

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M.  
FRANKLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Lyle and Jean Richard

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

**TOWN CLERK'S CONCERNS:**

**Grievances:** Lisa informed the Board that the Listers have set June 20, 2008 as grievance day.

**Road Ordinance:** Lisa advised that she has prepared an ordinance which she based upon an example from Vermont League of Cities and Towns which covers overweight vehicles, stop signs, speed limits, etc., which was discussed at the last meeting. She advised that she added on some other roads. She informed the Board that after the Selectboard approves and signs it, it will be posted in the paper for 14 days and anyone who wishes to appeal it will have 60 days to do so. Peter noted that we have a traffic ordinance that we can add to if we wish to do so.

**Fireworks:** Lisa advised that Larry Myott from the Campers' Association contacted her. They want to do Fireworks on July 5<sup>th</sup>. What they propose is to close the road in front of the bowling alley and set up in the road. They have contacted the Fire Department and the highway department. The State will put up flashing signs warning that the road will be closed, but the state needs a letter from the Selectboard stating they are o.k. with closing of the road for this event. When questioned about the time frame for closing the road, Lisa advised they plan to do the fireworks at about 9:30 p.m. and it will last about 45 minutes. They proposed to close the road from about 8:45 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. which will give them time to set up, do the firework display and clean up. Motion by Scott/Jamie to support closing of the road for this event. All members voted in favor.

**Shampooing of Carpets:** Lisa informed the Board that she would like to have the yearly carpet cleaning done over the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. She advised she has not yet spoken with the vendor, but they usually do it over the holiday to allow adequate time for them to dry.

**Painting of Town Clock:** Lisa reminded that we still need to find someone to paint the town clock. It was noted that the problem is finding someone who is willing to go that high up to paint it. After discussion it was decided that Lisa would place a notice in the paper to see if we can locate anyone who might be interested in doing the job.

**Bills:** Lisa reminded the Board that a decision needs to be made on payment for/return of the truck part from H.P. Fairfield. She also noted we have received a bill from Leech and there appears to be a balance from last month even though Lisa paid what we owed in full. Howard and Lisa will work together to settle any discrepancies. Lisa also noted they appear to be charging a little more than Howard and Hank agreed upon.

**Dog Census:** Lisa informed the Board that she has compiled a list of between 220 and 240 people who are questionable as to dog ownership. The list is in the Selectboard Folder. She advised that they “cleared up” about 15 cases in which the residents advised they either no longer owned dogs or came in and licensed their dogs.

The Board thanked Lisa.

### **SCOTT ROAD TURN AROUND:**

Attorney Robert Fletcher, who represents the town, entered the meeting. Peter introduced him to members of the Selectboard and to Thomas and Debra Martin owners of the property on the Scott Road. Mr. Fletcher apologized for not making it to the last meeting. Mr. Fletcher advised that he wanted to speak with the Selectboard regarding exactly what the town wants. He further explained that the Selectboard has the option of speaking with him in an executive session to discuss any issues/questions they may have. He emphasized that he was not trying to exclude anybody, but just wanted the Board to be aware that they have the option. Peter explained the Martin’s are giving the town land, but want driveway and utility rights for land they plan to develop. The piece of property is 100 feet by 150 feet and will allow the town to build a turn around. The town wanted to give Mr. Martin what he wants in exchange for the piece of land. Peter explained that the piece of land he wants to give us includes where the turn around used to be and he wants to develop some property that will lead into this road. Mr. Fletcher expressed his concern that the property is only available to the town subject to subdivision approval, subject to driveway approval and subject to a lot of questions. Mr. Fletcher questioned why the town was being asked to enter into this arrangement on the front end rather than after the land is donated. Concern was expressed that no improvements be done until such time as the title to the property is given to the town. Mr. Fletcher stated the way this is being done is “awkward”. Mr. Martin used a map and time line to show the turn around area, proposed areas to be developed, wastewater, engineering and the survey. He explained the proposal to bring electricity to the property and explained what is being required by the electric company - crossing from the current pole under the road and then bringing to line underground to service the proposed properties to be developed and then back under the road to the last lot. Members questioned why utilities would go underground as it is more expensive and Mr. Martin responded that the electric light company wants it done that way. It was noted the original plan was to get the wastewater permits for the whole project and then go to the Planning Commission for approval for the whole site, but Mr. Martin provided the Board with a proposed schedule to develop one lot at a time with Selectboard approval rather than going through the Planning Commission. Mr. Fletcher expressed his concern over running utilities under the road especially if problems develop and

they need to be dug up and re-buried. The Board questioned Mr. Martin as to why they are suggesting two cuts across the road rather than going around and Mr. Martin acknowledged they could go around if necessary. It was noted that the Scott Road is a Class III, not a black topped road so digging it up would present no big problem. Peter explained the background - the town had a turn around years ago until the property was sold and the new land owner denied access. There was then no place for the busses to turn around so the town made arrangements with another property owner to turn around in their driveway. That driveway will need to be upgraded if we continue to use it. Mr. Martin went over his timeline and stated that he has invested about \$3,200 to date in this project and would like to see it to fruition. He feels that it is a mutual win/win situation for both parties. Peter thanked Mr. Fletcher and the Martins and stated they would both hear from the board. Both thanked the Board and exited the meeting.

### **DANDURAND ROAD:**

Eric Dandurand and Highway Foreman Howard Vansette entered the meeting. Mr. Dandurand informed the Board that he has been hearing rumors that the Board has issues with the truck traffic on the Dandurand Road and he was a little surprised that no one had contacted him directly. Peter acknowledged that this issue was discussed recently and the Board had not yet come up with a plan on how to address it. He noted that when the roads were soft, the trucks did some damage. Discussion was held on the type and weight of the trucks using the road. Mr. Dandurand explained his business (types of commodities he hauls, weight of empty trucks, weight of loads, etc.) to the Board. It was noted that trucks do come to use the scales and he indicated that should the Board post a weight limit on the road, he would leave it up to those drivers to abide by those limits. It was also pointed out that over-weight permits are available. Mr. Dandurand noted this was a bad year for the roads. It was also noted that the Board might ask that trucks be loaded a little lighter during the time the roads are soft. Peter asked if Mr. Dandurand expects his business to grow and Mr. Dandurand responded that he expected very little growth, that he is pretty much at capacity right now. Mr. Dandurand stated the town has done very little work on this road between the Dandurand and Godin properties. He stated that by the Dandurand barn, it was worn right down to the clay and he paid for and put down some of the same black stone that the town was using. He put in four loads of stone. He stated he put the stone down without any thought of being reimbursed, but he has the receipts for the stone should the town want to reimburse him. He provided the labor, gas, etc. Mr. Dandurand stated he would like to work with the town and doesn't want to cause any friction. Howard asked Mr. Dandurand if he would be willing to go directly out to the black top (Morses Line Rd) rather than using the Barnum Road when the road is soft and Mr. Dandurand stated he would be willing to do so. He noted that the trucks use the Barnum Road as it cuts off mileage on certain deliveries. Mr. Dandurand questioned the status of the roads where fabric was applied last year. Peter advised him that it did not hold up as the manure tanks tore it up. It was noted that it is the repetition of the trucks going over the road twenty or thirty times a day that causes the damage. Mr. Dandurand indicated that in the future, he will try to get the delivery trucks in while the roads are still frozen. He asked about the plans for the road and Peter informed him that there is no plan yet, but that is one of the things they hoped to discuss at this meeting. It was noted that

the shoulders need some work, but the Board has not yet decided where work will be done this year. Mr. Dandurand asked that the Board contact him directly if there are any further problems as he did not like “hearing it through the grapevine”. The Board thanked Mr. Dandurand and he exited the meeting.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

**Gravel Bill:** The Board discussed gravel and the bill discrepancy with Howard Vansette. Peter advised there also seems to be a discrepancy in the price being charged. Howard feels they reported all loads town trucks drew, but some of it might be from the project Roger Wright was hired to do. Howard will work with Lisa and Leechs to straighten out the matter. The gravel budget was also discussed and Lynn provided Howard with a print out of the current budget balances.

**Roads:** Discussion was held on the Stanley Road and the spots that need to be fixed and re-paved. It was noted that our budget was based using paving costs given in January and it most likely has gone up. Howard will check to see what the cost will be now. Lynn suggested that in addition to Pike we get an estimate from UPC Paving who are cheaper and do a good job. Howard was authorized to dig up just the spots which need to be dug up, make repairs and rent a tamper. It was noted that the spots are probably 10 feet wide by 20 to 30 feet long. It was noted that the outside edges are fine, it is just the center that needs repair.

Need to repair a culvert on the Richard Road was discussed. Howard stated there is an old wall there and the water runs between it and the culvert. Jean Richard noted it is a brook that runs through there. It was noted that it is a 36 inch culvert. Peter stated that if it is a 36 inch culvert, we could apply for a grant, but it would require a hydro study and would not get done this year. Howard stated he would like to replace it this summer.

There is a soft spot on the Gallup Road near Rt. 120. It was noted drains were put in there and Scott suggested a check be made to see if those drains are plugged.

Howard pointed out that trees need to be cut on Pidgeon Hill Road and there is a culvert on the Dandurand Road that needs to be done. Beaver Meadow and the Middle Road could also use some gravel.

After discussing and considering the projects that need to be done, it was decided the following work would be done: 1) Soft spots on the Stanley Road; 2) Cutting of trees on Pidgeon Hill; 3) Culvert on the Dandurand Road (should be a cross culvert, but can't find it). Once these projects are completed, decisions will be made on other work to be done.

The catch basins also need to be checked. Discussion was held on how to tell if they need cleaning. Scott will check with Brenda Wright to see if she knows the measurements. Scott noted that Marshall said we can get all the water we need.

**Truck Part:** Discussion was held on the part purchased for the new truck. Howard feels that we should put the part on. The part is a warning light should there be an oil leak and it may save us a larger repair bill should a leak happen. Howard was authorized to install the part and have Lisa pay the bill.

**Rocks:** There are rocks at the intersection of the Barnum/Brown's Corner Road which need to be cleared. Howard will handle.

**Weed Harvester:** Howard was advised that we need to get the Weed Harvester in the lake. An operator will be hired tonight. Howard noted that he will change the oil and get it ready. He questioned if the operator, when not on the harvester, would be available to mow the sides of the road.

The Board thanked Howard and he exited the meeting.

**MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2008 MEETING:**

Motion by Scott/Jamie to approve the minutes. Peter asked for discussion and/or changes and there were none. All members voted in favor/minutes approved as submitted.

**MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2008 MEETING:**

Motion by Scott/Lynn to approve the minutes. Peter asked for any discussion and/or changes and there were none. All members voted in favor/minutes approved as submitted.

**BILLS AND ORDERS:**

Reviewed and signed. Current budget information provided.

**SCOTT ROAD TURN AROUND:**

After discussion of the information provided tonight, the Board decided that it will grant the Martin's request for driveway permits and one cut in the road to run utilities from the current pole to the other side of the road. Lynn suggested he also be asked to add an additional conduit in case of problems. She stated she feels it would be inappropriate for us to circumvent the Planning Commission. No other contingencies will be granted and present zoning regulations will need to be followed including, but not limited to Planning Commission approvals where required.

**DANDURAND ROAD:**

After discussing road situation, it was the decision of the Board not to reimburse Mr. Dandurand for the stone he placed on the road since much of the damage was the result of trucks

to and from his business. It was noted that he should apply for a change of use as the nature of his business has changed. A note was made to speak with him next spring when the roads soften up so he can divert heavy traffic to the blacktopped road (Morses Line).

**SELECTBOARD FOLDER:**

**Generator Contract:** Maintenance contract for the generator to be approved by Board.

**Grant:** Correspondence from the State of Vermont regarding funds available for park and ride facilities. Paperwork given to Scott who will check into it.

**Internet:** Correspondence from Franklin County Industrial Development regarding high speed internet.

**Dog Census:** Information prepared by Lisa regarding dog census.

**Center Line Painting:** Correspondence indicating center line painting will not be done here until the fall.

**Driveway Permit:** Application for driveway permit on Middle Road. Howard has signed off on it. Motion by Scott/Jamie to approve. All members voted in favor/approved.

**Grant:** Enhancement grants are available for sidewalks. Jamie and Scott noted we could use some on Main Street. Kim will be contacted to see if she would be willing to assist.

**Weed Harvester Operator:** Two applications received and reviewed by Board members. It was noted that it is for 300 hours over a period of 7 ½ weeks (6/15/08 through 9/15/08). Motion by Jamie/Lynn that Kyle Lothian be hired. Jamie, Lynn and Peter voted in favor. Scott abstained because of personal friendship with applicant.

**FUEL BIDS:**

Bids received from four vendors based upon anticipated usage of 6,000 gal. fuel oil and 12,500 gal. low sulfur diesel.

	<u>Fuel Oil</u>	<u>Low Sulfur Diesel</u>
<b>Clarence Brown:</b>	4.58 plus .2199 over Montreal Rack	4.769 plus .1799 over Montreal Rack
<b>Pyrofax (Ultramar)</b>	4.59 plus \$2880	3.99 with no cap

<b>SB Collins</b>	4.499	4.799
<b>Blouins</b>	4.299 capped	4.499 capped

Motion by Scott/Lynn that the bid be awarded to Blouin's. All members voted in favor/motion passed. Peter will make notifications.

**MEMBER CONCERNS:**

It was noted that an e-mail message was received from Harvey Bushey resigning as Road Commissioner, but the Board is not sure if he still wanted to do it. Peter stated he was hoping we could settle the matter tonight. Members expressed their concern over work that will cost several thousands of dollars being done without Board authorization and some decisions and purchases being made without input from the entire Board. Jean Richard, who was observing the meeting, questioned whether as a new member he was given guidelines. Scott advised that at the organizational meeting, he was told that decisions on spending are made by the entire board. Scott stated that he would be willing to be Road Commissioner if the Board needed him to be.

Peter stated that Ron has some concerns about the suspension on the new truck. Parts will cost about \$1,100, but Lynn noted that it is simply wear and tear maintenance issues.

Discussion was held on Howard's truck (the "old" truck). It was noted that it needs work on the box and it needs tires. Harvey told Roger Wright that we wanted to purchase the old box back and Roger would like us to make a decision as he has another buyer. Howard has stated that he feels his truck is good for another year. It was noted that the boys might be able to do the work on Howard's box themselves. The Board discussed new trucks and Peter noted that the newer models have different tires on the front and back which will require us to purchase an extra spare tire. Peter advised that he reviewed the specs that were obtained and they were pretty much the same. The Board discussed the two price/trade-in quotes. Lynn stated that she would rather put new tires on Howard's truck and repair or replace the box and put the purchase of a new truck before the taxpayers in March. She feels we should discuss it up front. Peter stated we have always gotten trucks through a rental agreement which does not require taxpayer approval. Jamie mentioned an alternative piece of equipment he recently saw. Peter asked about the price of it, but Jamie stated he only saw the equipment and has no idea what it would cost. Scott stated if we get a new truck, it would be interesting to track the trade-in value of the truck each year to see when it is the best time to trade. After discussing all options, the Board decided if the box on Howard's truck can be fixed for less than \$2,000 we will repair it. If it will cost more than \$2,000 we will purchase the box from Roger Wright.

Scott feels we should have a written policy regarding purchases. Anything \$500 or less will require a purchase order. We should seek bids for items such as chloride, etc., to ensure we are getting the best value for taxpayer's money. Scott will write up a procedure for Board approval.

It was noted that both Howard and Ron went to school for grading and they should each use the grader. Howard will grade the roads he plows and Ron will grade the roads he plows.

Motion by Scott/Lynn to adjourn. All members voted in favor/meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. at which time Mr. & Mrs. Richard exited the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

June 10, 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 July 14, 2008.** Note: These minutes were approved by the Selectboard at their July 14, 2008 meeting.