

Minutes of Franklin Selectboard

August 2, 2017 @6:00 p.m.

Town Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:02 p.m. Peter Magnant called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Peter Magnant, Edmund Rainville and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk.

GUESTS: Jeremy Barnum (road crew); Kim Gates Maynard, Franklin Tel; Tim Smith & Elisabeth Nance, Franklin County Industrial Development; Clay Purvis, VT Department of Public Service.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: Add to Town Clerk concerns – Chris Stark addition to electrical work at the town hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 19 minutes-Brooks/Ed made the motion to approve the minutes as written. No discussion on minutes, three members approved, Ed abstained. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- **ROAD ORDINANCE REVIEW/ADOPTION:** The Selectboard decided to table this for now.
- **VTrans Stormwater/runoff Mitigation Grant** – Discussed projects that could be done with this funding, Jeremy suggested the possible paving of the Dewing Rd hill which continues to be a problem with erosion/runoff. Town Clerk reviewed the grant eligibilities; culvert replace/up-size, bank stabilization, check dams. Brooks/Ed made a motion to authorize Andy to do the VTrans Mitigation grant with Jeremy and Lisa where funding can be applied, due Aug 15th.
- Jeremy advised the tree stump at Memorial Park was ground by Jordan St. Pierre this week and cleaned up.
- The highway dept has been cutting back trees and removing shoulders at intersections.
- Jeremy advised that Mr. Dandurand has spoken with him about the quarry on Browns Corner Rd. Jeremy spoke with Fred McCullough about blasting and crushing stone for the town; cost would be \$8-9 per yard finished product; would have to crush a minimum of 10,000 yds. Shelburne Lime is no longer making the #2 pea-stone (approx. \$14/yd) and Leach's often do not have the blue rock ((\$12/yd) available. The board would like to look into this as it may be a cost savings for the town with our own pit. Jeremy will invite Mr. McCullough and Mr. Dandurand to meet with the board and view the pit.

TOWN CLERK CONCERNS:-

- **FY18 Tax Rate:** Lisa presented to the board the tax rate for the 2017 tax billing. The tax rate is up slightly from proposed at town meeting in March; due to changes in the year-end carryover balance and highway budgets being over due to the hard winter. Brooks/Ed made a motion to set the tax rate as printed at residential \$1.6962 and non-resident at \$1.9013. All members voted in favor, motion carried.
- **Aquatic nuisance grant-fund request:** Lisa discussed this request and with the weed harvester not operating at this time, do we want to wait to be sure there are expenses to offset the grant funding. Board tabled the fund request with the state at this time. Ed suggested putting together a survey to send to the lake residents asking for input on the lake water quality and use of the harvester. Lisa will work on this to send with the tax bills.
- **Franklin Village Cemetery Commission:** the members of the Protestant cemetery commission would like to disband their association and turn the cemetery over to the town. The members are aging and cannot find interest with the younger folks, they have some funding that would be turned over to the town as well for its care. The board would like to know how many lots are left available in the cemetery. Town Clerk states statute requires the towns to take care of cemeteries where there is no one to take care of them. The cemetery group would like to meet with the board at the next meeting to discuss their future plans.
- **Dog complaint from Arnold Byam** regarding the dog of Adam Becker who lives on Scott Rd at the old Fregeau farm. The Blue-tick/coon hound is always running loose and at the Store bothering customers. Mr. Byam has asked for the dog to be kept home, with no results. Lisa advised the dog is not registered and there is a leash law in E. Franklin. Send letter of first warning to Mr. Becker and ask Denis-ACO to pay a visit.

- Town hall electrical-Chris Stark is doing the electrical upgrades at the town hall. He has had a State inspection and they advised there must be more emergency lighting in the main hall area and in the basement. The cost for such is an additional \$1600; the board would like to speak with the inspector, they feel this is excessive.

REVIEW AND SIGN BILLS: Bills and orders were circulated and signed by all members present.

FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: Tim Smith, Elisabeth Nance, and Clay Purvis were welcomed to the meeting. Tim spoke of the work of the FCID group and the map guide of the Lake Champlain Region (Northern VT and Canada) that they have put together to promote tourism. Kim asked where the guides will be distributed; these can be found at area rest stops, chambers of commerce and town clerks. Pete states there are many events in Franklin that draw people here, 4th of July events, BBQ, boat race and fireworks; FFD breakfast.

Clay Purvis from VT Dept of Public Service introduced himself and was here regarding telecommunication and cell service. He is an advocate for the State of VT and public utility commissions. In 2015 they mapped the broadband service; though they have no control over it, but were looking to encourage improvement of services. Franklin Telephone Co is in a really good position and has really good service to most residents in their service area. There is not much cell service and the State cannot compel companies to provide it. Clay will speak with AT&T and Verizon to get them to meet with the board about cell towers and microcells to try to acquire more service in the town. It is important that our Town Plan supports and encourages cell development and where it should be located. Ed asks how far a tower can provide service to. Typically about three miles-lots of factors contribute to the bad reception such as trees, ledges. Clay advised that first.net is in progress of making service available to first responders and this can improve general service as well. Clay advised we should inventory our high points where towers or cells could be installed. Clay advised VTel wireless has also set up service but has not come into Franklin.

Tim introduced Elisabeth Nance; she was hired part time by Swanton primarily for grant writing and FCID for eight hours per week to write grants and assist towns where needed.

They were thanked and exited the meeting at 8:12.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Town hall wood repair work: Pete will speak with Dave Bennion about doing work on the soffit/facia at the same time that the lift is here for Marc Vinci to finish the painting on the east side.
- No updates on the Weed harvester yet; waiting for Vikings to look at it.

NEW BUSINESS :

- Town Hall rental policy: the board reviewed the rental/use policy to make changes to the fees schedule charged. Lisa will make changes to be reviewed at the next meeting.

SELECTBOARD FOLDER: nothing

MEMBER CONCERNS/ OTHER BUSINESS

- Brooks inquired about the old door in the attic that Eric Gerrard was interested in buying.
- Pete-Dick Benton has been in touch with him regarding the "Common Reed" weeds that are growing in the Millpond causeway. They are invasive and would like the new culvert to be blocked so canoes and kayaks cannot go across and bring it back into the lake.
- Lisa advise Byams Store has concerns with traffic speeding and not stopping on the Middle Rd/Lake Rd corner, dangerous intersection and would like some Sheriff patrol. Will check on the paving work on Main St in front of the Benders.

At 8:32 p.m. Brook/Yvon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vote taken, All in Favor, Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by
Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
August 3, 2017.

These minutes are not official until approved at the next selectboard meeting.

These minutes were approved at the August 16, 2017 Selectboard meeting.