

Town of Franklin
Town Meeting
March 1, 2011

Town Clerk, Lisa A. Larivee declared the polls open at 10:00 am for the Australian Balloting of the MVU High School #7 budget and school directors. Moderator Timothy Magnant called the Franklin School District meeting to order at 10:03. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by veteran, Robert Cormier. Tim invited Pastor Jason McConnell to give the invocation.

RULES-all questions directed to the moderator, all answers directed to the moderator as well; stick to the subject, no personal attacks, lets remain civil to one another; Unregistered voters may talk with the moderator with groups permission, all unregistered voters were acknowledged.

Article 1: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

Gilbert Dewing nominated Tim Magnant. Jean Richard cast one ballot for Tim Magnant as Franklin School District moderator. All in favor. Tim Magnant elected as moderator.

Article 2: To act upon the reports of the school directors:

Superintendent, Principal, School Director Reports on pages 49, 50, 51-

Motion by Jean Richard/Kyle Lothian to accept reports. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Cross Roads After School Program report on pages 52 –

Motion made by Pierrette Bouchard/Brian Sartwell to accept the report. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

FNWSU Treasurer's Report, Agency Funds & Combined Balance Sheet and Franklin Treasurer's Report & Roof Renovation Project Report on pages 57, 58, 59-

Motion made by Jean Richard/Michelle Guilmette to accept reports.

Kim Gates Maynard - What is a cost estimate of the roof renovation project and a possible time line?

Jonathon Gates-School Board, responded that the board is looking to do this within the next couple of years; the school is almost 20 years old and the bond is almost paid off. The board is hoping to get a committee of community members together for this project. They are going to get estimates from roofing supply companies. They want to fix the roof before leaks happen that could lead to other issues.

Peter Magnant questioned whether or not the new roof would be metal.

Jonathon Gates stated that still needs to be decided on; metal has been encouraged by numerous people in the community. The board will get several different options with cost information and let the community decide in the end what they would like to do.

Richard Mercy stated that Claude Desautel does roofing, metal roof is better for the cost and product longevity/durability. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 3: Will the voters of the Franklin Town School District appropriate \$1,526,970 necessary for the support of the Franklin Elementary School for the school year beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012?

Motion made by Deborah Grennon/Michelle Guilmette to appropriate \$1,526,970 necessary for the support of the Franklin Elementary School for the school year beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 4: To elect one Franklin School Director for a term of three (3) years.

Pierrette Bouchard nominated Tim Magnant. Jean Richard cast one ballot for Tim Magnant for Franklin School Director for a term of three years. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 5: Will the voters of the Franklin Town School District authorize the school directors to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

Motion made by Jean Richard/Johanna Godin to authorize the school directors to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 6: To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted; considered appropriate and necessary when met.

Jean Richard thanked the school board for all their hard work and all the well educated children.

Motion made by Gilbert Dewing/Jean Richard to adjourn School meeting and enter Town meeting. All in favor.

School meeting closed at 10:19 a.m.

CLOSE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND ENTER REGULAR TOWN MEETING

Town meeting entered at 10:21 a.m.

Article 7: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

George Godin nominated Tim Magnant. Jean Richard cast one ballot for Tim Magnant for Town moderator. All in favor. Tim Magnant elected moderator.

Article 8: To elect a town treasurer for a three-year term.

Michelle Guilmette nominated Lisa Larivee. Motion by Jean Richard to close nominations. Lisa Larivee, Clerk, cast one ballot for Lisa Larivee as Town Treasurer. All in favor. Lisa Larivee elected as Town Treasurer.

Article 9: To receive and act upon the reports of the several town officers:

Auditors, Town Clerk/Treasurers and Select board reports on pages 7, 8, 9-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Kim Gates Maynard commented that in the Select Board's report, the comment -"making Square Road a one way street" was premature and should not have been included in the report, that was never discussed when the sidewalk grant was applied for and received. In regards to the Morses Line Border crossing issue, it has been announced that the border is closing, many people have come together in a Grass Roots effort to try keeping it open, the report does not reflect any of this. Lastly, the Town is currently involved in three legal issues and there is no mention of that in the report either.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Road Commissioners and Paving Progress/Road Maintenance reports on pages 10 &11-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Kim Gates Maynard stated she sees on the road commissioner's report that ditching was done by Dennis Demar's, was fabric put down? Also, why is ditching in general not mentioned in the report? Peter Kittell-Road Commissioner, responded that fabric was used on part of the Swamp Road project, stone was used as well; the project was done according to the plans from Better Back Road Grant. Not much other ditching was done this year; more is planned for this year along with more road side mowing.

Richard Mercy noted that there was stone put in on Dewing Shore from a grant, are there any more grants for fixing the rest of the road? Peter Kittell informed everyone that the Town received another grant from Better Back Roads for the Dewing Shore Road erosion, they will do as much as they can on that road with the grant funding.

Frank Tiralla noted that on the paving progress report all the roads listed are dirt roads, are there any plans to pave these roads to save on costs every year? Seems like there would be a savings to pave the road versus maintaining the dirt road for years. Peter Kittell stated that the Town is working on maintaining the roads that are currently paved; there are plans to pave some more dirt roads down the road; the cost of blacktop has increased drastically in the last few years.

Robert Irish commented that there are three roads not mentioned in that list, Dewing, Scott and Colton Road, what was done on those roads last year? Peter Kittell responded that work was done and that the board is still working on getting a complete list of what was put on all roads.

Brenda Wright has reviewed the sidewalk expenses; she questioned why the increase in cost and what were all the changes orders. She would have liked to see that in the town report, the project did not come out like everyone thought it would. Peter Kittell advised that many change orders were done for the project including: grading, curbing, driveways, drainage, etc.

Pierrette Bouchard stated that several people have brought the Morses Line Road paving issue to the selectboard's attention; she really felt that paving needs to be done this year and not skipped over. Peter Kittell responded that it is planned for this year if the budget passes. Greg Bouchard stated that there is 1.5 miles of Morses line planned to be paved, when would the rest of the road get paved? Also, instead of the Town patching spots every year, wouldn't it make more sense to just pave it and be done with it? Peter Kittell responded that paving would be from the Highgate Town line to the Dandurand Road this year; they will do the best/most they can with the price of pavement being so high. George Godin wanted to know if anything specific was going to be done about the rough spot in front of the

Bouchard Farms. Peter Kittell responded that the board had not thought of digging the road up but they will check this spring. Brian Sartwell stated that the pavement is in ruins because the water just stands on the roads, the pitch needs to be changed, and more ditching would also help. Peter Kittell stated that the plan is also to cut the shoulders back this year before paving starts. Wayne Fiske noted that Morses Line Road is a state aid road and that the cycle for money is every four years.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Frank Tiralla stated that he has found errors in the previously approved reports. Moderator asked if anyone wanted to reopen discussion. Motion made by Johanna Godin to reopen discussion to hear errors.

All in favor. Discussion opened.

Frank Tiralla informed the public that there are errors in the math on page 11 for the 2006 Riley Road figures as well as the 2008 Stanley Road figures. Motion made by Frank Tiralla to amend the reports: (2006) Riley Road from \$46,482 to \$45,482, (2008) Stanley Road from \$107,658 to \$122,583.

Kathy Rouleau commented that she is not disagreeing with figures, but what was actually spent? Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk & Treasurer, stated that what is in the book is correct, the figures may have reflected the highway department hauling some product; auditor, Michelle Guilmette agrees with Lisa. Each year we are perfecting the report, she would have to go back to supporting documents to verify. Scott-Selectboard chair, would like reports to be left as is so that the information can be verified and have it corrected for next year's reports.

All opposed. Motion failed. Reports stand as written.

Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment reports on pages 12 & 13-

Motion made by Jean Richard/Michelle Guilmette to approve reports.

Kim Gates Maynard would like to know how the Planning Commission is going to enforce the camp conversion guidelines. Peter Kittell thinks that they will be hard to enforce but the goal is to give people options; this issue has been going on for years and is still a work in progress; if you can meet the conditions you can live year round in the Shoreland/recreation district.

Hugh Gates stated that in the Planning Commission report there is mention of the bylaws being updated, this seems to be the case every year and nothing ever seems to get completed.

Peter Kittell stated that the Planning Commission has received a grant and that they are currently working on the update, the plan is to get it completed this year.

Robert Irish-Zoning Administrator, stated that enforcement has always been an issue but that any change of use requires a variance from the zoning board of adjustment and that would require a site visit from the ZBA; then if requirements can not be met, the ZBA would not grant permit. Johanna Godin stated that's great for law abiding citizens but, what about all the other people that don't follow the guidelines? Clark Hubbard-Planning Commission, responded that the public has been invited to all planning commission meetings for their suggestions on this topic, NRP has also been invited to assist.; the Planning Commission wants the public's input.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Tim Magnant invited State Representatives, Norman McAllister (Agriculture Committee) and Chuck Pearce (Appropriations Committee) to speak, no objections were heard.

Jason McConnell wanted to know where the representatives stood on the Death with Dignity bill that was going to be coming up. Rep. McAllister and Rep. Pearce both are opposed to this bill, they are trying to get doctors more informed; there are not enough votes to get the bill to the house floor. Judith McLaughlin questioned where the bill is in the house on the national popular vote. Rep. McAllister responded that he has heard very little about it and that it is not seeing much support; he and Rep. Pearce are both opposed to the bill.

Judith McLaughlin mentioned that she had heard something about a possible apprentice program for butchers. Rep. McAllister stated that there are not enough slaughter houses in VT, it is a specialty field, and that there are not enough qualified workers in the field; no slaughter house in Franklin County.

Cecil King commented that there used to be a cannery in Swanton.

Richard Mercy wanted to know what Montpelier was doing for unemployed service men/woman. Rep. McAllister responded that there is currently a credit for business' that hire a veteran and also a credit if a veteran was to start their own business. Rep. Pearce commented the General Dube was offered more money for his budget if he needed it down the road.

Robert Irish commented that Challenges for Change asked schools to cut \$20 million from budgets and that the new governor negated that; what can schools expect in the upcoming year? Is the federal money coming? Rep. Pearce advised that the Federal money should be coming; he was surprised to

hear that we didn't already have it. Rep. McAllister stated that some school budgets were coming in under the cap because of previous ARRA money.

Hugh Gates questioned if pension funds could be a potential for problems in VT. Rep. McAllister stated that VT negotiated the last couple of years with state workers; teachers contribute more to their pension plans and that is saving state money. He also noted that the ARRA money is done. Rep. Pearce stated that the budget deficit is \$176 million and that the teachers saved about \$15 million for the state with pension changes. Robert Delorme commented that his wife took a 3% pay cut last July as a state employ, where is that money going? Rep Pearce responded that there is a process for negotiation.

Judith McLaughlin thanked the representatives for their work and reminded them that what was discussed here are the important issues, not the frivolous bills that they are introducing in Montpelier.

Tim thanked representatives and they exited the meeting.

Enhanced 911 and Emergency Management Coordinators reports on page 14-

Motion by Jean Richard/Michelle Guilmette to accept reports. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Town Health Officer, Franklin Homestead, VT Community Development Block Grant, LCCA, Historical Society and Cemetery Commissioner reports on pages 13, 15, 18, 19-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Kim Gates Maynard questioned if the reason no payments were received on the VCDB Grant was because the Homestead & Carriage house are in compliance. Lisa Larivee stated that is correct.

Peter Magnant noted that Junk Yard ordinance enforcement is an ongoing issue; the select board deals with it almost every month; he would like to hear the public's opinion on this matter.

Richard Mercy commended the select board for the work that had been done at the residence on the corner of Dewing Road and Lake Road; it has been cleaned up a lot and great improvements made. Corrina Stanley questioned how the board determines who is in violation of the ordinance. Scott stated that some are written complaints, some are from the health officer, select board, etc. Kim Gates Maynard commented that this issue is tough to address, everyone considers different things as junk; just a reminder that we all need to be considerate of our neighbors. She also mentioned that all complaints should be written so that they can be tracked; we all need to work together towards solutions/compromise.

Jean Richard questioned the LCCA report on page 18, she wanted to know if it was a given that herbicides would be put on Lake Carmi as a measure to rid it of milfoil. Richard Lang-LCCA president stated, no, it is an initial process that has been discussed; there are still many meetings to come and paperwork that has to go to the state for approval.

Val Cooper commented that on Messier road, she is picking up trash almost every day and that there are other hazardous wastes such as washing machines that are being left on roadsides; she is concerned that this waste could be getting into town water/private water. Scott Choiniere-Select board chair, stated that the Town does pick up large items that get thrown on road ways; this is an ongoing issue on many remote roads, not just in Franklin.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Watershed Committee & Financial report on pages 16 & 17-

Motion made by Jean Richard/Johanna Godin to accept reports. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Haston Library Trustees, Haston Library Combined, Haston Library Fund, Eben Racine Memorial Fund, Window Refurbishment Fund reports on pages 20, 21, 22-

Motion made by George Godin/Robert Irish to accept reports.

Robert Irish thanked the library for all the vibrant programming and involvement in the community.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Comparative Balance sheet and Treasurer's report on pages 23 & 28-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Kim Gates Maynard-page 23 equipment balance of \$31,798.17, what would balance be at year end if no more money was budgeted this year?

Lisa-truck payment comes out of this fund, would be a balance of about \$8,000 at end of 2011

Hugh Gates questioned the accrued tax liability to delinquent tax collector \$419.73. Lisa Larivee responded that it was a payroll for 2010 that was paid after the 2010 books had already been closed so it was entered as a liability; it is also shown again on page 30.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Delinquent Tax Collector's report on page 26-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept report.

Johanna Godin-Delinquent Tax Collector, noted that the delinquent tax balance is now down to about \$14,000. Jean Richard commended her for a job well done.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Equipment Fund, Dog Licenses, Select board orders on pages 27, 33-38-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Frank Tiralla stated that the dog rabies vaccines are good for 3 years, why can't town change its dog licensing to every 3 years? The law was put in place for rabies prevention and the select board should look into this. Lisa Larivee responded that it's a state law. Susan Clark stated that she feels that this is a good point, but the select board has enough to deal with and that this should be up to individual persons to take the issue to the state. Hugh Gates stated that the vaccines are not the driving point of licensing, this is a liability to the town and people must be responsible for their animals.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Select board Highway and weed harvester orders on pages 39-43-

Motion made by Jean Richard/George Godin to accept reports.

Kim Gate Maynard would like to know what orders were paid for ditching. Peter Kittell advised that J & J Lakeview Farm, J C Antone & Company were ditching vendors.

Kyle Lothian-former weed harvester operator noted that a lot of maintenance has been put into the weed harvester over the past few years; the harvester is on its last legs. Val Cooper thanked Kyle for all his hard work on the harvester.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Franklin Fire Department and Franklin Rescue reports on pages 44, 45, 46, 47-

Motion made by George Godin/Michelle Guilmette to accept reports.

Richard Mercy thanked Rescue and Fire for all their work.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for lunch.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Article 10: To see if the voters will vote an adequate sum of money to meet current expenses, deficit, and debt payment of the town as indicated in the proposed municipal budget?

Motion made by Scott Choiniere/Pierrette Bouchard to approve \$641,592.00 to meet current expenses, deficit, and debt payment of the town as indicated in the proposed municipal budget.

Kim Gates Maynard questioned if we are voting on the budgeted expenses or the to be raised amount. Lisa stated that we are voting on the budgeted expense amount.

Kim Gates Maynard/Cecil King would like to amend the current motion; motion made to reduce the budget to \$620,000. Scott Choiniere supports budget as written; the select board already has turned \$53,000 back to town from the 2010 budget; the Town did not go out and spend the extra frivolously. Richard Mercy inquired as to why a motion to cut the budget. Kim Gates Maynard appreciates that the Town has given money back, but feels that there is still room for improvement; the legal fees had a budget in 2010 of \$25,000 and only \$7,000 was spent, the Select board still has not mentioned any use for this large appropriation of money. The equipment fund balance should be used for the truck payment. Peter Kittell commented that there was savings in legal fees due to negotiations and savings on repairs on the highway department trucks, also savings due to receiving a paving grant. Cecil King stated that he is living with less, the Town should be able do with less as well.

Peter Kittell reminded everyone that the Town tax rate is down this year from 2010's. Pierrette Bouchard stated that she sees that the budget has gone down this year from last year by about \$10,000 and she appreciates the effort the Town has done. Robert Irish would like to know how the town returned the \$53,000 to tax payers. Did this year's budget get reduced by that amount? Scott responded that the money will reduce this year's budget in the checking account. George Godin asked what the \$53,000

represented. Michelle Guilmette-Auditor, mostly grant funds received that were not anticipated in budget.

Moderator restated the motion to amend the budget to \$620,000. Amended motion failed, 51/12.

Original motion to approve the budget of \$641,592; All in favor. Motion passed on voice vote.

Article 11: To see if the voters will approve an increase to the veteran's exemption amount from \$20,000 of appraised value to \$40,000 of appraised value in accord with 32 V.S.A. §3802(11) first effective for the April 1, 2011 tax year?

Motion made by Robert Delorme/George Godin to approve an increase to the veteran's exemption amount from \$20,000 of appraised value to \$40,000 of appraised value in accord with 32 V.S.A. §3802(11) first effective for the April 1, 2011 tax year.

Cecil King questioned if veterans of any war could apply for this exemption. Robert Delorme advised that last year the voters approved an increase in the exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000; veteran's are eligible due to a combat injury or illness, must be at least 50% disabled; veterans, their children, and their spouse are eligible for this benefit; about \$1 per \$100,000; 6 eligible veterans that participate in Franklin. Judith McLaughlin commented that the veteran has to apply for it; and submit paperwork to the town.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 12: Shall the voters authorize the Town of Franklin Select board to borrow not more than \$150,000 for a term not to exceed five (5) years for the construction of a sand shed?

Motion made by Michelle Guilmette/George Godin to authorize the Town of Franklin Select board to borrow not more than \$150,000 for a term not to exceed five (5) years for the construction of a sand shed.

Susan Clark wanted to know what was going to happen to current salt shed. Scott Choiniere responded that this sand shed would be in addition to the current salt shed. Hugh Gates asked where the location of the sand shed would be. Scott Choiniere noted that all that information is on the map and information sheet. Hugh Gates inquired whether or not both of the proposed locations were on the Westcott property. Scott Choiniere stated that the map shows that one location would be on both lots and one would be totally on the Westcott property. Brenda Wright asked how big the other two town's buildings that were looked at are in comparison to what Franklin is proposing. Peter Kittell stated that the building the Town is proposing is 50x80 and is to house 3,000 yards of sand per year. Judith McLaughlin questioned the \$150,000 figure to build it. Peter Kittell responded that the Town of Swanton built their's two years ago for \$125,000, the board does not feel that they can build for the same price in the current economy. Paul Gates questioned how much the board anticipated saving over the years by building a sand shed. Peter Kittell stated that at some point in the next few years the Town will be mandated to have a sand shed, he is not sure what will be saved in money, but knows that it will save on leaching and the safety concerns of frozen sand. Wayne Fiske asked if there were any grants to help offset the cost. Peter Kittell advised none at this time. Robert Irish questioned the current need for a sand shed. Scott Choiniere stated leaching is the main issue. Howard Vansette- Highway Foreman, stated that the sand pile currently has a frozen 3' thick crust on it; it's also very dangerous for equipment and people, there are large holes that could collapse on something or someone at anytime. Cecil King wanted to know if there were any restrictions on the land given to the Town. Peter Kittell stated there were none on this property and that there was a land committee reviewing possible uses for that land. Susan Clark inquired as to if the Town was looking to borrow money to build this year. Peter Kittell responded yes. Val Cooper suggested that the community build the sand shed ourselves with volunteers. Kim Gates Maynard stated that she is on the land committee and that the committee was waiting for direction from the select board; this plan is premature especially when there are issues with wetlands that have not yet been addressed, and there is currently a legal dispute around access to this land. She is not in favor of the current sand shed proposal. Robert Cormier questioned what year that having a shed would be federally or state mandated. Peter Kittell responded 2015.

Robert Cormier/Cecil King made a motion to table this article until all issues involved are resolved. Robert Cormier stated the sand shed will happen at some point, just not this year. Hugh Gates reminded everyone that the Town garage burned 5 years ago and that the Town received that land before the garage burnt. He encouraged the town to plan long term then and he is doing that still; he feels there is a better place for the sand pile and that more planning needs to be done. The right of way to this land is an issue that is currently in court, the Town possibly purged themselves with the use of this land before that issue is resolved. Peter Kittell noted that it will cost over \$100,000 to build a road to a possible location that Hugh Gates has proposed. Judith McLaughlin would like to know if the Town can legally do anything with this land if there is a court case relating to the ROW to this property.

George Godin suggested that the Town resolve current issues before adding to them; safety is his main concern and he feels that \$150,000 is too much to build it. Paul Gates reminded everyone that the Town needs to be a good neighbor to all; he suggested that the Town tarp the sand pile like farmers do.

Jean Richard/Robert Cormier made motion to move the question and cease debate. Motion to cease debate approved 76/2. Motion passed.

Motion to table article 12; for the construction of the sand shed until legal and environmental issues are resolved. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 13: To see if the voters will approve of the gift of land, beach area, at the north end of Lake Carmi from Clement & Margaret Meunier? (by ballot)

Motion made by Richard Mercy/Robert Irish to approve of the gift of land, beach area, at the north end of Lake Carmi from Clement & Margaret Meunier.

Corrina Stanley questioned what the plans for beach are; are we just accepting the land? Lynn Paradis-Select board, responded that the Select board, Watershed and LCCA formed a committee to research this option. By accepting the gift it is ensuring that it remains public access. Vermont Fish & Game will lease the boat launch area for a 50 year term, they will maintain boat launch, signs and clean up. She further noted that the main point on survey that was done was the uncleanness of area, this also opens up access to grant funding. Cecil King noted that the area used to be very clean, not the case anymore.

Clark Hubbard questioned how long the beach area was. Lynn responded about 1600'. Judith McLaughlin wanted to know if Fish & Game could restrict use. Robert Irish commented that it is in the best interest of the Town to maintain the lake and he commended the Beach Committee for all their work on this proposal. George Gates questioned what would happen to private docks that are currently there now. Lynn Paradis stated that the board is still discussing that issue and the current dock owners have not yet been contacted. Johanna Godin stated that many people are not aware that those docks are not public. Peter Magnant is concerned over the liability of making the docks public. Cecil King stated that customers of the Bowling Alley Restaurant use Leonard Larose's docks. George Godin informed the group that about 25 years ago this land donation was proposed to the board and that it was just going to be more work for town highway department. Kathy Giroux believes that the Meunier's will sell the land, then there will be no public access. Val Cooper feels that Lake Carmi is huge draw for this Town, it is a huge asset for Town; she further wondered what was causing the strong odor from the north end. Kyle Lothian advised it a combination of weeds, fish, ducks, etc. He is in favor of the Town accepting the land. Bryant Reynolds noted that he owns the land abutting the beach and that the Meunier's just let people put there docks in. George Godin commented that Lake Carmi has one of the best state parks in the state and that promoting this new area is just creating more danger. Cynthia Forsyth stated that according to the law, all docks around the lake are illegal because they are in the water and State owns the lake. Nancy Magnant commented that she would feel badly if town said those few docks couldn't be allowed to stay there. Richard Lang-LCCA president, noted that the docks are there against Meunier's wishes; he has spoken to them in regards to that issue.

Robert Irish/Richard Boudreau made motion to move the question, cease discussion. All in favor, 67/2; Motion passed.

Vote on original motion. Paper ballots results: 73 in favor/15 against. Gift accepted by the Town's voters.

Article 14: As an advisory, non-binding opinion, should the Town of Franklin engage in a joint effort with the Towns of Swanton and Highgate to build, maintain, operate, and jointly own a multi-functional, year-round sports/ recreation facility on town-owned land in Highgate at a construction cost not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 (five million dollars) with the cost to be proportionally paid for by each town on the basis of population? (by ballot)

Kim Gates Maynard/Michelle Guilmette made motion for nonbinding opinion, allowing the Town of Franklin to engage in a joint effort with the Towns of Swanton and Highgate to build, maintain, operate, and jointly own a multi-functional, year-round sports/ recreation facility on town-owned land in Highgate at a construction cost not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 (five million dollars) with the cost to be proportionally paid for by each town on the basis of population.

Kim Gates Maynard advised on a \$2.7 million renovation project; \$100,000 property=\$22.67 tax increase for twenty years. On a new \$5 million project; \$100,000 property=\$42.00 tax increase a year for twenty years. Nonbinding, just giving the committee a feel for where the community is at.

Vote: Does the community need an arena? Yes 60, No 1.

Susan Clark had the understanding that the arena was Highgate owned, what happened to their management? How did Franklin get involved in this?

Peter Magnant responded that the Highgate select board came to the Franklin select board and told them that they would no longer be able to support the arena on their own. Kim stated that the Tri-Town Committee has recommended that a nonprofit entity run the center; a member from each town would be on board. Cecil King stated that the possibility of using the facility for a farmers market peaked his interest. Judith McLaughlin wanted to know what was going to be done with the nonbinding vote results. Peter Magnant advised that it gives the Committee a direction on what should really be done; any further decisions on the project would require a vote by taxpayers. David Breed commented that it's nice to have the amenities but that users have to maintain them. Peter Magnant stated that the building needs to be self sufficient once up and running and he does not see a payback from this investment. Cynthia Forsyth questioned if it was just going to be an ice arena, would there be other events? Peter Magnant stated that many options have been discussed, there is a study that is 2-3 years old on possibilities; they would like to offer more than just an ice arena. Susan Clark noted that she did the online survey, what percentage of respondents were Franklin? Kim stated that there were 216 responses, 25% were Franklin; listed were some concerns with taxes, more amenities, etc. MAHA is currently leasing the arena from the Town of Highgate. Cecil King reminded everyone that we should all be considering green technologies for new construction projects. Kyle Lothian inquired as to if anyone looked into the privatization of the facility. Peter Magnant stated that the Town of Highgate has been contemplating a feasibility study; privatizing the arena would be great but no one has stepped up. Cynthia Forsyth questioned whether or not anyone had contacted Enosburg to see if they were interested in joining the project. Peter Magnant stated it's a great idea but there needs to be an incentive to draw people to Highgate. Kathy Rouleau commented that MVU hockey uses arena and that there are five schools that send kids to the school, what about the other schools joining? Hugh Gates noted that the Arena dream is a good dream and would like the voters to consider this facility; he encourages the Town's support. Robert Irish commented that the hockey arena adds to the community and felt that the board had done good work so far but that the ice arena only serves a small portion of our community, he wants more out of it than just a hockey arena; facility needs to be for all generations. Peter Magnant responded that the committee has been looking at that in great detail, it all costs money (ie. Walking track above ice, basketball court, open space). Judith McLaughlin questioned if the motion should be changed to add other towns. Peter Magnant stated he would love to see other towns join; no other towns have shown interest thus far. Kim Gates Maynard stated that currently the money that is coming in is coming from the hockey and the ice. Mandy Bouchard commented that both of her kids play for MAHA; there has been the idea to bring in revenue from other areas/activities and make the arena sustainable year round. Val Cooper commented that the community needs a safe, monitored space for children other than church, library, etc.

Paper ballot results: 57 yes/26 no. Motion passed.

Article 15: To elect the following town officers:

- A. One select board member for a term of three years. (by ballot)
Motion made by Gilbert Dewing to elect Kyle Lothian.
Jean Richard, move to cast one ballot. All in favor.
Kyle Lothian elected Select Board member for three year term.
- B. One select board member for a term of two years. (by ballot)
Motion made by Johanna Godin to elect Yvon Dandurand.
Motion made by Gilbert Dewing to elect Robert Cormier.
Jean Richard/Johanna Godin, motion to close nominations.
George Godin spoke on Yvon's behalf. Robert Cormier spoke.
Vote by ballot; Dandurand 55 votes, Cormier 25 votes
Yvon Dandurand elected Select Board members for a two year term.
- C. One lister for a term of three years. (by ballot)
Gilbert Dewing nominates Jean Richard. Gerald Gates/Kyle Lothian cast one ballot. Motion passed on voice vote. Jean Richard elected lister for three year term.
- D. One auditor for a term of three years. (by ballot)
Scott Choiniere nominates Michelle Guilmette. Susan Clark/Jean Richard, close nominations and cast one ballot. Motion passed on voice vote. Michelle Guilmette elected auditor for three year term.
- E. One auditor to fulfill the unexpired one year term of previous auditor. (by ballot)

- Johanna Godin nominates Jean Richard. Gilbert Dewing/Pierrette Bouchard, close nominations and cast one ballot. Motion passes on voice vote. Jean Richard elected auditor for one year term.
- F. A trustee of public money.
George Godin nominates Susan Clark. Jean Richard, close nominations. Motion passed on voice vote. Susan Clark elected trustee of public money.
- G. A trustee of the Haston Library Fund.
Gerald Gates nominates Kim Gates Maynard. Jean Richard/Kathy Rouleau, close nominations. Kim Gates Maynard elected on voice vote.
- H. Two Haston Library trustees for terms of three years.
Alyson Racine nominates Tiffany Renaudette and Bryant Reynolds. Jean Richard close nominations. Tiffany Renaudette & Bryant Reynolds elected on voice vote.
- I. A collector of delinquent taxes for a term of one year.
Michelle Guilmette nominates Johanna Godin. Johanna Godin elected on voice vote.
- J. A constable for a term of one year.
George Godin nominates Burt Maynard. Jean Richard/Michelle Guilmette close nominations. Burt Maynard elected on voice vote.
- K. A town agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the town is interested.
Gilbert Dewing nominates George Godin. Jean Richard close nominations. George Godin elected on voice vote.
- L. One or more grand jurors.
Johanna Godin nominates Doug Clark and Aaron Porter. Jean Richard close nominations. Doug Clark & Aaron Porter elected on voice vote.
- M. One representative to serve on the Franklin Homestead, Inc. Board of Directors for a term of three years.
Gilbert Dewing nominates Elizabeth Rainville. Jean Richard close nominations. Elizabeth Rainville elected on voice vote.
- N. One representative to fulfill the unexpired one-year term on the Franklin Homestead, Inc. Board of Directors.
Gilbert Dewing nominates Jean Richard. Susan Clark, close nominations. Jean Richard elected on voice vote.

Article 16: To see if the town will authorize the Select board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes for the needs of the town.

Motion made by George Godin to authorize the Select board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes for the needs of the town. No discussion.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 17: To elect a person, or persons, to act as cemetery commissioner(s) to care for the cemeteries in town where there is no one responsible to act in such a capacity.

Motion made by Gilbert Dewing to nominate Nancy Wilson and Jennifer Dewing. George Godin nominated Howard Vansette.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 18: To see if the voters will set the date of payment of property taxes paid to the treasurer to be October 17, 2011 before 3:30 p.m.

Motion made by Michelle Guilmette/Jean Richard to set the date of payment of property taxes paid to the treasurer to be October 17, 2011 before 3:30 p.m.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 19: To see if the town will vote to exempt the Franklin Historical Society from real estate taxes on the grand list beginning in 2011 for a period of five years.

Motion made by Jean Richard/Susan Clark to exempt the Franklin Historical Society from real estate taxes on the grand list beginning in 2011 for a period of five years.

Johanna Godin questioned why exempt and why 5 years. Susan Clark responded that each Town votes to exempt nonprofit organizations, it's in VT Statue; five year exemption at a time.

Cecil King asked if this was the log cabin on Hanna Road and what is store there? Susan Clark responded that there are artifacts stored there; also using part of the Town Hall to store artifacts; the historical society is looking at using Town Hall more.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 20: To see if the town will vote to publish the names of all delinquent property taxpayers and amounts due and owed to the town as of December 31, 2011.

Motion made by Jean Richard/Johanna Godin to publish the names of all delinquent property taxpayers and amounts due and owed to the town as of December 31, 2011. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 21: To elect any town officers to fill any town office that may be vacant at this time.

Motion made by Alyson Racine to nominate Kristy Porter to fill a vacant, unexpired, library trustee term until 2013. All in favor. Motion passed.

Article 22: To transact any other non-binding business thought proper when met.

Jean Richard thanked Martha Jane Olmstead for her time and work on the FHI Board.

Cecil King thanked Ron Lontine for snow blowing of sidewalks.

Marilyn Hackett objected to the standard prayer at the beginning of Town meeting each year.

Violating the separation of church and state, violating constitution, and making voters feel unwelcome at Town meeting. Practice as a town that needs to be taken care of before the courts do.

Peter Magnant-Morses line, meeting at school in September 2010, board voted unanimously to keep border open. Custom Border Protection (CBP) advises there is going to be a comment period, that period has not been set yet; online; very important that everyone's voice is heard.

Robert Irish-Town wide reappraisal ordered by the state, CLA has dropped below 80%, started last summer, effective 2012

Johanna Godin thanked Lynn Paradis for all her work on the select board.

Peter Magnant-CBP has not had opposition in the past when closing a border crossing, unchartered waters for everyone; if did comment before, do it again to be sure; the Town will put when to comment on our website as well as the link to the CBP website, also will put something in the St Albans Messenger.

Aaron Porter would like to know what is being done about the person living in a trailer on Messier Road. Select board will look into this, advised that complaints be put in writing. Susan Clark recommends that the Health Officer be contacted as well.

Alyson Racine thanked all people that donated a dish to the lunch and for all people that attended.

Jean Richard/Bryant Reynolds made motion to adjourn meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Recorded in Selectboard minutes of March 14, 2011

ATTEST: _____ Town Clerk

Franklin Select board:

_____ *Scott Choiniere*

_____ *Peter Kittell*

_____ *Peter Magnant*

_____ *Yvon Dandurand*

_____ *Kyle Lothian*