
Franklin Selectboard Meeting
June 18th, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Clerks Office/Zoom hybrid

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

Guest: Mary Martha Kinney, Carol King, Adam Kane, Lisa Larivee- Town Clerk, Dan Larivee

Virtual: Jordan Bushey- Asst Town Clerk, Jeremy Barnum

Call to order:

At 6:01 pm Dave Bennion called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Agenda Amendments: None

Public comment period: None

Little Pond Rd- Board did a site visit prior to the meeting. Property owner (Lucey) would be open to the Town putting a turn-around in on their land. Would there need to be an easement added to the deed? Board would like Jeremy to get a price estimate. Just one property owner will go into this agreement.

Mary Martha Kinney – car damage- A Homestead resident had her car parked near the town garage for the winter, and believes it was hit by the grader. The bumper has fallen off, and there was yellow paint on the bumper. As far as Jeremy knows, the crew did not knowingly hit her car. Mary Martha is asking the town to pay for the damages, and submitted a bill. She also showed pictures of her vehicle. Adam looked at the vehicle and does not believe the damage was made from the grader; it looks like there was prior damage. This was reported to VSP by her, but they have not investigated it yet. Lisa asked for the pictures to be forwarded to the town email. Lisa will reach out to the town insurance to submit a claim to investigate.

Lake Carmi- Alum Project update-

- Everything is moving along very smoothly. Still pushing to get the treatment done this year. The original \$2.8 million quote may not be enough to cover the project though. The State and Engineers want to amend the original loan/grant quote by an additional \$300,000. This will be for additional engineering cost, admin cost (Lisa has spent multiple hours on this project, that is not part of her town salary), and construction costs.
- Brooks/Jay made a motion to amend the alum project state revolving fund loan to increase by \$300,000. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- State Park will release liability for the roads. Allowing the use of the state park as a staging area. The park will be closing Sept 15th. Working on a written agreement (MOA).
- Jay/Mike made a motion to allow Brooks to sign the MOA when it comes in. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Lisa will send to the board when she receives it.
- Engineer/town wants to put this out to bid on 6/19, if able.

Highway Dept:

- **Highway/water work sheet review-** Jordan will send the timesheet to the board when back in office.
- **Beaver Meadow Rd project contract review-** Culvert will be delivered soon. Jeremy will be in touch with Goodhue, and payment will not be given until after July 1 for budget purposes.
- **Highway Job posting-** There is now a job opening for a Highway Crew member. Jordan typed up a job description, which will be posted soon. Pay range will be \$25-\$30.
- **Mowing-** Jeremy has asked Tim Magnant to use his machine to mow the road sides. The Town's tractor is getting worked on right now, and Jeremy has been unable to do anything about the tall grass. But it needs to get done soon.

Old Business-

- **Byam's Tax Sale process-board approval of attorney-** Vaughn Comeau has written up the new process for tax sale, if we have already begun the process of a tax sale, you can go straight to "part 2". SB would need to vote to have Vaughn Comeau as the tax sale attorney. Since town has held a tax sale on this property already, there may be different steps to follow. Lisa will find out more from Vaughn.
- **Luce house scope of work- engineer/architect study-** Started process in May 2024; Dave has finally gotten some input from the firm that did the work, should have a final report by July.

Approve minutes from May 22nd & June 4th: Brooks/Jay made a motion to approve the minutes from May 22nd & June 4th. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **PACIF grant discussion- LED stop signs-** Signs are not eligible for the PACIF grant. The grant is more for safety and risk prevention for employees and municipal buildings in town. There are other funding options for signs, Lisa will look into it.
- **Main St intersection-** L&D Safety cannot grind the road with that sharp of a radius on west side of intersection. Jeremy suggests adding posts (like near Merchants Row in Swanton) instead of rumble strips. Will look at further.
- **Insurance claims- Hanna Rd MV accident & Main St water dept work-** On 5/31/25 there was an accident on Hanna Rd; vehicle vs guard rail. The guard rail was completely taken out, and needs to be replaced. Lisa has done an insurance claim for this, not sure that the vehicle had current insurance. Jeremy reached out to Lafayette for a guard rail estimate, but has not heard back yet. A claim will be filed for the Main St water dept bill that has been received from Hotchkiss.
- **Liquor control/tobacco permits- Franklin General Store-** Mike/Justin made a motion to approve the permit for the Franklin General Store. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **Treasurers report-** Board reviewed the treasurers report for the end of FY25 budget.

Review bills for approval of warrants: Board reviewed bills and signed warrants.

Weed harvester update- Jeremy will get the harvester into the water soon. The two operators will begin harvesting asap pending a schedule.

New business:

- **Sheriff May report-** There were 6 speeding tickets given in May. Town will get a percentage of the money when the tickets get paid.
- **Employee dental/vision plan review/enrollment-** Vision is 2 options-voluntary, or all employees must enroll. There are not any close options for vision. Not all employees are interested in the plan, just one employee. The voluntary premium for single is \$6.74/month. Town could pay for premium or employee could pay. Dental insurance; all must enroll and town must pay single premium (3 town, 1 library employee) \$39.79/month for option #2; or can do voluntary where each employee is invoiced by Delta Dental and pay direct.
- Jay/Justin made a motion to enter into dental benefit plan number two; pay single person premium with Northeast Delta dental through Vermont League of Cities and Towns. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- Justin/Mike made a motion to enter into benefit option six for vision care through Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and town will pay the single person premium. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **VEC ROW easement- Kennison Rd new service-** Dan Larivee entered the meeting to review his easement application. Justin/Jay made a motion to add poles per the easement, pending a site visit from Jeremy to inspect where stakes are. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Jeremy will go in the next couple days to do a site visit.
- **TAC member appointment-** Transportation Advisory Council- this position helps the State and NRPC gauge the needs of Franklin County roads. Brooks/Jay made a motion to appoint Yvon Dandurand as TAC member. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Executive session-personnel discussion/update: Jay/Justin made a motion to enter executive to discuss personnel at 8:04 and allow Jordan and Jeremy to stay. All member voted in favor, 5-0.

Brooks/Jay made a motion to exit executive session at 8:06. All members voted in favor, 5-0. No action taken

Member concerns/Other business:

Jordan gave the board an ACO update- On June 7th, she received a report of a black and white male dog that was loose on State Park Rd. She tried multiple times to catch the dog, and set a trap from a volunteer, with no luck. On June 15th, someone safely 'captured' the dog and Jordan picked him up, and will hold him for the appropriate number of days, while attempting to find the owner. She believes this dog was purposely dropped off, and will likely adopt the dog out. Discussed options for vetting abandoned dogs.

Adjournment:

- Brooks/Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next meeting will be on July 9th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm at the Town Office and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Bushey, Assistant Town Clerk

June 23rd, 2025

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

DRAFT