

# Town of Highgate

## Draft Joint Selectboard Minutes

### Special Meeting

### July 21, 2010

***NOTE: All actions taken are unanimous unless otherwise stated.***

#### **A. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m., Present were:

Selectboard Members: Henry Rainville – Chair, Jeff Towle – Vice Chair & Brian Rowell

Franklin Selectboard Members: Scott Choiniere – Chair, Lynn Paradis – Vice Chair, Peter Kittell & Peter Magnant

Staff: David Jescavage – Highgate Town Administrator

Public: Joe Rainville, Adrian Rainville, Eric Dandurand, Yvon Dandurand, Andrew Godin, George Godin & Doug Clark

#### **B. Meeting of Highgate & Franklin Selectboards to discuss Morses Line Border Crossing strategy & write letter requesting assistance from Northwest Regional Planning Commission to set up regional meeting with VT Congressional delegation & the Governor's Office.**

1. Henry Rainville opened the meeting by stating that on July 16, 2010 an initial meeting was held with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). At the July 16 meeting, the NRPC expressed interest in providing assistance with formulating an agenda, publicizing & moderating the event, in addition to formally extending an invitation to the Congressional Delegation & Governor's Office.

2. Henry Rainville explained further that in order for the NRPC to become officially involved a letter to solicit assistance would need to be generated from the Highgate & Franklin Selectboards. The Highgate Town Administrator had comprised a rough draft for review.

3. Jeff Towle made a motion for the Highgate & Franklin Selectboards to host a public meeting with surrounding communities most likely to be effected by the closing of Morses Line Border Crossing, requesting the assistance of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Henry Rainville seconded the motion. – **Approved.**

4. Lynn Paradis made a motion for the Highgate & Franklin Selectboards to host a public meeting with surrounding communities most likely to be effected by the closing of Morses Line Border Crossing, requesting the assistance of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Peter Magnant seconded the motion. – **Approved.**

5. Discussion:

a) Adrian Rainville stated that he would like to see a Selectboard member from each Town present at the July 23 meeting with the NRPC. Henry Rainville

agreed commenting that if the Selectboards were requesting assistance they should be in attendance.

b) Jeff Towle questioned whether August 21, 2010 was too aggressive being one month away. Henry Rainville responded that August 21 was selected as the meeting date because Primary Elections are scheduled for August 24.

c) Joe Rainville inquired as to whether or not Canadian officials would be invited to the August 21 meeting. Henry Rainville responded that the NRCP may not want to publicize across the border, but the topic could be addressed at the July 23 meeting.

d) Adrian Rainville stated the importance of educating the public & asked if a Selectboard member from each Town would be willing to meet with Emerson Lynn, owner of the St. Albans Messenger, and participate in the creation of an editorial. Jeff Towle agreed on the importance of educating the public and suggested Channel 15 as another avenue.

e) Peter Magnant questioned the goal of the August 21 meeting. Adrian Rainville invited Peter Magnant to attend the July 23 meeting with the NRPC as one objective of the meeting is to establish an agenda. Henry Rainville suggested that anyone attending the July 23 meeting with the NRPC have a list of prospective agenda items, listing his own, inclusive of the following: introduce the delegation, state how & why got there, detail economic impact, local business attest to economic impact, Canadian business, tourism, cultural & mutual aid (fire fighters) & solutions.

f) Joe Rainville mentioned the possibility of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) no longer being interested in refurbishing the existing facility. Peter Magnant stated that the DHS had already backed down from the original acreage request and to reverse that decision now would be difficult. Adrian Rainville commented that the goal was to revisit the decision; solutions would be an after thought. Henry Rainville elaborated that the goal was to use facts to obtain a decision reversal, and that solutions could be presented but not dictated.

g) Peter Magnant asked if anyone anticipated the group that was in attendance at the first public meeting held in Franklin to be in attendance on August 21. Henry Rainville responded that the group may be in attendance but an efficient moderator would be able to control the meeting. Adrian Rainville suggested that Tim Magnant be approached to moderate the August 21 meeting.

h) Peter Magnant commented that flexibility should be offered with regard to the meeting date. Henry Rainville responded that at the last Highgate Selectboard regular meeting, the last two Saturdays in August were proposed. August 21 was decided upon because the Primary Elections are scheduled for August 24. Scott Choiniere asked if a location should be set. David Jescavage commented on two potential venues; Highgate Elementary or Franklin School. Consensus was to hold the meeting in Franklin but this would not be specified in the letter to the NRPC as the Town Administrator would need to confirm availability.

i) Scott Choiniere suggested that the Franklin Library offer concessions at the August 21 meeting. Henry Rainville & Jeff Towle in agreement; Scott Choiniere will approach Franklin Library to determine interest.

6. Scott Choiniere redirected the meeting back to the draft letter. The draft letter was reviewed by the boards. Discussion around wording; letter revised.
- a) Henry Rainville made a motion to approve the letter as amended. Jeff Towle seconded the motion. – **Approved.**
  - b) Peter Magnant made a motion to approve the letter as amended. Lynn Paradis seconded the motion. – **Approved.**

**C. Other Business**

- 1. Henry Rainville made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:47p.m. Jeff Towle seconded the motion. – **Approved.** Henry Rainville made a motion to exit Executive Session and reconvene the special meeting at 10:54p.m. Brian Rowell seconded the motion. – **Approved.**
- 2. The Franklin Selectboard continued meeting separately discussing the Park & Ride.

**D. Adjournment**

- 1. Henry Rainville made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55p.m. Jeff Towle seconded the motion. – **Approved.**
- 2. Lynn Paradis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m. Peter Kittell seconded the motion. – **Approved.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Approved By,**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nicole Burnell/Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Henry Rainville/Selectboard Chair**

These minutes were approved by the Franklin Selectboard on August 9, 2010 regular meeting