

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2014**

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Jim Warden

Town Officials present: John Bull, Gloria Warden, Garrit Smits

Visitors present: Bob McNary, Lisa Bove, Debbie Paolantonio, Charlie Paolantonio, Jamie Gaucher, Bob Jenkins, Victoria Loven, Donna Provencher, Monte Provencher, Bob Masi, Frank Loven, Scott Grant, Janet Caldwell, Peter Caldwell, Adam Broughton, Tom Bove, Carl cole, Andy Kirkaldy, Bessie Sessions, Marcella Ashley-Selleck, Red Muir, Tim Davis, Ron Swenor, Helen Swenor, Joel Kilbourne, Ricky Charlebois

1. Call to order

Loretta Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The board was asked to amend its agenda for October 7, 2014 by:

Adding item 8a (2), Cody's Irish Pub and Grille request Liquor application for Button Bay State Park-October 11, 2014

Changing item 10 to personnel.

Moving adjournment to item 11

Jim Warden made the motion to amend the agenda. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

2. Town Garage

Originally a building under 12,000 square feet did not require a sprinkler. When Labor and Industry was approached, it was required a building over 5000 square feet, housing a commercial vehicle over 5000 pounds required a sprinkler system. An exemption would be granted if a fire wall was built in the center of the building. The fire wall would cost approximately 6 to 7 thousand dollars. A sprinkler system would cost about 40,000 thousand dollars. There is money in the budget to put a sprinkler in. It was felt a wall would reduce the ability for the smooth function of the building. Jeff Stone from Vergennes-Panton Water District okayed the four inch line for protection and stated there would be no charge for the upgrade. Bob McNary stated the FFD #1 needed the specs as soon as possible for an engineer to look over at no cost to the town. Bob Jenkins will get that info to him ASAP. Jim Warden made the motion to put a sprinkler system in the new town garage. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

John reported the building schedule is about 3-4 weeks behind, and all the contractors are also 3-4 weeks behind.

John also asked if we would like the free fill from Coco to build up for additional parking at the Town Clerks office. The select board supported him to seek it.

3. Approve minutes:

Jim Warden made the motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2014, as submitted. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor .MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made the motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014 as submitted. Steve Gutowski seconded. 4 voted in favor, Loretta Lawrence abstained. MOTION PASSED.

4. New Business

(a) Jamie Gaucher is present to discuss the Town of Ferrisburgh partnering with the Town of Middlebury to seek a \$25,000 Regional Economic Development Grant from Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services. This grant would assist Carl Cushing of VT. Livestock to improve his waste water issues at the current slaughter house. Vt. Livestock is working to move to Middlebury. This improvement would benefit the town in making the building more attractive to the next occupant and assist Carl to keep the business operating in its current location. Jamie is asking the select board to apply, in partnership with Middlebury, for this grant. Every community can apply once annually for this grant. This grant will not cost the Town any money and Jamie will take care of the application. The grant is due October 10, 2014.

Steve Gutowski made the motion to partner with Middlebury to apply for the Regional Economic grant to assist V.t Livestock and the building's owner, Castanea Foundation in approving the waste water system. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

Jim Warden made the motion to authorize Loretta Lawrence to sign the completed grant application. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b)Charlie and Debbie Paolantonio were present to finalize the lease between the Town and Cross Road Chapel to rent the Union Meeting Hall. They have currently put in 172 hours labor to improve the building. The lease as presented by the Cross Road Chapel was for five years, with the option for either party to terminate yearly with a twenty day window either side of the anniversary date of the lease. The Town attorney, James Carroll suggested a one year lease as the building had not publically been advertised as being available to lease. It was noted the building has stood vacant for two years with no interest. There was a question about liability insurance concerning the legal defense coverage limit. The church has provided the Town with a copy of their certificate of liability, naming the town as an additional insured for the amount of three million dollars. Adam Broughton commented seeking the advice of an attorney was wise, but doesn't necessary mean it needs to be strictly followed, incorporate his advice with other information and come to a reasonable end. Lisa Bove asked what it would take to own the building, and the answer was a town vote to sell. Peter Caldwell states the church is reasonable on requests by non-profit groups to use the space. Concerning insurance, Donna Provencher states her company is only required to carry one million in insurance and they lift and move buildings. Steve Gutowski made the motion to sign the five year lease presented by Cross Roads Chapel. Jim Benoit seconded. Four voted in favor, Loretta Lawrence vote no. MOTION PASSED. Loretta Lawrence requested to go on record as having a problem with the five-year lease, because the building was not duly warned as being available for rent.

5. Selectboard Old Business:

(a) Town Hall Alpine snow guards-Steve Gutowski reports Sbardella felt what was currently over the entry door would work on the rest of the roof, installed about four rows up and staggered. He will get back to Steve with some numbers. The slate has been cleaned and repaired. The chimney cap was removed and found to be made of stainless steel, so it was not rust coming from it. The general feeling was the rusting was coming from the exhaust. Carl Cole suggested sealing the cap to the flue. Breadloaf will continue to monitor the wall. The porch settling is being looked at.

(b) Carl Cole reports on the Hinsdale land purchase. Clark Hinsdale is willing to wait for a town vote at Town meeting. A draft Purchase and Sale Contract has been drawn up, it needs to be tweaked and hopefully will be available for the selectboard to sign at the next meeting.

(c) Carl Cole reports the Town has received a check from Velco for the amount of \$72,619.12 for the assessment error. This money must go into the general fund.

6. Selectboard General Business:

(a) Ferrisburgh day was a success. The town clerk is receiving lots of positive feedback on the event and folks felt welcomed and enjoyed meeting up with neighbors and friends. The committee has met since the event and decided to continue this on an annual basis. The committee is welcoming new members to help plan for next year. Red Muir suggested placing an amount in the budget to host this event. Thank you to all for all the hard work of putting on this event.

(b) General election sheriff for traffic on November 4, 2014. Steve made the motion to engage the sheriff from 7:00 A.M. to 7 P.M. to assist voters entering and exiting onto Route 7. Discussion ensued about where the vehicle would be parked as in the past it was creating a visibility issue for cars exiting. It is also mentioned it is time to push AOT harder on a left turn lane. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Employees Health insurance-2015 BC/BS plan. The selectboard will ask the town clerk to seek a date Mike Quinn will be available to discuss the health insurance with them and invite the town employees to meet with him at that time.

(d) Optional life insurance. Gloria Warden asked for the support of the selectboard for employees who wish to enroll in the optional life insurance to have it deducted thru payroll deduction. Jim Benoit made the motion to allow the payroll deduction for optional life insurance, selected and paid by any employee who chooses to participate. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

(e) Town Hall maintenance committee. Red Muir reports the committee met on October 1, 2014 and started a list of various maintenance items. They will meet again on October 11, 2014 at 7:30 A.M for a daylight walk around and further discussion. There is a need to identify the wood on the porches as they need more immediate attention.

(f) Red Muir has been in contact with Steve Hayden concerning the installation of the air conditioning. Steve has agreed to come back, at his expense, and pretty up the pipe coming out of the building with Red in attendance. Red also suggested the area around the units be dug up, fabric cloth laid down and stones put in to avoid any weed wackers from damaging the units. Steve Gutowski also suggested something in the form of protection from a car running into the units.

7. Public comment:

Tim Davis, our representative to Addison County Regional Planning, attended a meeting concerning the Act 250 permit for Denecker's. Two concerns were a left turn lane and the 2006 study for a bike and walking path. The hearing will take place on October 23 and Steve will attend.

Gloria made us aware Chris Saunders, a representative from Senator Leahy's office stopped in and toured the building. He inquired as to the status of the remainder of the burned out Hawkins Garage. Ken Wheeling is pursuing a violation notice.

Bob McNary suggested a video and still pictures be taken of the building once Bread Loaf completes its work.

Bob McNary also asked about the minutes regarding the hiring of a new road employee and why it wasn't advertised. The town can hire from applications on file. Bessie Sessions ask if this is an additional employee or a replacement. Steve responds it is currently a new employee as a current employee made a self-evaluation he is unable to perform his duties as per the job description.

Carl Cole asked who can issue parking tickets per the new parking ordinance. Cars are parking on the bridge and road at the Slang. It was suggested possibly approaching Fish and Wildlife to make a dock or pier for the public to fish from to get them off the road.

Carl Cole ask where the selectboard is at regarding a noise ordinance as Justus has been approached about reducing the property value of Mile Point residents due to the noise. The selectboard has not moved forward on it as the question of enforcement has arisen. Steve felt the zoning by laws address the noise issue.

Joel Kilbourne ask if the speed limit on Fort Cassin Road can be reduced in front of his residences. He states he owns the road as he has property on both sides and has speeders going well in excess of the 35 MPH limit. Also there is an issue of partying happening at the access area. A traffic study would have to be done to make any changes in the speed limit.

8. Selectboard to approve or sign:

(a) Caledonia Spirits- Special Event permit. Steve Gutowski made the motion to approve the special events permit for Caledonia Spirits for October 18, 2014, 2:30 P.M to 9:30 P.M. at the Basin Harbor Club. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

(a)2 Cody's Irish Pub and Grille-Liquor permit. Jim Warden made the motion to approve the liquor license for Cody's Irish Pub and Grille for a wedding on October 11, 2014 2:20 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at Button Bay State Park. Steve seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

(b) Ferrisburgh Fire District # 1 annual meeting. Steve Gutowski made the motion to allow the FFD # 1 to use the upstairs room for their annual meeting on October 14, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. and waive the fee. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Mapping Contract. A parcel mapping contract was presented by R.J. Turner Company for updating the tax maps. This is a two year contract with the first year, April 2, 2014 to April 1, 2015 not to exceed four thousand one hundred dollars and the second year, April 2, 2015 to April 1, 2016 not to exceed three thousand one hundred dollars. Jim Benoit made the motion to accept the contract as presented. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Recycling contract. The recycling contract was presented from the City of Vergennes. The effective date is July 1 2014 thru June 30, 2015 for the amount of \$11,600.00, payable in four installments of \$2,900.00 on 10/15/2014, 11/15/2014, 2/15/2015 and 5/15/2015. Jim Benoit made the motion to accept the recycling contract as presented. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Fire protection agreement. The fire protection agreement between the Town of Ferrisburgh and the City of Vergennes was presented stating the covered areas. The effective date is July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015 for the amount of \$47,777.00 per year, plus \$8.00 per hour for each member who responds to the call. Jim Benoit made the motion to approve the agreement as presented. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(f) Lister's computer replacement. The lister's are in need of a computer upgrade and have received a quote from Top Floor for the computer and monitor for \$773.88. Jim Warden made the motion to purchase the computer for \$773.88 from Top Floor. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(g) Selectboard warrant. Jim Benoit made the motion to approve the warrant for \$297,188.67, which details town expenditures. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

9. Correspondence

(a) A letter from Pam MacKenzie was received asking the selectboard to pass a resolution requesting the a two year cap on the Statewide Education Property Tax Rate at the 2015 levels. Jim Warden made a motion to sign this resolution. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) VLCT Fall Auditors workshop- October 21, 2014 Walter Reed will attend.

(c) Act 250 hearing Notice-for corner of 7 & 22A- October 23, 2014

(d) Planning and Zoning Forum- October 29, 2014

(e) BSA- 16th annual Scouting Salute to Veteran's Parade- November 1, 2014 in Bristol @ 11:00 A.M.

(f) VLCT Selectboard Institute- November 8, 2014.

(g) Letters of opposition to Solar Array on Beach Properties, Inc. d/b/a/ Basin Harbor Club.

(h) Jeffrey Sherwin- follow up letter from September 2013 concerning zoning issue.

10. Personnel

Steve Gutowski made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel at 9:15 P.M. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made the motion to leave executive session at 9:50 P.M. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made the motion to increase Paul Bodington's hourly rate to \$19.05 per hour. Steve Gutowski seconded. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made the motion to increase John Bull's hourly rate to \$24.91 per hour. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The increases are retroactive to July 1, 2014.

Steve Gutowski made the motion to release the full health officer's stipend of \$750.00 to Jaimeelyn Gaboriault. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Sally Torrey SB clerk

**RESOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM IN VERMONT:**

- Education Funding is a Statewide priority and needs to be addressed at the State level.
- In the past 10 years the Vermont student population has declined by 10,618 (or 10%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont education spending has increased by \$300 million (or 33%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont per student spending has increased by \$6,537 (or 60%)
- In the past 10 years reliance on education property taxes has increased nearly 7%
- Nearly 70% of Education spending is funded by property taxes.

Vermont has reached its maximum capacity to support education funding through the Statewide Education property tax.

Vermont cannot ignore the current trends and the limitations of our property tax base.

Without responsible funding system reforms, Vermont schools will be forced to undergo arbitrary and detrimental budget cuts that will affect the quality of education in Vermont.

Vermont can achieve a sustainable Education future:

- Create a more diverse education funding system, sharing the costs equally between all our tax resources (income, sales, rooms & meals, and property taxes)
- Simplify the education funding system so it can be understood by the average taxpayer.

Continued reliance on the education property tax will have a material impact on local government's ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents.

Therefore be it resolved that Vermont Towns & School Districts support capping Education Property Tax rates at FY2015 levels for the next 2 years, to allow the Legislature to make the necessary funding reforms that will sustain our Education system into the future.

(It is not the intent of this resolution to cap overall education spending).

Be it further resolved on this 7 day of October 2014, that the City/Town/Village/ School District of Ferrisburgh supports the Vermont legislature as they seek out the necessary reforms to the Education funding system.

Koretta Lawrence
J. B. T.
x [Signature]

Sally Torrey
STC