



# The Town of Franklin

P.O. Box 209, Route 3, Vermontville, NY 12989 • 518-891-2189 • Fax: 518-891-6389 • [www.townoffranklin.com](http://www.townoffranklin.com)



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## Town of Franklin Board Meetings

**March 13, 2019 Monthly Town Board Meeting 5:30pm**

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Supervisor Art Willman, Councilman Tom Bartiss, Councilman Cliff Smalley, Councilman Pete Woodcock and Councilman Don Hamm

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Doris Hamm, Shelly Mulverhill-Franklin Co. Republican Chair, Julie Woodcock, Leo Law, Al Hadley, Rhonda Swinyer, Ed Martin, Dick Jarvis, Franklin Co. Leg. Lindy Ellis, Eric Gustofson-Attorney for the Town and Lauren LeFebvre-Town Clerk

### CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Willman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Town Clerk called the roll, noting a quorum was present.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed Martin commented that County Rt 55 and County Rt 60 are deteriorating and in need of repair. Shelly Mulverhill introduced herself as the Franklin County Republican County Chair. Dick Jarvis suggested the Public Service Commission be contacted regarding the need to increase cell coverage in the area. In regard to the Waterfront Hamlet and Revitalization Grant, he is awaiting some type of progress as he has suggested working with representatives of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. He was also pleased to see the Town of Franklin's Energy Audit posted on the website and urged the board to consider additional weatherization measures be taken at the Town Hall.

### REVIEW/APPROVAL OF January 9 and 23, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Minutes approved as presented. (P.Woodcock-T.Bartiss m/s/p) all aye

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS** The board audited and approved payment of the following:

<b>General Fund</b>	Abstract 3	Claims 18-32	\$22,406.91
<b>Highway Fund</b>	Abstract 3	Claims 12-34	\$25,333.00
<b>Pre-Pay General</b>	Abstract 3	Claims 3-8	\$5,258.72
<b>Pre-Pay Highway</b>	Abstract 1	Claim 1	\$36,233.0

((D.Hamm-T.Bartiss m/s/p) all aye

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Balances on hand as of February 28, 2019**General Fund**

Checking	\$238,971.84
Savings	\$2,349.80
Historian	\$3,039.32
Kt. Mt SRF	\$1,852.65
Kate Mt. CLASS	\$45,622.30
Cemetery RF	\$4,093.96
CLASS	\$244,416.84

**Highway Fund**

Checking	\$961,021.69
Savings	\$61,176.79
Cap Proj. HW	\$48,061.17
CLASS	\$401,757.74

**Landfill Clos. CR**

Checking	\$1,020.34
CLASS	\$16,704.54

**Fire Protection**

Checking	\$6,948.88
CLASS	\$21,266.74

**Capital Proj Bldg**

CLASS	\$67,395.64
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(Bartiss-Hamm m/s/p) All Aye

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent DeMars reported the following:

1. Plow and sanded as needed
2. Limbed many trees and also cut up several trees that had fallen down due to high winds.
3. Had graders out several times around town (with ice blades) to work on ice buildup.
4. Sent 2 men to a dig safely class.
5. We got a tentative paving schedule from Franklin County. There is a section on County 60 to be done as well as some work on County 55 to be done, by the County.
6. I talked to the Town Clerk about the possibility of posting it on the sign and on the town Facebook page when the time gets close to give a heads up about work being done and there maybe be closures and/ or delays.
7. Michael Canty's letter.
8. \*284 for general repairs only, at this time
9. \*Salt order last year put in for 850 tons, need to know soon, if the Board would like more now is the time we have to put in for it. For estimate purpose, can figure around \$90.00 per ton.
10. Request the Town put out to bid for next winters sand.
11. Gas, fuel and maintenance logs given to Highway Committee

Town of Franklin Highway Superintendent and Town of Franklin Town Board,

Being a town employee for the last 27 plus years, I have seen much over the years. I often pass on observations, good and bad to see what/ if we can do something to improve situations that people traveling on our roads may encounter.

One thing I have noticed as well as just about every other employee over the years is people passing the plow trucks as we are pulling in to the garage driveway from the north. Several times each winter there are accidents that are averted because the driver of the plow truck either has to slam on the brakes or quickly has to steer to avert people passing them.

Although there are several laws that the other person is breaking, in a small town such as this, there will always be negative talk about the driver. Some of the laws I am referring to include are:

1. A plow truck performing its duties is considered an emergency vehicle.
2. In front of the garage is a double solid yellow line(s) so a no passing zone.

3. Passing on the left while the vehicle is making a left turn.

I am sure that a state trooper could think of some other laws that are broken when this happens so I will not get too in depth in to it.

I am requesting that the Highway Superintendent agree and the town board agree to petition Franklin County and New York State to make all of Rt. 3 from north of the rec. park to slightly pass R&L towing's driveway a no passing zone, to include signage indicating so as well as double solid yellow lines.

This area includes: 3 road intersections, 2 businesses and 46 driveways. I am not sure how many bus stops are in this area but I am just trying to show how dangerous it can be making left turns in this section of road.

It is my wish that the Highway Superintendent and the town board will agree with what I am stating and will begin the petition process.

If all parties agree and wish to begin the process, they may also wish to petition both the county and the state to have the speed limit changed on Garden Rd. In fact, the town could make up a list and add other sections of town or county roads that may considered for speed limit changes within our town limits.

Thank you,

Michael Canty

Julie Woodcock-Julie likened Mr. Canty's request to her request regarding County Route 60. Julie reminded the board that she has requested the speed limit on the Route 3 end of County Route 60 be lowered and that a no passing zone be established on a section of that where there are currently 12 homes within a very short distance of each other. The Department of Transportation has determined there is not sufficient data to back up this request.

Shelly Mulverhill-Shelly suggested the board enlist the assistance of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board as back up data is not limited to traffic count. The number of tickets issued and accidents reported are measurable data and can also be taken into account when changes for safety measures are requested.

**RESOLUTION #9 SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FOR ROAD SAND/INCREASE SALT PURCHASE** - On a motion by Councilman Smalley, second by Councilman Woodcock, BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Franklin Town Board does hereby approve the Town Clerk to solicit sealed bids for the purchase of up to 13,000 tons of road sand and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Board authorizes the purchase of up to 1,000 tons of road salt through the Franklin County Salt Contract.

Those Voting Aye:

Supervisor Willman  
Councilman Hamm  
Councilman Woodcock  
Councilman Smalley  
Councilman Bartiss

Those voting No: None

**RESOLUTION #10 AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONEYS-284 AGREEMENT** - On a motion by Councilman Hamm, second by Councilman Woodcock, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board does hereby approve the expenditure of up to \$93,235 for primary work and general repairs upon 67.95 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts, and bridges having a span of less than 5 feet and boardwalk or the renewals thereof.

Those Voting Aye:

Supervisor Willman  
Councilman Hamm  
Councilman Woodcock  
Councilman Smalley  
Councilman Bartiss

Those voting No: None

## CODE OFFICER'S REPORT

**February 2019** – 0 Building Permit, 3 Inspections, 0 Certificates of Occupancy \$0 Fees Collected

## NEW BUSINESS

**A. Leg. Lindy Ellis.** Leg Ellis has been approached to discuss the possibility of allowing a temporary skateboarding structure be allowed to be set up during the winter months under the pavilion at Kate Mt. Park. She addressed possible concerns regarding safety and insurance costs by stating the Village of Saranac Lake pays approximately \$400 per year for year 'round insurance at the skateboarding facility located there and that the sport of skateboarding has less reported injuries than most other sports, including Basketball, Soccer, Baseball and Cycling. She would also like to hold informational sessions on a variety of topics that may be of interest to Town of Franklin residents. Some ideas are increasing broadband, emergency preparedness, programs offered through Franklin Co. Office for the Aging and Social Services. She will discuss and coordinate this with the Town Clerk.

**B. Phone System** - Supervisor Willman provided the board with information from Blink Voice Communications regarding upgrading the phone system at the Town Hall as the current system is twenty years old and not capable of providing basic features, such as Caller ID, to every office. Currently, the Town pays \$145.95 monthly for phone

service to all offices and owns the phone system. Blink's quote is \$244.81 per month, which includes a monthly "rent to own" payment of \$199.81 and switching providers. The Town Clerk will obtain vendor quotes for the purchase and installation of a new phone system that does not necessitate changing providers.

**C. CDBG Funding** -Friends of the North Country has approached the Town regarding applying for Community Development Block Grant Funding (HUD housing rehabilitation funds). Income guidelines have been provided to the Town. The Town will disseminate the information.

**D. General Fund Equipment** -Supervisor Willman would like to sell the equipment purchased for the General Fund Building and Grounds Maintenance position as the position no longer exists. Discussion was held regarding when/if this should be done. No decision was made.

**E. Building/Freeze Monitor** -Councilman Bartiss has provided information to the Town Clerk regarding a model he has had positive experience using. The Town Clerk will forward this information to the Supervisor.

**E. RESOLUTION #11 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A BUILDING/FREEZE MONITOR** - On a motion by Councilman Smalley, second by Councilman Woodcock, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board does hereby authorize the purchase of a Building/Freeze Monitor for the Town Hall.

Those Voting Aye:

Supervisor Willman  
Councilman Hamm  
Councilman Woodcock  
Councilman Smalley  
Councilman Bartiss

Those voting No: None

**F. RESOLUTION #12 IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MILES IN THE ADIRONDACKS -**

On a motion by Councilman Smalley, second by Councilman Hamm, the following resolution was put forth; WHEREAS, snowmobiling is a critically important part of the Adirondack winter economy; and, WHEREAS, on July 26, 1972, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller issued a press release, upon sign the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (SLMP), that states in part that about 20 miles of snowmobile trails in the areas classified as Wilderness by the SLMP will be closed, and replaced in areas outside the Wilderness and Primitive classified land, and that an additional 930 miles of snowmobile trails located in other classifications will remain; and, WHEREAS, since the SLMP was adopted in 1972, the State of New York has purchased nearly 350,000 additional acres of Forest Preserve land, which at the time of purchase had many miles on community snowmobile trails that were not part of the State snowmobile trail system; and, WHEREAS, the State land Master Plan does not create a cap on snowmobile trail mileage, but states there will be no material increase in snowmobile trail mileage that existed in 1972 allowing for snowmobile trails on newly acquired State land to remain; and, WHEREAS, the arbitrary 848.88 miles of snowmobile trail miles that DEC and APA use as a cap is not supported by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller's promise to the people of the State of New York in 1972, which assured the people of the State of New York that they would have a minimum of 950 miles of snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks; and, WHEREAS, DEC has, during Unit Management Plans, the targeted snowmobile trails are closed, leaving the people of the State of New York waiting years in some cases for the replacement trails to be built; therefore BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin, Franklin County, New York supports the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board's calling upon DEC and APA to abandon the snowmobile mileage cap, allowing any snowmobile trails on State Lands acquired after 1972 to remain as long as those lands are not Wilderness or Primitive; and it is further, RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin, Franklin County, New York joins the Adirondack Park Local government Review Board in calling upon DEC to stop the practice of closing snowmobile trails identified in Unit Management Plans, for replacement until the new trails are built and ready for use.

Those Voting Aye:

Supervisor Willman  
Councilman Hamm  
Councilman Woodcock  
Councilman Smalley  
Councilman Bartiss

Those voting No: None

**G. UV Water System at Kate Mt. Park** -Supervisor Willman stated the Department of Health will not allow drinking water to be transported from the Town Hall to the Summer Program attendees at Kate Mt. Park this year. The Town must install a UV Water System at the park. Supervisor Willman suggested purchasing a Hallot x15 system, having that new system installed at the Town Hall and moving the current UV System at the Town Hall to the park as the system currently used at the Town Hall works best with a higher volume of water usage. Supervisor Willman will create specifications for the work to be done and Town Clerk will publish an RFP.

**RESOLUTION #12 PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICE FOR INSTALLATION OF UV WATER SYSTEM** - On a motion by Councilman Woodcock, second by Councilman Smalley, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to publish a Request for Proposals for the installation of a UV Water Treatment System at Kate Mountain Park and the Franklin Town Hall.

Those Voting Aye:

Supervisor Willman  
Councilman Hamm  
Councilman Woodcock

Councilman Smalley  
Councilman Bartiss

Those voting No: None

**H. Other New Business** - Councilman Woodcock submitted his written resignation, effective April 13, 2019, to the Town Clerk and moved, second by Councilman Smalley, to appoint former Councilman Al Berg to fill the upcoming vacancy as Councilman Woodcock has been in contact with Mr. Berg, who has agreed to accept the appointment to fill the vacancy. The Town Clerk read a correspondence from Mr. Berg stating he would accept the appointment. Supervisor Willman requested the Attorney for the Town advise the board as to how to proceed. No action was taken by the board. Councilman Woodcock commended the Highway Department and Jacques DeMars-Highway Superintendent on the maintenance of the roads during this difficult winter.

## OLD BUSINESS

**A. Solar Project Update** - A new inverter has been installed as the original one was not working correctly. The system should be operable within the next few weeks.

**B. Waterfront and Hamlet Revitalization Grant** - No update.

**C. Community Building Update** - No update.

**D. Roof, Painting, List of Contractors Re: Town Hall** - Waiting for the weather to be conducive to inspecting the exterior of the building. Councilmen Bartiss and Smalley provided information on contractors. Supervisor Willman requested additional information.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Building and Grounds** - None

**B. Cemetery** - None

**C. Celebration** - None

**D. Recreation** - None

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Supervisor Willman adjourned the meeting at 7pm. Lauren LeFebvre, Town Clerk

Respectfully submitted, Lauren LeFebvre, Town Clerk

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