
Franklin Selectboard Meeting
August 20th, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Clerks Office/Zoom hybrid

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

Guest: Corinna Stanley, Mary Demag, Kathy, Zander Yensan-Loss Control from VLCT, Kim Maynard, Polly Gadbois, Lisa Larivee-Town Clerk, Jordan Bushey- Asst Town Clerk

Virtual: Jeremy Barnum, Jen Raynak

Call to order:

At 6:03 pm Dave Bennion called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Agenda Amendments: Add Other: ZA report; executive session to discuss highway employment/benefits; Highway: Middle Road blasting, and Middle/Scott Rd corner concern.

Public comment period:

- Mike made a site visit to the Stanley's to see the pedestal placed by Fidium. It was put too close to the road, and will likely get damaged from the plows this winter. Corinna says the pedestal cannot be pushed back further (onto her property), because of land obstructions. She suggested that the box gets recessed. Lisa will reach out to Jay with Fidium and send pictures to see what the options are for them to fix this.
- Mary Demag spoke on behalf of Constance Ashton, who lives on Kelley Lane (a private Rd). Constance wants to get Fidium installed at her home, but needs easements from the neighboring properties, because the lines would be going through their ROW. She has had cooperation with most of the property owners, except one. She knows the SB cannot do anything with this because it is a private road, but is looking for any guidance in the matter. She has no plans to add electricity; she just wants/needs access to good internet service.
- Zander Yensan, the loss control consultant from VLCT introduced himself. He is assigned to Franklin, to help the Town maintain VOSHA safety protocols and provide guidance on loss/risk management. In December 2024, he visited the Office/Library building and Highway garage provide safety guidance. Encourages the board, and employees to reach out with any concerns/questions in the future.

Lake Carmi- Alum project:

- **SRF loan agreement:** Wording was added, confirming that everything Franklin spends for this project is forgiven with this loan. Brooks/Justin made a motion to sign the loan agreement in the amount of \$1,728,824 for the Vermont State Revolving Fund. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Highway Dept:

- **Little pond road- easement deed review-** Board reviewed the easement for the property owners for the town turn-around. Justin/Mike made a motion to approve the Little Pond Road easement for the town truck turn-around. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

- **Driveway permits**- Permit for Nancy Larivee on Stanley Rd was reviewed by Jeremy, and he signed off on the permit. Board approved, Dave also signed.
- **Middle Rd blasting**- Ditching and drainage was done on Middle Rd last week. Most of the ledge that was blasted was moved to the town garage and will be used for the Little Pond Rd turn-around. There were two large chunks temporarily left on the side of the road, because they were too large for the town trucks. Jeremy will find a way to remove the debris.
- **Scott Rd/Middle Rd**- Denna Benjamin reached out about the road/corner by her house, that always washes out from heavy rain. This would need to be fixed by the Town. There is grant-in-aid money for projects like this, with a deadline of September 30th, 2025. Jeremy will get it done before the deadline, and will reach out to Denna to explain what work he will be doing.
- **Employee Hiring**- Adam and Jeremy held interviews. A potential hire is asking if there is flexibility in the health plans? Board will discuss in executive session later.

Old Business-

- **Luce house scope of work- historical- architect study**- Estimate of \$300,000, is to put the house in “perfect” shape historically. But the town does not need it to be historically “perfect”, just usable for a Town Office. Board needs to have the full project laid out for Town meeting. The board is looking at another grant to do an actual architectural/structural engineer study of what structural items may be needed. Committee is reviewing option of funding and vision of needs for the various offices within the town.
- **Traffic ordinance review/adoptions**- Updated all dirt roads to 35mph. Justin/Mike made a motion to approve traffic road ordinance. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Approve minutes from July 23rd & Aug 6th: Justin/Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes from July 23rd and Aug 6th. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **Civil rights & disability nondiscrimination plan review/adopt**- Town has never had any policy like this. To get the Town/Water District to receive the EPA/CDS money for the water project, the Town needs a civil rights & disability nondiscrimination policy in place. Jay/Justin made a motion to sign the policy. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0; Dave signed.
- **Insurance claims detail**- 6-month report about the current insurance claims with the town. There were 4 claims total. One Workers Comp, and three property
 - Hanna Rd guardrails- The driver did not have insurance. VLCT has sent the driver a request to pay for the guard rail replacement.
- **Waive homestead filing penalty**- The town has the option to waive the late fee for filing a homestead declaration.

New business:

- **LCCA petition to State to manage Wakesports on Lake Carmi**- LCCA has a petition into the State ARN to ban Wakesports on Carmi; because it could possibly affect the Alum treatment. Large waves could disturb the Alum at the bottom of the Lake. The board does not need to take any action; this is just a notice.

BCA Checklist bi-annual review/challenge.

Brooks made a motion to exit the Selectboard meeting, and enter the BCA meeting at 7:30.

- Justin/Brooks made a motion to appoint Lisa as the BCA chair. All in favor
- The BCA read through every name on the voter checklist to look for anyone they don't believe lives in Franklin anymore. Lisa/Jordan will send a challenge letter to each of those people, which they should respond to, confirming they do or do not live in Franklin still. If they do not respond, and do not vote for two election cycles; they can be purged.

Justin made a motion to exit the BCA meeting at 8:30

Justin/Mike made a motion to **enter executive session** for personnel discussion at 8:31. All in favor; motion passed

Brooks/Mike made a motion to **exit executive session** at 9:04. All in favor; motion passed

Justin/Jay made a motion to increase the hourly pay for Jeremy Barnum, the road foreman by \$2.05, to \$30 per hour. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0. Jeremy will reach out to potential hire to discuss wages/benefits.

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

Member concerns/Other business:

Board had not made a motion for the homestead fee. Justin/Mike made a motion to waive the fee for late Homestead Declaration filing. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Zoning Admin report- board reviewed the report from Wendy.

Adjournment:

- Justin/Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm.

Next meeting “Special Town meeting” will be on September 10th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm at the Town Hall and virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Bushey, Assistant Town Clerk
August 21st, 2025

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