

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009 AT 7:00 P. M.
FRANKLIN SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Peter Kittell, Scott Choiniere, Lynn Paradis, Harvey Bushey, Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk.

CITIZENS: Michelle Guilmette & Polly Gadbois, auditors, Barb Varin, Cody Paradis, Boy Scout.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

REPAIRS: Scott questioned whether the board should increase the Repair and Maintenance line of the budget due to some repairs for about \$4000 already in January. The Mack truck needed to have the pump fixed. H.P. Fairfield wanted to replace the entire pump. Tenco will fix the pump and may need to replace the fluids for a much cheaper rate. Harvey spoke of the change in the horse power of the trucks. He spoke to a vendor, not sure what the cost will be, would probably need to change valves. They charge by the hour. Board agreed to leave the budget as is. Authorized Harvey to take the trucks down for the horse power reduction which will save on gas mileage.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Harvey questioned the cost clarification for the insurance. Lynn explained that the employees have a \$3000 deductible with their health savings account plans, the employees pay \$1500 of the cost. The rates are still much cheaper then the plan we were on in 2007.

LIBRARY BUDGET: Barb Varin voiced her concern over the inflated library budget. She has compared to Montgomery and Enosburg Libraries and the hours of operation. The library personal are getting raises when many others are losing their jobs. More volunteers should be used for the operation of the library. The board needs to look at how vacation is being paid for the scheduled days they work. The library should use more volunteers for the extra activities as well, not support them with tax payer funds. Should a fee be charged for library cards for out of Towner's who use Franklin's library? The library inflates their patron counts by including those who use the space for meetings, not library business.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Scott commented on possible cuts to paving or other misc. items. Barb suggested that the budget on infrastructures should not be cut.

The Fire/Rescue entrance would cost approx. \$30,000 to dig out and repave. The department is willing to help out to cut costs. Also need to fix the entrance to Homestead drive. Need to acquire state permits as will be working in the right of way.

Polly commented of having all info for the tractor and truck purchase and funding available at town meeting as people will be asking for info. Make aware to voters that we rented Peter's tractor in 2008 for \$1 to save money.

Harvey suggested that the highway crew put modeen heaters in the garage to help with quicker recovery of heat and decrease the moisture in the garage.

Discussion on the ambulance article put in the warning as written. How the extra funds were held. Central dispatch costs were discussed again with Polly. She states they are not involved with these costs.

Scott presented a bill for the lettering which was done on the new truck. The quote that was given was \$200. The bill came in at \$264 when completed. The board agreed to pay the \$200 and Scott will advise the vendor of such.

Scott asked what everyone wanted to do about the tractor that he had gotten a price on from Champlain Valley Equipment. Has 4700 hours @ \$16,500. Peter thinks we should get something newer with fewer hours. Harvey knows where there is a 65 hp tractor that he will get a quote on. The board agreed not to get the tractor from Champlain Valley Equip that was quoted, Scott will advise them.

Scott advised the highway crew currently has 3000 yds of sand put up.

The highway crew has been told that they need to use purchase orders for anything over \$500 and get Scott's approval before ordering.

Howard has asked to purchase an air tank for mounting and blowing up tires as well as a lift dolly to put the tires on the trucks. This would save time and much money for mounting with an outside vendor. The board authorized Howard to purchase the items.

Scott advised he has called Bob Norris, Franklin County Sheriff for assistance with dog pick-ups. Mr. Norris has not called back yet.

TRUCKS: Harvey questioned why the trucks are being loaded so heavily and left in the shop over the weekend to sit? This is not good for the trucks. The board needs to come up with a policy for the road crew. How to operate? When?

The board discussed the purchase of the new truck. Should the plow and wing be kept off the old truck? The old truck could be put out to bid for the bare truck only. Peter is getting quotes from several vendors and options with the equipment for the best pricing.

Harvey spoke with Boy & Ron about having DOT physical cards. They need to have them or we could be fined. All CDL drivers must carry a card. Lisa will check with PACIF for drug testing schedule information.

WARNING: The Board members reviewed the 2009 Town Meeting Warning and signed it.

Motion by Harvey/Scott to adjourn. All members voted in favor/meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
January 29, 2009
Lisa Larivee

NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Selectboard at their next meeting which is scheduled for February 9, 2009.