

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH  
SELECT BOARD MINUTES  
March 18, 2014**

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Sally Torrey, Jim Warden

**Visitors present:** Bessie Sessions, Monica Tupper, Craig Heindel, Dennis Armell, Gloria Warden, Rick Charlebois, Brian Barrows, Dorothy Muzzy, Carl Cole, Garrit Smits, Bob McNary, Jeff Jerger, Betsy Etchells, Bill Sullivan, Mike Muir, Gail Blasius, Judy Meyncke

**1. Call to order and reorganization of Selectboard:**

Gloria Warden- Town Clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

a) Steve made the motion to elect Loretta chairperson. Jim B. seconded, 4 in favor, Loretta abstained

Loretta amended the agenda to add item 1H., Jim Warden resignation and 7 D, Starry Night Liquor license.

b) Jim B. made the motion to elect Steve vice chairperson. Sally seconded, 4 in favor, Steve abstained.

c) Jim B. made the motion to elect Sally clerk. Steve seconded, 4 in favor, Sally abstained.

d) Appointment of a minute taker was tabled.

e) Steve made the motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

f) Steve made the motion to set the first and third Tuesdays as the meeting schedule. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

g) Steve made the motion to designate the Addison Independent as the official newspaper. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

h) Jim B. made the motion to accept Jim Warden's resignation letter. Steve seconded. Discussion followed. Loretta & Sally in favor, Steve and Jim B. opposed, Jim W. recused. Tie vote, motion failed. Jim Warden retains elected seat on the select board.

**2. Hear Visitors:**

a) Jeff Jerger requested permission to go from 761 Shellhouse Mountain Road to 1957 Shellhouse Mountain Road, on his four wheeler, with one passenger, only when the ground is frozen. Steve made the motion to allow Jeff Jerger access to the town forest for travel between the requested addresses, stipulating he will be required to ask yearly approval. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

**3. Public comment period**

Carl Cole reported on the proposed new sound system for the town. Silas Towler and Carl have a meeting scheduled with Advance Music on March 26, at 9:30 to discuss a plan. A balance of \$2300.00 is held by Friends of the Grange, dedicated for a sound system.

Carl Cole reported on the update for the Union Meeting Hall. He met with the Assistant Fire Marshall and has results of an inspection. He asked permission to begin getting estimates to do the work. He also reported the soffit and fascia are peeling and that is lead paint, suggesting if

funds are available we should get these painted. Bob McNary states the corner joists have rot holes.

Bob McNary commented on the reduction of public comment period from two to one.

Bessie Sessions asked if the bid request for the new town garage have been received. Jim B. explains we are still working on the type of building, Butler, Morten or others. He told of our meeting the night before and how they are going to ask prospective bidders to meet with the committee and 'sell' their building to us.

Betsy Etchells commented on the motion for agenda item 1)h Jim Warden's resignation letter. The original motion was to not accept the resignation, which was a negative motion, which is not allowed. She felt Jim B.'s intent was to reject the resignation, but the motion was made to accept it. If the word reject had been used, instead of accept, and the vote was tied, the outcome would have been reversed.

#### **4) Selectboard Old Business**

a) VT Town Road & Bridge Standards.

John Bull, Road foreman submitted updated Town Road and Bridge Standards. Motion by Jim W. to sign the Town Road and Bridge Standards. Steve seconded, all in favor.

b) Reserve Fund Balance Policy –We are asking Garrit Smits, the new Treasurer, to look into working on this. The professional auditor had some suggestions, and Pam felt we needed two policies. A reserve fund policy and a fund balance policy.

c) The parking ordinance is tabled. Jim and John have not had time to work on this.

#### **5) Selectboard New Business**

a) Lawn mowing bids were opened

- Twin Flower Landscaping - \$12, 980
- Victory Landscaping, James Verburg - \$15,750
- Brians Lawn Care - \$11,500
- Ken Gebo's Lawn Care – bid does not meet criteria due to dates and age of operators

Steve made the motion to accept Brian's Lawn Care bid for \$11,500.00 Jim W. seconded, all in favor

b) Facility use rentals

- Little Chicago Road/Walker Road Water – April 8, 2014 (upstairs) 7-8:30 p.m. Request to have fees waived.  
Jim B. made the motion to allow LCR/Walker Rd water association use of upstairs with fee waived. Jim w. seconded, 4 in favor, Sally abstained.
- Ferrisburgh Historical Society – April 9, 2013 (downstairs) 7-9 p.m. Request to have fees waived.  
Jim W. made the motion to allow the Ferrisburgh Historical Society use of downstairs with fee waived. Jim B. seconded, All in favor.

- Long Point Corporation – August 2, 2014 (upstairs) 8a.m. 12 p.m. Request to have fees waived.  
Steve made the motion to allow LPC use of the upstairs with fee waived, but require a damage deposit. Jim B. seconded, All in favor.

c) Appointments

- Town Agent – Bessie Sessions  
Steve made the motion to appoint Bessie Sessions as the town agent. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.
- Planning Commission – Gail Blasius, four year term
- Planning Commission – Arabella Holzapfel, four year term  
Jim w. made the motion to appoint Gail Blasius and Arabella Holzapfel each to a four year term on the Planning Commission. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

d) State of Vermont – mileage certificate

Steve made the motion to sign the State of Vermont mileage certificate as presented. Jim W. seconded, All in favor.

**6) Approve Minutes**

- March 3, 2014  
Jim B. made the motion to accept the minutes of March 3, 2014 as written. Steve seconded, all in favor.
- March 7, 2013  
Jim B. made the motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2014 as written. Steve seconded, 4 in favor, Jim W. abstained

**7) Selectboard**

a) Selectboard warrants

Steve made the motion to accept the selectboard warrants for \$34,454.38. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

b) Homeward Bound, April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 contract

Jim W. made the motion to sign contract with Homeward Bound, option 2, for \$550.00, which runs from 4/1/2014 Thru 3/31/2015. Jim B. seconded. Jim W. commented he wished Chittenden County had something priced as reasonable, he felt this is a very good deal. All in favor.

c) Addison County Sheriff, inquiry of patrol coverage.

Reply will be sent to have Sheriff Keeler arrange to attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss police services. It was noted 60 hours of patrol, 3 tickets issued.

d) Starry Night Café liquor license

Jim B. made the motion to approve the liquor license renewal application for Starry Night Café. Jim W. seconded, all in favor.

## 8) Correspondence

a) VLCT-Spring Selectboard Institute registration.

## 9) Other business

Bob McNary commented on the list of outstanding jobs to be completed no longer on the agenda. Gloria and Loretta responded a file has been started with that list. Jim W. comments he feels the agenda is much cleaner looking.

Monica Tupper questions if the new office personnel are aware of their duties. The select board responds they are elected officials and are not under selectboard control. And yes, each has a handbook of their duties and responsibilities. She asked who they answer to, and is made aware it is the voters. She says Pam made her aware of the heavy workload and wonders if a six week internship with the high school has ever been considered. At this point the new personnel need to get acquainted with the office, but would consider it in the future.

Mike Muir notes with the recent school budget defeats, the state will be looking at consolidation sooner rather than later. We need to engage with the school board as soon as possible to discuss a land transfer. Communication was shared from Kathy Cannon, business manager to Ken Wheeling, ZBA, questioning whether a sub division was needed to transfer property. Loretta stated the school board was meeting the same night and would be electing a chair. She will contact the new chair to set a meeting date ASAP.

Mike asks about the Union Meeting Hall property and how the settlement is going. Loretta responds a quick claim deed is in the works, waiting on info from the State.

Mike asks if the culverts in West Ferrisburgh have been fixed. Response is yes, they are fixed and still in litigation for repayment.

Bob McNary asks Garrit about his hours. Garrit responds this quarter it will be forty hour weeks, but down the road it could possibly be 35, it depends on the workload.

Jim W. questions if Vergennes reciprocates for use of our spare highway truck. Bob McNary points out, maybe not in kind, but the Vergennes Police Department does respond into Ferrisburgh on behalf of the State Police in an emergency. Jim thanks him and says he likes seeing communities helping each other out.

## 10) Personnel

Steve makes the motion to enter executive session at 8:30 to discuss personnel. Jim B. seconded, all in favor.

Jim B. makes the motion to leave executive session at 8:49. Steve seconded, all in favor. No action taken.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:55.

Respectively submitted:

Sally Torrey

