

**FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2010  
FRANKLIN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Members Present:** Scott Choiniere, Peter Kittell, Lynn Paradis, Peter Magnant, Harvey Bushey, and Sara Rainville (Assistant Town Clerk).

**Guests:** David Desavage (Highgate Administrator), Henry Rainville (Highgate Selectboard, Chair), Jeff Towle (Highgate Selectboard), Brian Rowell (Highgate Selectboard), Mandy Bouchard, Kevin Thayer and Heidi Britch-Valenta (Franklin Watershed).

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

**Watershed:**

Scott welcomed Heidi Britch-Valenta to the meeting. Heidi presented the board with the Better Back Roads Grant that needed signatures. The deadline to have the grant in is June 4, 2010. Motion made by Scott/Lynn to have chairperson sign. Four approved, Peter Magnant abstained. Motion passed. Scott signed grant; Heidi will mail it out and she left a copy for the board to file with the Town Clerk's office.

The Watershed Technician position has been filled for the upcoming summer months. There will be many opportunities for this person to do projects around town; Heidi will have him be in contact with Lisa about the Watershed's webpage and adding more information to it.

There is a conference on April 8, 2010 in Colchester about shoreline septic systems if anyone would like to attend. Heidi also informed the board that the Watershed had their agricultural meeting last week and they are going to be doing the cover crop program again this year, \$40 per acre for farmers.

An environmental attorney has been in contact with the Watershed about a spill that McDermott's had a few years back in Franklin. McDermott's had to pay a fine and a portion of that fine is going to be sent to the Watershed for projects.

Heidi updated the Board about the Benjamin Farm. The Benjamin's are going to be doing a stream bank project planting trees; the Franklin Elementary School will hopefully be involved with this and they are going to try and coordinate it with Earth Day.

The Board thanked Heidi and she exited the meeting.

**Highgate Arena:**

The board welcomed Highgate Selectboard members Jeff Towle, Brian Rowell and Henry Rainville, Selectboard chair, to the meeting. Henry stated that the Highgate Board had been approached by many Franklin and Swanton residents about the future of the Highgate Ice Arena. The concerned citizens thought that the Highgate Selectboard should speak to the adjoining Selectboards about a possible Tri-Town Recreation Facility and get their feedback on the idea. Highgate met with the Swanton Board last week and they were very receptive to the proposed Tri-Town idea.

Henry informed the board that the Highgate Arena is over 30 years old and at this point something has to be done or it will close. The board is reviewing many options; two of those ideas are renovating the current arena or building a completely new multipurpose facility in the same location or a new location. Some people have suggested that a new facility be located at MVU. Peter Magnant voiced that having it at MVU would not be as convenient for Franklin students/residents. He would like to see it stay in Highgate.

The Highgate Board gave all members a copy of a PowerPoint presentation that was given at the meeting with the Swanton Board. They invited Franklin's Board to come to a joint Selectboard, School Board and Athletic Director meeting in Highgate on March 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board thanked the Highgate Selectboard and they exited the meeting.

**Town Clerk's Concerns:**

The Selectboard needs to appoint an Animal Control Officer. Burt Maynard will be asked if he would like to do it otherwise the Board will ask around for other possibilities. A motion was made by Peter Kittell/Lynn to pay the Animal Control Officer \$12.50 per hour. All in favor, motion approved.

All members approved Scott's signing of the Town Service Officer appointment for Polly Gadbois.  
Appointment signed.

The Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment appointment letters were signed.

Peter Kittell/Harvey made the motion to approve Scott's signing the FairPoint Easement for Stanley Road. All in favor, easement signed.

VLCT insurance summary reviewed and the Board would like it filed in the Park & Ride/Environmental Court folder for future reference.

Motion made by Peter Kittell/Harvey to approve the February 8, February 22 and March 2 Selectboard minutes. All in favor, motion approved.

Bills were signed. No questions had.

#### **Old Business:**

Harvey informed the Board that his mower/brush cutter has been sold. He stated that he had spoken to Harvest Equipment about the Highway Dept. renting a roadside mower and Harvest told him that the cost would be \$40 per hour.

The Town Hall Use & Cost Policy and the Mailbox Replacement Policy was signed by the Selectboard. The board would like a copy of the Town Hall Policy to be sent to the Zumba and Yoga groups.

Harvey would like to be sure that the Highway Dept is putting meter readings on their time sheets and would like the hours worked to show on the Payroll warrant. Sara advised that they are still working with NEMRC to modify some of the existing reports to meet our needs better.

Sara wanted to know if the computer needed to be in the office at the garage any longer. The board advised it did not; Sara will take it out and leave the fax/copy machine there.

Peter Kittell updated the Board on the mold issued at the garage. Since the fans have been programmed properly to run, the moisture is under control and the mold has been taken care of; the piece of wood over the offices to the crawl space needs to be replaced as it is still covered with mold. Peter Kittell will talk to the men about replacing it.

#### **New Business:**

None.

#### **Selectboard Folder:**

- St. Albans Messenger article regarding prayer at Town Meeting
- Section of VT Statue 24, Appointing Planning Commission Members: Discussion was had regarding having a Selectboard member serve on the Planning Commission. Peter Magnant voiced his concern that it could have a potential appearance of a conflict of interest, but it is allowed.
- Correspondence from Judith McLaughlin
- Correspondence from Phil Reighley
- Dog Complaint filed by Bud McCurley
- Opinions article about maintaining Class 4 Roads: The Board would like Sara to work on a Class 4 Roads Policy.
- Correspondence from ST of VT to Agnes Mercier regarding VT Route 120
- Registration information for the Selectboard Institute that is being held in Fairlee, VT
- Jamie Boudreau's Selectboard resignation
- Correspondence from Prevent Child Abuse VT

#### **Member Concerns:**

Peter Magnant would like to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of all selectboard meetings, board agreed to do at next meeting.

Peter Kittell wanted to know if the Board wants him to apply for a permit from the ST of VT to fix the bad spot at the intersection of Square Road and VT 120. The Board agreed that Peter should.

The next regular Selectboard meeting is April 12, 2010.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Rainville, Assistant Town Clerk  
March 9, 2010

***These minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting on April 12, 2010.***  
These minutes were approved on April 13, 2010.