspondence:** From guardrail company. We are not planning to replace/install any this year.

**Correspondence:** From Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding training sessions. Harvey asked about costs and was informed that funds are available to pay costs and travel expenses.

Motion by Jamie/Lynn to adjourn. All members voted in favor/meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April 15, 2008

Barbara M. Varin

**NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Selectboard at their next regular meeting which is presently scheduled for May 12, 2008.** These minutes were approved by the Selectboard at their May 12, 2008 meeting.