

Franklin Selectboard Meeting
September 16, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Office/Zoom hybrid

SB Members Present: Dave Bennion, Michael Grant, Brooks Sturtevant, Justin Rainville

Guest: Lisa Larivee- Town Clerk, Jeremy Barnum-Highway Foreman, Eugene Perras

Virtual: Jordan Brow- Asst Town Clerk, Allison Franklin

SB Meeting Called to order: at 6:05 pm by Dave; pledge of allegiance said.

Agenda amendments: Add Sheriffs report to town clerk concerns, and weed harvester operator to new business; library window update to old business.

Approve minutes from September 2: Justin/Brooks made a motion to approve the September 2nd minutes. Dave abstained. All other members voted in favor; motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department:

- **Dewing Rd intersection update-** The work has been completed with the new Dewing Rd/Lake Rd intersection; road now comes to a T instead of splitting off two ways. The Jette property now has their lawn back, which has been seeded by Jeremy. He would like to lay about 50 feet of pavement for a better transition, so it is easier to grade, and to reduce potholes.
- **Ash Tree removal-** Some dead ash trees are taken care of. A lot of the trees are on Jim Dewing's property, should discuss options with him. There are at least 8-10 more that they could cut, some are newly dead trees, so they aren't really a hazard yet. Jeremy would like to cut them in winter when they can drop them on the ice instead of blocking the road.
- **Browns Corner culvert engineering-** The Town had received a grant for an engineering study to replace the Morses Line Culvert; however, Jeremy said the Browns Corner Rd culvert needs to be replaced sooner. Lisa got the grant approval of the \$40,000 funding transferred to this project last week. Bowman sent a contract of \$21,100 and a retainer of \$4,200. This covers the engineering study with sight visit, surveys, testing, etc. The actual replacement engineering oversight work would be a separate cost. The company asked to start the work today, 9/16/26, and Lisa said the board hadn't accepted it yet, but would discuss and potentially approve. Lisa reached out to other companies but did not hear back.
Justin/Mike made a motion to approve hiring Bowman Engineering for \$21,100 for the Browns Corner Culvert replacement project to include the contingency cost of \$4,200. All members voted in favor; motion passed 4-0. Dave signed the contract.

Public comments: Eugene Perras on Middle Rd said that speeding on the east and west side of Middle Rd is getting too frequent. There are only 2 signs on the road; 35 and 40 mph signs. Eugene is asking if it could be reduced to 30? The traffic ordinance has Middle Rd as 35. Dave advised there are no streets posted at 30, and cannot be posted below 35 anyways for law

enforcement. Justin suggests that Jeremy swap the 40 sign to a 35 sign, add another one in the middle section, and let the Sheriff's Department know this is a problem area.

5199 Main Street Updates:

- **Porch grant update-** NRPC municipal planning grants are due December 2. Planning grants are up to \$50,000 with 10% match to develop a plan of rehabbing public buildings. Full scope of work plan would be done for the entire house project. Greta from NRPC will join the October meeting to discuss the plan and start the application?. Brian was supposed to request an extension of the porch grant past December, but Lisa has not heard back on the status. Still need to figure out additional funding for the remainder of rehab. Lisa has not seen any historic grant options come out yet. Will ask NRPC if they would put together a "vision" & "benefits" for the work, plan, steps, etc.
- **Rental updates- furnished finder rate update-** Lisa did a search for surrounding furnished finder rentals. Based on her findings, she dropped it to \$1,750. There is currently a family showing real interest in the property for 1 month starting September 26. Lisa sent the contract to them, and is waiting for it to be returned. They offered to drop off cash or check as they are staying close by. For now they plan to stay 1 month, with potential for more.
- **Property cost/income-** \$1,100 down this year. Was \$1,900 down last year. \$3,100 down total. Correction—last year is down \$3,889 for a total of \$4,989.
- Will need to get a table and chair set.
- Jordan can post on facebook that we are in search of table chairs. Dave has a twin mattress and box spring to spare.

Old Business:

- **Brick quotes- Haston & 5199-** No updates, but will ask Vermont Custom Masonry to pencil us in for spring 2027. If funding is not available, can just cancel.
- **Library window repair-** Ben Weed can start the work in September/October; remove the window, then rebuild it at his shop. He would return it in about a week.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Opioids fund use-** Brooks talked to Joyce and Allison to inquire. Joyce wanted more details and a deadline? There is no deadline for usage. Allison is at the meeting to discuss the Rec side. Rec would entertain the idea of paying someone or a group to come and do an event/the school to talk to kids about drug prevention.
- **Review of Muncipay/credit card processing agreement-** This option will allow people to pay online with credit card for any services, or credit card payments in person. There is a 2.95% or \$3.00 minimum charge to the customer, not the town. Would open up payments for any charges; permits, taxes, water payments, etc. Lisa would like to open up a new account with the bank to keep this separate and secure. Justin/Mike made a motion to authorize Lisa to sign the contract agreement with Muncipay credit card processing. All members voted in favor; motion passed 4-0.
- **Sheriffs report-** ATV incidents with speeding and no helmets, 7 warnings, 2 tickets. Lisa will reiterate to them what roads/areas we want patrolled.

New business-

- **Road/Traffic ordinance review-** Touched on this with public comment; cannot reduce under 35mph on Middle/Gallup Rd.
- **Public forum discussion regarding 5199 Main St & North beach dock-** Want to hold a public forum/meeting to discuss these topics with residents. The board will come up

with a plan/presentation at the October 21 meeting. Will warn a public meeting to discuss on October 22 at the town hall.

- **Harvesting options-** One of the weed harvester operators, Mike Loiselle turned in his key because the job wasn't what he expected. There were a lot of machine and tractor issues, and the harvesting didn't seem effective either because it leaves a lot of weeds still floating. Between the 2 operators, they have not even put in 100 hours yet; the goal was to have 300 hours this summer. Need to review other options with the State, as harvesting is not their preferred method. There are underwater weed blankets/barriers, suction pulling of the weeds, and divers pulling the weeds. Lisa will reach out to see if they can do a weed study now and suggest the best option for next year. Will also discuss what the future is looking like for the weed harvester; it has had a lot of issues from the start.

Review bills and warrants: Done by board members.

Treasurer's Report: Board reviewed. The outside auditors told Lisa that we should be cash basis only instead of cash and accrual. So some of the accounts have been adjusted to reflect this so the report looks a bit different. Other areas of the budget are looking good.

Possible executive session: none

Member concerns/Other business:

- The board got a complaint from a Dewing Rd resident; she had a concern with the shore work being done, and thought she was losing her beach frontage. Had also complained that the road is too high, making a drop off into her driveway, Jeremy will address. Lisa referred her to the state on the shore work, as there was a specific way to make complaints online, she called the State.
- Jim Dewing mentioned to Mike that the stone work from the State Park Rd culvert project doesn't reach where the erosion is actually happening. But the engineers designed that plan, which was approved and oversighted by the State.

Adjournment: Brooks/Mike made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

The next meeting will be on October 21, 2026 @ 6:00pm at the Town Clerk's Office and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Brow, Asst. Town Clerk
September 16th, 2026

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