

Town of Franklin
Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2026
5:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Dorothy Brown, Council Member Richard Brandt, Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey, Council Member Leo Demong

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Council Member Susan Alexander

Others Present: Jacques DeMars—Highway Superintendent and Amy McCormick—Town Clerk, Joe Shoemaker – County Legislator, Phil Hans & Ashley Hart of Franklin County Office of Economic Development & Tourism. George Stowers, Ellen Beberman, Marc Oleynik, Diane Arnold, Todd Miller, Alison King, Anne Stowers, Denise Griffin, Paul Capone – Residents.

CALL TO ORDER
Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Town Clerk noted a quorum present.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026 MINUTES- Approved as presented (Council Member Brandt, Council Member Nightingale-Duprey m/s/p) All Aye

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

The board audited and approved the following claims:

General Fund	Abstract 3	Claims 44-70	\$20,802.61
Highway Fund	Abstract 3	Claims 22-29	\$52,138.15
General Fund Prepay	Abstract 3	Claims 11-14	\$5,282.16
Highway Fund Prepay	Abstract 2	Claim 2	\$142,672.00
Fire Protection Fund	Abstract 1	Claims 1-2	\$105,906.00
Landfill Closure Fund	Abstract 1	Claim 1	\$2,425.00

(Council Member Demong, Council Member Brandt m/s/p) All Aye.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Balances on hand as of February 28, 2026

General Fund

Checking	\$209,859.14
Savings	\$25,132.82
Historian	\$3,053.70
Kate Mt. SRF	\$2,122.79
Cemetery RF	\$5,783.88
CLASS	\$171,185.47
Kate Mt. CLASS	\$102,534.94

Highway Fund

Checking	\$781,030.41
Savings	\$58,551.94
Cap Project HW	\$4,878.81
CLASS	\$377,676.62

Landfill Closure Capital Reserve

Checking	\$1,522.12
CLASS	\$64.32

Fire Protection

Checking	\$108,373.19
CLASS	\$1,781.49

Capital Project Building

CLASS	\$337,604.27
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**RF indicates Reserve Fund, SRF indicates Special Reserve Fund
(Council Member Brandt, Council Member Nightingale-Duprey m/s/p) All Aye

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

February 12th through March 11, 2026

Plowed and sanded as needed

Had loaders out pushing back snowbanks

Had grader out for ice buildup on roads

Had backhoe out for water issues

Posted roads for spring

New dump truck received from RR Charlebois - 2025 Western Star 47X SN 7446 w/Tenco TCB14T

Fuel and gas sheets were given to the Town Clerk

Salt/Sand Shed – first 4 quarterly reports submitted and first claim for payment of \$451,584.70

RESOLUTION #5 284 AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONEYS

On a motion by Supervisor Brown, seconded by Council Member Demong, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board does hereby approve the expenditure of up to \$125,000 for permanent improvements commencing at the intersection of Swinyer Road and Tyler Road and leading approximately one mile on Tyler Road. This figure does not include the cost of the paving crew to be determined later.

Those Voting Aye: Supervisor Dorothy Brown
 Council Member Richard Brandt
 Council Member Leo Demong
 Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey

Those Voting No: None

Absent: Council Member Susan Alexander

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1 marriage license

6 spayed/neutered/5 unaltered dog licenses issued

3 building permits

1 genealogical search

1 certified death certificate

3 park rental deposits received and held in Town Clerk's checking account until after events

Continued work on organizing and updating Handicap Permit records

NEW BUSINESS

A. FRANKLIN COUNTY MULTI USE TRAILS

Phil Hans, Franklin County Development of Economic Development & Tourism displayed a map of the proposed multi use recreational trail system and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Of concern is the usage of ATVs and UTVs on public roadways, damage to trails and pollution, increased traffic and safety concerns, as well as safety of all those wanting to utilize the trail on foot or by means other than motorized vehicles. Phil advised that there are areas within the Adirondack Park that have requested ATV and UTV use to be permitted on these trails and those roadways have been indicated as such on the map for the time being which does not mean they will be approved. Of further concern is enforcement should ATVs and UTVs be prohibited to which Phil advised the strategic plan should include suggestions from Barton & Loguidice for mitigating unlawful usage including boulders and gates.

Funding will be sought to improve existing trails however this is the environmental stage of the project, and it could be some time before work commences. The area surrounding the Harrietstown airport in Lake Clear is first on the list with an estimated timeline to completion for the trail in its entirety being fifteen to twenty years.

Concerns were noted surrounding upkeep of the trails. As things are now, the snowmobile clubs volunteer labor, materials and equipment to improve and maintain their trails, in addition to paying registration fees and club dues. Trail work is expected to be funded by County Occupancy Tax funds.

B. KATE MOUNTAIN PARK PAVILLION

Supervisor Brown and Council Member Demong are going to look at other neighboring Town pavilions for ideas on closing in the sides and will report back on findings

C. YOUTH PROGRAM

The Town will once again be hiring a total of 5 employees for the Summer Park Program and are hopeful that several of last year's will be returning. Council Member Nightingale-Duprey will reach out to North Country Community College and Paul Smiths College and Town resident Marc Oleynik advised he would post a flyer at Whiteface Mountain.

On a motion brought by Council Member Nightingale-Duprey, seconded by Council Member Brandt, permission given by the Town Board to the Town Clerk to post for open positions and to create a flyer to be distributed. (All Aye)

D. ELLEN BEBERMAN – GARLIC FESTIVAL

Resident Ellen Beberman advised the Board of plans for the first ever Garlic Festival to be held from 12 to 6 pm on September 20th, 2026, at Kate Mountain Park. The festival is planned to include a farmers’ market, full lineup of music, food trucks, children’s activities, possibly horse drawn carriage rides, education/presentation from Cornell and Paul Smiths Culinary Program. Expecting 30 vendors plus food trucks, each will have their own tent and certificates of insurance.

- Requested assistance from the Town with traffic corridors, Porta Johns, use of the electricity for music, and permission to post a sign at Kate Mountain Park to advertise

E. TOWN HALL RESERVATIONS – COMMITTEE

On a motion brought by Supervisor Brown and seconded by Council Member Nightingale-Duprey, a committee will be formed including Supervisor Brown, Council Member Nightingale-Duprey and Amy McCormick to review the costs associated with allowing rental of the Town Hall, determining appropriate security deposits and cleaning fees and to update the rental agreement. (All Aye)

F. NEWSLETTER

The next issue of *The Franklin* Flyer is slated to be released at the end of April. Supervisor Brown and Town Clerk Amy McCormick advised they are seeking small articles to be included and that already there are plans to include Garlic Festival, an update on Broadband from Legislator Joe Shoemaker, and a story about the Vermontville Forest Fire. Town Clerk will check with Compass Printing to see about lengthening and costs associated. Asking for submissions to be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to April 17th in person, via email or mail.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Veterans Memorial Plaques: Plaques are currently being corrected.

B. ENERGY USAGE & HEATING: Rich advised that we are just under the threshold usage at the Town Hall and attributes the reduced usage to the installation of propane heat

C. IT UPDATE – Illuminating Concepts LLC

Town Clerk advised estimates have been received for IT services including network security, file sharing, official email addresses, and getting set up with Zoom for meetings. Clerk will compare services and costs for bolstered IT systems to what we have now for just phone through Twinstare Technologies and present at the April Town Board meeting.

Public Comment-

Ellen Beberman advised she is working on restarting a Food Pantry and is seeking volunteers. Proposing a once-a-month hand out.

Joe Shoemaker provided update on Broadband which has a deadline of December 31, 2026 to have fiber run. They are resorting to going underground due to costs and National Grid and pole fees. Going underground is safer as well but brings more permitting issues.

Highway Superintendent DeMars advised Franklin County does not currently have plans to improve or pave any County roads in the Town of Franklin for the 2026 season.

Concerns about speed in Onchiota and around the area of Buck Pond were discussed and possible, legal solutions.

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There being no further business before the board, Supervisor Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm, seconded by Council Member Brandt.

Amy McCormick, Town Clerk