

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

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

**Guest:** Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk, Jeremy Barnum, Mike Lawyer

**Virtual:** Jordan Bushey- Asst Town Clerk

**Meeting Called to order:** at 6:04 pm by Dave; pledge of allegiance said.

**Agenda amendments:**

Add outside audit discussion to town clerk concerns.

**Public comments:** None

**Approve minutes from April 15th:** Jay/Brooks made a motion to approve the April 15th minutes. All members voted in favor; motion passed 4-0.

*Justin Joined meeting*

**Liquor License board:**

**Franklin General store- second class liquor and tobacco**

- Brooks/Mike made a motion to enter the liquor control board. All in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- Mike/Brooks made a motion to approve the Franklin General Store second class liquor and tobacco license. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Brooks/Mike made a motion to exit the liquor control board. All in favor; motion passed 5-0.

**Highway Department:**

- **Driveway permit- Kyle Masse-Colton Rd-** Kyle Masse submitted a driveway permit for a new home build on Colton Rd. He is also requesting to put power under the road. (This would require Jeremy to flag traffic.) The plan is to *eventually* have the driveway going to two lots, each with a house. Brooks/Mike made a motion to approve the driveway permit and electric going under road for Kyle Masse on Colton Road. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Dave signed
- **Old driveway permit-** Christopher Robinson submitted a driveway permit for Webster Rd in Sept 2025, which was never officially approved. The building permit he submitted has been approved, but the land is now being sold. An inquiry was made on the status of all permits, so the driveway permit is being looked at again. Justin/Brooks made a motion to approve Christopher Robinson's driveway permit on Webster road. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Dave signed
- **2016 Truck sale review-** The truck has been sold for \$34,000 to someone in New Hampshire. He found the truck posting on Munibid.
- **Browns Corner Rd. culvert project/scope update-** The area needs a full engineer study before the grant can be amended; the Town received a grant to do work on the Morses Line culvert by Clark's, but the Browns Corner culvert is more urgent. Lisa started the process to

switch the grant over, but the cost will be more for this project. Grant money cannot be received until an engineering study is completed.

#### **5199 Main St:**

- **Porch grant/project discussion update-** need to get an updated price for the porch work. Brian Rainville was working on this.
- **Rental updates-**
  - The tenant asked if they could put up a hammock and a small swingset. The board is fine with that, as long as a clause is added to the contract stating the town is not liable for anything happening to/with the added items.
  - The oven smells like mouse urine. Justin suggests having the tenant run a clean cycle. If that does not work, they will replace it with the downstairs stove for now.
  - The downstairs rental is still available. It is currently posted around town, on the website/Facebook page, and Facebook marketplace. Jordan will post photos of the inside to be more appealing to renters. Will also post to Front Porch Forum.
  - Outside cleanup still needs to be done; shrubs around the fence, greenhouse area; this area can be used for parking. If any townspeople were willing to donate their time to help with yard cleanup, the board would greatly appreciate it. The barn needs to be cleaned out as well. Will discuss this more, and come up with a plan to advertise needing help, and getting rid of the items in the barn.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Enosburg Ambulance- Mutual aid matrix-** The matrix received from Garrett with Enosburg Ambulance was reviewed; not anything the board has control over all part of emergency management process.

#### **Town Clerk Concerns:**

- **VOSHA violations update-** The violation has been cleared. Half of the fine was paid by the Town, and the other was waived, as long as the Town agreed to having the state safety work group do a visit to look for any other violations that could pose concerns with future VOSHA inspections. This group would look for violations and advise corrective action without penalties. They are scheduled to visit with Jeremy on 5/11.
- **VLCT WC loss control report-** board reviewed.
- **Office water heater-** the water heater stopped working in December 2025. A new one has been purchased and needs to be installed; highway crew will take care of.
- **Outside audit discussion-** Due to the Alum treatment grant monies in excess of \$750K (paid for by the Town, which was reimbursed in full by the State) this causes the State of VT annual single audit of Federal funds done by the clerk; to the requirement of needing an entire townwide audit. Lisa has been discussing with the State; Franklin should not pay for this audit because we wouldn't have hit that benchmark if it wasn't for the Alum cost. The State has agreed to pay for/reimburse in full with a contract from an audit firm.

#### **New Business:**

- **RTE 236 project**
  - **Engineering service agreement update- Ruggiano/Mumley Engineering-** The cost of this project has gone up \$12,000 since it was originally drafted. The state is aware of this increase, and confirmed they will have the funding. This is a state project, but the state cannot apply for a state grant, so the town needs to be the purse string holder. The total

engineering cost is now \$32,960. Jay/Mike made a motion to accept the agreement for engineering services with Mumley Engineering and allow Dave as the selectboard chair to sign. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Dave signed.

- **SRLF loan application update costs-** Since the original loan amount, there are additional costs for construction, engineering and admin cost, amended to \$492,278. The state will reimburse the town completely. Brooks/Jay made a motion to approve the SRLF loan application update for \$492,278 and allow Dave as the selectboard chair to sign. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Dave signed.
- **Water Dept. step 3 ESA-review/sign-** reviewed and discussed the Step 3 ESA from Otter Creek as draft form, still needs to be finalized. Justin/Brooks made a motion to authorize Mike Lawyer to sign on behalf of the Water Department's step 3 ESA form up to \$80,000. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- Construction bids were opened at the Fire Dept today for the water well project, and there were 5 bidders. Wright's Excavating Inc. was the lowest bidder, but a decision has not been made yet. The Water board has the final say on who is awarded, but wants the SB input.
- **Personnel policy review/updates-** Lisa has been working on updates to the personnel policy. Pension with VMERS, paternal/family leave, short term disability, life insurance, dental/vision. Updates need to be warned for 2 meetings before getting final approval. This is the first, and could be approved at the May 20th meeting. The board will review and suggest changes if necessary. The uniform and boot allowance section will need to be updated still.

**Review bills and warrants:** Done by board members

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- **Budget review FY26/voted cuts for FY27-**
- Board reviewed the proposed end of FY26 budget-
  - Highway will be \$10,000 *over*. General fund will be \$20,000 *under*. Per state regulations, the highway dept can use money from the general budget, but the general budget cannot use highway money. Looking at all the expense lines, the budget should end in a positive balance.
- Board reviewed cuts for FY27-
  - Haston Library chimney/steps - could the town hire someone with a lift to remove the loose bricks from chimney, and cover with mesh to temporarily fix? The chimney does not get used, so the complete fix will be for looks only. Lisa will apply for Historic Preservation grant as a fall back to complete the steps with match funds; if the Library HUD does not get awarded.
  - Justin/Mike made a motion to cut \$5,000 from Sheriff Patrol, \$5,000 from sidewalk reserve fund, and \$30,000 from brickwork for the chimney/steps (building maintenance) to accomplish the \$40,000 reduction request from Town Meeting. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

#### **Member concerns/Other business:**

- Update on Dewing Shore/Jette's property? Jeremy said the State was in approval with the proposed work to be done, but needed plans, and will likely need an 1111 permit. Waiting for next year's budget. Lisa will apply for the 1111 permit.
- Ryan working on water training? Needs to take the class with Rural Waters within a year of hire, and it is on his radar.

**Adjournment:** Brooks/Mike made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2026 @ 6:00pm at the Town Clerk's Office and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jordan Bushey, Asst. Town Clerk  
May 12th, 2026

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

These minutes were approved at the regular Selectboard meeting on May 20, 2026.