

Franklin Selectboard Meeting
February 18th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Office/Zoom hybrid

Members Present: Dave Bennion, Brooks Sturtevant, Michael Grant, Jay Hartman, Justin Rainville, Jacob Beauregard (youth rep)

Guest: Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk

Virtual: Jordan Bushey- Asst Town Clerk, Jeremy Barnum, highway foreman

Call to order:

At 6:04 pm Dave Bennion called the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Agenda Amendments: None

Public comment period: None

Approve minutes from January 21st- Jay/Mike made a motion to approve the January 21st minutes. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0

Highway Dept-

- **Highway truck bid opening-** No bids were submitted to the Town. Jeremy did not hear from anybody asking questions either. Lisa sent it to the State so they could share it with other towns. Jeremy recommended posting it other places such as facebook marketplace and craigslist. This would not be as a bid, it would be a sale price or best offer. There are communities in Maine that look for used service vehicles. Would Charlebois buy it for the trade in value they gave before? Will post on facebook marketplace until the next meeting, and if there are no hits, will post on auction sites.
- **Adopt 2026 Road and Bridge standards-** There were a couple changes, but nothing big. Drainage crossings/culvert changes are already being followed. Brooks/Mike made a motion to adopt the 2026 Vermont Road and Bridge Standards. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
 - **Meet with VTrans discussion-** Lisa asked the board if they would like to meet with Steven-VTrans District 8 to discuss various roads topics. It would be good to meet with them to stay on top of things, and answer any questions that might arise.
- **Adopt overweight road restrictions-** Overweight road signs will be posted by the highway crew soon. Weight limits are in place from March-May, and only become effective after the Selectboard adopts/approves. Companies with big

equipment using Franklin roads need to submit an excess weight permit, proof of insurance, and payment. These need to be approved by the Town; typically the road commissioner would sign off on these, but Adam is not always around to do so. Jeremy will sign off on the permits going forward.

- **Equipment replacement plan** - reviewed dates of replacement for all equipment. Will have available for town meeting as requested by voters.

Old Business-

- **Luce occupancy/rental plan and repairs-**
- A new tenant is moving into the upstairs apartment on March 1st. The new upstairs rental agreement is for 6 months at a time. After 6 months a review will be done, and monthly rent may be increased; have put a cap on utility expenses so the tenant is mindful of their heat/electric use. If largely over costs, the tenant will be billed.
- Dave replaced the locks, and added an alarm going to the down stairs space. The board members have keys for both of those. We have completed all the necessary repairs/freshening of the apartment.
- Reviewed the costs/income for the property to sustain itself.
- Is there a plan to rent downstairs? More rental income would be the best option. Since the Town offices project would take at least 2 years, renting out the downstairs would help the property pay for itself, and bring extra income for future work needed. Will plan to have it rental ready by April 1st.

Town Clerk concerns-

- **Grand list certification- no suits or appeals pending-** Every year after lodging of the grand list, if anybody objects to their new assessed value, they must appeal with the town BCA; if not satisfied can go to the court. After the first Tuesday of February, following the lodging of the grand list, the Selectboard and Listers are required to certify there are no pending appeals/suits with the Town. Mike/Brooks made a motion to approve the grand list certification of no suits/appeals pending. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Dave signed.
- **New 911 road naming-** There was a request for a new 911 address coming off of Main St. Once there are 3 or more buildings on a road, it needs to be named, this will be the third address on this private drive. Tower View was requested, and the other property owners on the new private road were okay with this name. Brooks/Jay made a motion to add Tower View as a new 911 private drive. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **Letter of support- Dept of Libraries Preservation Grant application-** Josh sent Lisa a grant opportunity for the Department of Libraries Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grant for the brick work/repair needed on the building. This

is a very competitive grant, which would cover 100% of the cost, up to \$400,000. There is a list of requirements that need to be met. The library/town would be applying for this grant, and needs letters of support from the Library trustees and the Selectboard. There is another grant option that Lisa can apply for which is a 50% match. She will see if she can apply for both at the same time. The Selectboard signed a letter of support for the project/grant.

New Business-

- **Review workers comp claims and report-** board reviewed current claims.
- **Resolution regarding freedom of the press request-** A reporter requested the Selectboard look at the freedom of the press resolution. Franklin is not looking to adopt any resolutions.
- **Town meeting prep/review-** Board will set up the day before. Brooks has one daycare helper right now, and is looking for more. The girl scouts are asking to sell cookies again, so a table will be set up for them. Voting will also be set up for MVSD votes from 7:00am-7:00pm.

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

Treasurers Report-

- Alum money has now been reimbursed.
- There are enough funds in the reappraisal line for the reappraisal, so the town is not asking for more money in this year's budget.
- Since this winter has been harder and colder than normal, the salt and sand line is over by \$9,500. Repair and maintenance, over by approx \$20,000. The sale of the truck will help reimburse this line as there was work done to get the truck salable.
- Lisa put together a sheet with estimates of tax rate and breakdowns for residents to better understand the impact of the budget being presented.

Member concerns/Other business: Jordan has been doing work (cleaning and painting) at the Luce House, and does not think the pay rate of the Asst Clerk/Janitor is adequate for the jobs being done, and has requested \$25 when working over there. Justin/Brooks made a motion to pay Jordan \$25 per hour when she is doing work at the rental going forward, and for the prior hours worked. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment:

- Brooks/Mike made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Town Meeting is March 3rd, 2026 @ 10:00am at the Town Hall and virtual.

The next meeting will be on March 4th, 2026 @ 6:00pm at the Town Clerk's Office and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Bushey, Assistant Town Clerk

February 19th, 2026

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

These minutes were approved at the regular Selectboard meeting on March 4, 2026.