

Franklin Selectboard Meeting
July 8th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Office/Zoom hybrid

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

Guest: Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk, Jordan Bushey- Asst. Town Clerk/ACO, Joanne Carty, Sara & Norman Ovitt, Mark Racine, Quinn Hubbard

Virtual: Jeremy Barnum-Highway Foreman, Kim Maynard, Michael Lawyer

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

Agenda amendments:

Old business- clock insurance discussion.

Town clerk concerns- payroll warrant sign off.

Highway- weed harvester, town water sample discussion, culvert on Barnum Rd, metal dumpster.

Public comments: none

Dog Hearing: Dog bite- Mill Pond & Main St.-

Jay/Mike made a motion to enter the dog hearing at 6:06. All in favor; entered the dog hearing.

- **Mill Pond-**

- Jordan read the statement sent by Joanne Carty, the bite victim. Joanne went to introduce herself to the neighbors, entering from the back of their campsite. When walking over she was greeted by the dog who was on his lead (within his campsite), so she put out her hand to let him smell and he bit her. She had to make a visit to the emergency room to get 5 stitches in her hand.
- Sara Ovitt presented her side- They are seasonal campers at Mill Pond. Her dog is partially blind, and does not get along with strangers. He also has many health issues causing some vet “trauma” leaving him weary. He is never left unattended, and always on a lead within his own camp site. During this incident the dog had extra room and could have walked further while still remaining on the site. He does not have a bite history. They do not typically walk their dog around the campground.

- **Main St-**

- Jordan presented a statement from Tad Landon, the owner of the bite victim, and a statement from Albert Clark, a neighbor/witness. Tad was walking his two small dogs on Main St. when Quinn’s dog came from behind the house and bit one of his dogs back leg/belly. He had to bring his dog to the vet to get stitches, which the other party has reimbursed him for.
- This is the second report of a bite from this dog. The first report came from the Clark’s next door.
- The day after the incident, Quinn reached out to a trainer and started planning/taking action to prevent this from happening again. She provided a letter

from the trainer stating what immediate action can be taken to help with behavior, and that they will try to get him into the schedule. Quinn has bought an e-collar for him, and he will be attached to a harness and collar when outside until the Racine's finish the fence around the whole property.

- The board and ACO will deliberate in executive session at the end of the meeting to come up with a decision for both incidents.

Jay/Mike made a motion to exit the dog hearing at 6:49. All in favor; exited the dog hearing and entered the regular meeting.

Approve minutes from June 17th: Jay/Mike made a motion to approve the June 17th minutes. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Highway Department:

- **Homestead drive paving-third split-**
 - Jay- the Homestead board has more questions about this. One of those questions; is this being presented because it is necessary, or for convenience due to paving already being done at the Homestead parking lot?
 - Jeremy- Both. The pavement is cracking, and if they are already in the area paving, then he suggested it should be done at the same time.
 - Kim- yes there are cracks in the road, but will this \$5,000 be a temporary or a long term fix?
 - Jeremy will request a new quote from Wright's Excavating to break down the detail of costs for the work. The board will revisit this at the next meeting when they have more info.
- **Dewing Rd intersection work schedule-** Britini Jette called Lisa and was looking for a time line on when this will be completed. Jeremy is planning to complete this in August along with the work being done along the shoreline of Dewing for erosion stabilization.
- **Weed harvester-** Weed harvester needed some replacement parts, but has been temporarily fixed and is back in the water operating. There are still some repairs that need to be done, which Jeremy is ordering parts for. The operators have been figuring out their schedule.
- **Metal dumpster-** Kim brought up that the metal dumpster is supposed to stay just for May and September. It is still being used, but Jeremy will call to get it removed.
- **Culvert on Barnum Rd-** There is a backed up culvert near Sartwell's. Jeremy will look into this.
- **Town Water discussion on sample-** The quarterly water test that must be done between April-June was done in late June. This test came back as a "unable to processes" due to laboratory issues, there wasn't extra time in the quarter to submit a new sample but it was a lab issue not on the town. There could be penalties applied for being "late". Jeremy will get it done sooner in the quarter to give extra time for errors.
- **Hay land lease-** John Gates has been leasing the land above the highway garage for 2023-25, but a 2026 lease had not been done yet. The previous lease was for 18 acres at \$250 per year. The board had decided to let John continue at no cost due to the uncertainty of the well project timeline. No payment was received in 2025 due to the uncertainty of the project and area being dug up. With the well project now happening soon, part of the land will be dug up, meaning he is losing roughly 2-3 acres. Due to the

well, the land cannot be fertilized going forward. The board will allow John to continue use for 2026, but for the future should open this up to the public; maybe through a bid.

5199 Main St:

- **Porch grant/project discussion update-** no update from Brian still. Need to push the contractor because this needs to be addressed for additional funding with the State.
- **Mike L-** Has noticed a significant amount of work being done by members. The board has been donating their time when working at the property to get it ready for renters. He would like to see members tracking their time, along with time put in by the highway crew for maintenance. Breakdown of expenses- purchases are already being tracked, but should be tracking the highway time/materials used there (driveway).
- **Rental updates; renters insurance/cleaning?-** Lisa reached out to VLCT and asked if we are renting as a short term rental, is there specific insurance needed? The building is currently covered on the insurance schedule, and there is no extra charge for rental coverage. They just want a lease agreement laying out the expectations/liabilities. Lisa has been in contact with potential renters, but nothing has been confirmed.
- **Still need to purchase a washer and dryer-** will look for a used set, but will look into inexpensive new ones as well.

Old Business:

- **Brick quotes- Haston & 5199-** Vermont Custom Masonry from St. Albans submitted a quote for brick work. Dave met with them when they did the assessment. Lisa sent them the scope of work from Jay Lawrence so the quotes could be equally compared. Haston Library quote- \$13,233. 5199 Main Street- \$14,147. This company is qualified to work on historic buildings. The town originally budgeted \$52,000, but cut \$30,000 from that, leaving \$22,000. The plan is to get a grant match for that amount as well; working on a grant that could be 100% covered. The board is not familiar with this company's work, so will consider this quote and discuss more at the next meeting.
- **FFD Article Peoples Trust Loan reconsider-** At the last meeting the loan was approved, but Lisa thought more about it and realized that we already have that money in the equipment fund. Why pay interest (\$2229 over 3 years) when the town already has the funds? The Town could loan the money to the Fire Dept internally from the equipment fund, and would receive that back from taxes over 3 years. Jay/Justin made a motion to rescind the decision to borrow the \$40,000 loan from People's Trust Company. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **Blouin Bros- LP contract discussion-** Lisa spoke with Blouin's to get an estimate on modine LP use, and they suggested 1000 gallons. Someone from Blouin's will need to meet with Jeremy to discuss placement of a new tank. Pre-buy would be 2.30 per gallon. Justin/Mike made a motion to pre-buy 2,200 gallons at \$2.30 per gallon; \$5,060 total with Blouin Bros. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **Town Clock Insurance-** Dave spoke with the company who did work on the clock in the past, and they gave an auction value of \$2000-3000. But said the insurance value might be around \$10,000. Lisa will talk with VLCT-insurance company to get a quote on adding the clock to the policy.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Treasurer- Internal control checklist-** State auditor suggests annually that town treasurers should complete the internal controls checklist for review by the Selectboard, as confirmation that the controls are being followed. Jay/Mike made a motion to have Brooks sign off on the internal checklist. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.
- **Payroll sign off-** The outside auditors recommend that a board member puts eyes on the payroll warrant before payroll checks are processed/issued. Jordan will start payroll on Mondays, and Jay will sign off before Lisa completes it on Tuesdays to follow the cross check of controls.

New business-

- **Open meeting law review- email/text use-** Anything discussed with a majority of the board triggers the open meeting law. The group text between board members (which are mostly Luce property work scheduling and updates) has now stopped. Conversation will only be done between Lisa and two board members from now on. Board understands the need to be aware of the open meeting law.
- **Forest Fire Warden discussion-** Act 162 has presented some changes with forest fire wardens. It is now mandatory that the Fire Department Chief take on that position, meaning it has changed from Burt Maynard to Mike Lawyer now. This position does not get any financial compensation from the Town. Mike would like to discuss with the board, penalties for illegal burns.
- **Vermont Rural-** The town has been asked to nominate a leader to attend the VT Community Leadership Summit. At this meeting, leaders from all over Vermont will “explore ways to support local leadership and democracy. This year’s Summit is grounded in the newly updated “Vermont Community Leadership in Action Guide” which will shape workshops, panels, group discussions, and networking throughout the day.” (quoted from the email). Members would like an agenda and more info before committing. Lisa will reach out for more info and discuss at the next meeting.

Justin left the meeting.

Review bills and warrants: Done by board members

Treasurer's Report: FY26 closed 7/1. The general budget was under \$19,266 (positive). The highway budget was over \$9,115 (negative). Overall the budget for FY26 ended well. Financially, the higher quality gravel is more expensive, but the outcome on the roads is much nicer. Since the gravel is better quality, maybe the crew can put less gravel down when not necessary. Delinquent taxes are down considerably from abating taxes from Byams.

Possible executive session:

- Jay/Mike made a motion to enter executive session at 8:14 to discuss dog hearing. All in favor.
- Mike/Jay made a motion to exit executive session at 8:52. All in favor.
 - Deliberated and discussed the two dog incidents, and what action Jordan will take going forward.
- Mike/Jay made a motion to allow Jordan as ACO to send decision letters to all those involved in the Mill Pond and the Main St. dog incidents. All members voted in favor; motion passed 4-0.

Member concerns/Other business: None

Adjournment: Mike/Brooks made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

The next meeting will be on July 22, 2026 @ 6:00pm at the Town Clerk's Office and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Bushey, Asst. Town Clerk
July 10, 2026

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

These minutes were approved at the regular Selectboard meeting on July 22, 2026.