

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 AT 7:00 P. M.
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Peter Kittell, Scott Choiniere, Lynn Paradis, Harvey Bushey, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk.

CITIZENS: Polly Gadbois, auditor, Susan Clark, Doug Clark, Kim Gates Maynard, Peter Magnant, Rick Coleman.

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SALARIES & HEALTH INSURANCE: Sue and Kim asked what the increases were for the salary and health insurance line. The employees were given salary increases of 2% as they got no raises in 2009. The health insurance increase was about 16% due to the lower then projected rates for the past few years.

2009 BUDGET CUTS: Kim asked where she could see the \$44,000 in budget cuts from last year. She wanted to know what lines it was taken from and the amounts. Auditors advised they would include a narrative sheet in the 2010 town report. Sue asked about the \$25,000 move of funds to the Equipment fund and where those monies came from. Peter and Scott advised we were careful on the budget spending and had some excess funds in the Equipment rental, gas & fuel, repair & maintenance lines. Kim asked if any lines that were cut had been fully funded again and was advised no.

EQUIPMENT FUND: Doug inquired about the equipment fund and what it was being used for. Peter advised that the goal of the board is to replace the 2006 truck in 2013. The cost of repairs vs the trade in value change greatly after the truck is over 7 years old. The suggested trade time is at about 7 years. Polly suggested changing the 2010 budget Equipment fund line to \$4000 for the fund and \$21,000 for the truck lease/own payment.

PAVING: Inquiries were made about the paving budget and the plan for 2010 work. Peter advised that when the sidewalk is done the entire Square Rd will be resurfaced, cost about \$30,000. The Stanley Rd or Morses Line Rd also need work; these will depend on the state match funds that may be available.

REAPPRAISAL: Sue asked about the reappraisal costs and if the Reappraisal reserve funds would cover those costs. The listers are doing the work themselves and will be able to complete the project with the reserve funds.

Doug inquired about the use of gravel vs blacktopping. He feels that gravel application is much cheaper and should be taken into consideration. Some roads are in need of much gravel at this time. Peter advised they are also using black stone/ledge which seems to be holding up well.

Sue asked about the town hall use and if users were being charged. Sue suggests asking for a donation from the groups that are using it for a profit opportunity. The board will review the use and set a fee policy for future users. Kim inquired about the town hall budget. The board has put money into the budget for a septic upgrade at the town hall.

Lisa reviewed the request for an increase in the Veterans Exemption from the current \$10,000 to \$40,000. The additional funds that are lost on the school taxes need to be made up for by the town. This could be a significant impact to the tax rate. The board will discuss further and decide what they will present to the voters.

Kim voiced a concern about electing a new selectboard member at this point so close to town meeting. This would set a precedent for town meeting votes and does not allow democracy to work. Scott had considered appointing a new member but the board needed to discuss the matter. The board agrees to wait until town meeting for the position to be filled by vote of the people. Kim also voiced the need to post openings of all board vacancies for the community to have the option to get involved.

Polly notifies that the auditors have decided the Town Reports will not be mailed to each individual. The warning will be posted in the County Courier and around town as required and post cards will be mailed to advise people of this change and where the reports can be picked up. If requested by an individual we will mail a report to them.

WARNING: The Board members reviewed the 2010 Town Meeting Warning and signed it.

Motion by Scott/Harvey to adjourn. All members voted in favor/meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
January 26, 2010
Lisa Larivee

NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Selectboard at their next meeting. These minutes were approved on February 8, 2010.