

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes**

August 4, 2015

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir. **Absent:** Jim Warden.

Town officials present: Garrit Smits, town treasurer; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Mike Manley, Bob McNary, Bessie Sessions, Dick Shakerley, Toby Talbot, Jeff Vigne, Bill Wager.

1. 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Steve Gutowski, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — July 21, 2015.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2015, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski and Red Muir voted in favor. Loretta Lawrence abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) Lt. Michael Manley, Vermont State Police – general information discussion. Lt. Manley said he was making the rounds of selectboard meetings in all of the towns covered by the New Haven VSP barracks to meet board members and answer questions. He said VSP had logged 286 calls from Ferrisburgh so far this year, ranging from motor vehicle accidents to gas station drive-offs. He said some accidents in town – there have been about 30 so far this year – are due to the nature of traffic on Route 7, which involves more stopping and turning than on some other sections of the road. This sets up the chance for rear-end collisions, which Manley said are sometimes the fault of distracted drivers. Red Muir suggested that was the reason the town was hoping to get a left turn lane on Route 7 North at the town hall, as an extension of the left turn lane and stop light project scheduled for next year at the junction of Route 7 and Little Chicago Road. Manley said the New Haven barracks is currently down one officer, and that summer is by far the busiest time of year, with many more visitors, tourists and seasonal residents. The barracks has a good relationship, he said, with city police in Vergennes and other local police forces, as well as with the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

In response to other questions from board members, he said Addison County Farm & Field Days, mostly handled by the sheriff's department, is not typically a big issue for law enforcement, but that VSP does some DUI patrols during fair week; that burglaries in the county, while certainly not at zero, were much reduced from a couple of years ago; that VSP would usually not want to get involved in an issue like the one posed by people fishing on the bridge in West Ferrisburgh, unless people were affecting traffic; and that police do arrest a fair number of impaired drivers based on citizen reports.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Bill Wager – fire department – truck. As the board had requested at its July 21, 2015, meeting, Bill Wager, chief of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, and Jeff Vigne, president of the FVFD, brought a purchase agreement for a new fire engine to the meeting for the selectboard's approval. Also on hand were Dick Shakerley and Toby Talbot from Shakerley Fire Truck Sales. The fire engine's total cost is \$397,139.07, with \$120,000 already set aside for a down payment. The balance will be paid off over 10 years. Loretta Lawrence made a motion to have Steve Gutowski, chair, sign the agreement on behalf of the town. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Delivery of the new engine is expected next summer.

(b) American Red Cross – Rich Dow – September 2 blood drive. Rich Dow was not able to attend the meeting. Board members said they would table discussion of the blood drive at the town hall until the next meeting, by which time they hope to sign up a local coordinator and one or two other volunteers, and settle on the hours for the blood drive.

(c) Bob McNary – Union Meeting Hall energy audit report and action needed. Bob McNary presented the results of an energy audit conducted by NeighborWorks on the Union Meeting Hall. The major issues are moisture problems in the crawl space, and the need for storm windows and attic insulation. Red Muir made a motion to have McNary ask Corey Trimmer, who prepared the report, to attend the next board meeting and brief board members on the identified problems and recommended solutions. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Hall rental agreement. Steve Gutowski presented a proposed revision to the rental agreement for the upstairs community room and downstairs meeting room in the town hall. The major changes proposed were to reduce rental rates generally and set lower rates for town residents. The community room rental fee would be \$50 per hour for non-residents, down from \$100 per hour, and \$25 per hour for Ferrisburgh residents. The meeting room rental fee would be \$25 per hour for non-residents, down from \$100 per hour, and free for Ferrisburgh residents. Renters would still need to provide a \$500 damage deposit and proof of insurance. Most other provisions of the rental agreement would be unchanged. Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the changes and incorporate them into a final draft, to be voted on at the next meeting. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) 2016 Municipal Park & Ride Grant Program information from Vermont Highway Division. The town is discussing the possibility of pursuing a state grant to set up a park & ride lot on a portion of the parcel adjacent to the town hall that the town is purchasing from Clark Hinsdale III.

(b) Fiscal year 2016 Municipal Planning Grant application information. The town is considering applying for a planning grant to work on updating the town's bylaws. The application would be contingent on having an approved town plan, which is still in the works. Steve Gutowski said he would contact Bob Beach, planning commission chair, to see where things stood on the town plan.

6. Public comment

Bessie Sessions asked whether the new highway garage was completed, and Steve Gutowski said the building had passed all its tests and had all the necessary permits. He said the road crew was moving equipment into the new building and working on the grounds. Sessions noted that a windstorm had blown the roof off the old salt shed, which had landed against a tree in a neighbor's yard. Gutowski said he would be in touch with John Bull, road foreman, about the damage.

Garrit Smits asked about the closing date for the sale of the Hinsdale property, and Steve Gutowski said he expected it would be in the next month.

Bob McNary said Vermont Sen. Chris Bray, D-Addison, would be attending the meeting of the town's Energy Committee on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the town offices. Bray is going to report on legislative progress regarding local input for siting decisions on solar arrays, and also have information on the first meeting, held this summer, of a solar siting task force appointed by the Legislature.

Bob McNary asked whether the town was satisfied with clean-up work down on the Paul Hawkins property on Route 7, since its sale to a farm equipment dealer, Northeast Farm Sales & Service. Board members said the sale and subsequent clean-up of the property represented great news for the town and suggested the zoning violation filed against Hawkins should be lifted in the near future.

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Bob McNary asked if the town was considering having the floors in the town hall refinished in the next year. Red Muir, who serves on the town hall maintenance committee, said the committee would be requesting prices on the floors and other repair and maintenance work. He said he hoped to set up a committee meeting in the near future.

7. Other business

There were no items to consider in this category

8. Correspondence

(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns Town Fair, October 8, 2015. The annual Town Fair for municipal officials, employees and volunteers is being held at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington, Vt.

(b) Vaughn Collins – Webster Road rebuild. The town received a letter from Webster Road resident Vaughn Collins praising the work done on the road by John Bull and the highway department crew.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Financial management questionnaire for towns and cities. The board reviewed and signed a questionnaire completed by Garrit Smits, town treasurer. Board members took note of some of the answers on the questionnaire, which indicated that town office staff is not always able to complete certain tasks – such as reconciling bank statements and balances – as often as the employees or board members would like. Board members said they understood that other work sometimes piled up, and thanked Smits for his candor in filling out the questionnaire.

(b) Garaventa Lift maintenance quotation/agreement. Red Muir made a motion to sign a maintenance agreement for the town hall lift with Garaventa Lift for one year at a cost of \$790, paying in one lump sum to receive a 2 percent discount. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Garaventa Lift – proposal to replace phone in town hall lift. Red Muir made a motion to have Garaventa Lift replace the phone in the town hall lift at a cost of \$840.65 for labor and materials. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Selectboard warrant. Red Muir made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenses, for a total of \$39,940.21. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

Red Muir made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Etchells