FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD MEETING
PUBLIC BUDGET
JANUARY 26, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Andy Godin, Brooks Sturtevant and Ed Rainville, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk/Treasurer

GUESTS: Michelle Guilmette, Jean Richard, Carole Richard; Auditors; Nicole Tatro, Bridget Thompson, Bridgette Favreau, Stephanie Ho; Recreation Department; Kathy Rouleau, Pam Green, David Bennion, Corinna Stanley, Mike Lawyer, Tim Magnant

At 7:03 p.m. Peter M called the meeting to order. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None

FY18 BUDGET REVIEW/PRESENTATION:
Peter thanked the Auditors and Treasurer for their work in putting together the budget and town report. There are some changes this year to the balance sheet, fund balances are individualized, reserve balance separate, projected revenues and budgeted expenses. Reserve funds are restricted for a specific purpose.
Highlights of FY18 General fund budget

- Health Insurance increase by 7%, mostly paid by school
- Fire dept increased by $4,000, to purchase fire suits
- Borrowed funds expense – interest on loans for Sand Shed, Fire Truck, Highway Truck. Highway fund
- Watershed request of $5,000 included in budget, after 3 yrs of voter approval
- Ambulance-cost reduced due to a contract change
- Library – no increase this year, level funded.

Highway fund budget

- Salaries increase by 3% and an extra driver as needed
- Gas increased with prices rising
- Gravel increase due to the decision to purchase blue rock for roads as it holds a better surface.
- Blacktopping – FY17 was reduced by $60,000 due to budget issues; FY18 reduced to $100,000 and $10,000 put into a pavement sealing line. Want to maintain our pavement better by sealing annually.
- Salt prices increasing
- Repair and Maintenance decrease by $4,000 due to new truck purchase
- Shop & Tools broken down by subaccounts
- VTrans Grant for match to install flashing speed limit signs at the lake north/south.
- Engineering study grant match for the highway lot water run-off concerns

Reviewed the previous articles that were approved and the tax impact.
Discussed the new articles for FY18 – Sidewalks, on Main St, wanting to connect the Square Rd and Hanna Rd on west side of street. Asking for $11,000 for a grant match; if a grant is awarded through VTrans. Want to continue the project in the future on the east side from Racine's to the town hall.

- Mike Lawyer asked about a maintenance plan for the existing sidewalks; and is concerned with adding more that need to be maintained. Feels they are not kept up in the winter for safety.

Recreation Department is new this year; Peter welcomed the board members. They are asking the voters for funding of $16,000 mainly to hire a director to operate the Recreation Dept. Bridget Thompson advised they have spoken with many towns and other groups on how to manage the program and feel the need to hire a director for approx. 10 hrs a week/$10,000 yr and other costs such as the liability insurance coverage. The committee would be less involved with the operation of programs. There are many resources and grants that can be pursued for the recreation dept to keep our town lively and to keep people in town. February 11th will be the winter carnival at the Elementary School with activities of all ages inside and out. Nicole advised they are working on summer events as well.

Peter discussed the need for a new snow blower attachment for our current tractor. The old one is 10 years old and the board is looking ahead with budgeting into the next winter FY18. Tim Magnant stated we should keep the old one as a spare when there are breakdowns, and that happens. The tractor and blower are shared with the school as is the z-turn mower. Mike Lawyer-might consider a back blade to clear heavy snow falls as well.

Ambulance Contract – expires with Enosburg Rescue on June 30, 2017. Have gotten quotes from Enosburg Rescue and AmCare. Reviewed both pros and cons of each, hand out sheet will be given at town meeting for both services. Corinna Stanley asked about statistics of towns covered (population/area) for each service.

Budget comparison discussion from last year-FY17 to FY18.

Mike Lawyer – moisture issue at garage and how we are handling it. Peter advised we are still looking at options, have not made any changes yet.

WARNING: Peter read the warning aloud. Article #11, remove “Kubota” snow blower and leave basic. All members signed the waring as written. Michelle asked about the Ambulance article and the wording; Peter advised if voters vote “yes” we will stay with Enosburg; if no, the Selectboard will look at changing to AmCare for the ambulance contract.

At 8:42 p.m. Andy/Ed made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 1, 2017 AT 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Larivee
Town Clerk/Treasurer
January 31, 2017

These minutes are not official until approved at the next regular board meeting.
These minutes were approved by the Selectboard at the February 1, 2017 meeting