

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Listers Minutes**

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 @ 4:00 p.m.

Present: Carl Cole
John Bull
Joe Blasius
Justus J. DeVries

- Meeting called to order by at 4:05 p.m.
- Reviewed draft minutes from June 3, 2014 listers meeting. Joe made a motion, seconded by Carl to accept the minutes as written. All were in favor. (John did not vote because he was not at that meeting.)
- Reviewed draft Grievance minutes (draft dated June 4, 2014). Joe made a motion, seconded by Carl to accept the minutes as written. All were in favor.
- Met with Mr. Simon for his Grievance Hearing.
- Met with Velco representatives, Sharon Tucker and associate. They submitted extensive corrected asset inventory data, aerial photography and mapping. The listers discussed that Ferrisburgh is significantly impacted by the error. The lost revenue for 2013 alone is:

$$\$4,900,000 \times \$.2527 \text{ (2013-2014 municipal tax rate)} = \underline{\underline{\$12,382}}$$

The error was made for 5 years so the total lost revenue is estimated to be over **\$50,000**.

Justus explained and gave copies of the statute (32 VSA §4261) for correcting an omission or error from the Grand List which could have been done by December 31, 2013. Velco discovered the error “before Thanksgiving” of 2013, which would have been enough time to correct it for 2013. We discussed the tax abatement statute (24 VSA § 1535) which Velco could request a tax abatement from Shelburne, and redistribute the lost dollars back to Ferrisburgh. Velco claimed their legal department advised there was no process allowed to go back in time to correct it and the State advised them to just “correct it” in 2014. The State received all of their money for the 5 years.

The listers are requesting two items from Velco:

- Documentation of when the error was first discovered.
- Documentation from their legal department that they cannot go back in time to correct the error and allocate the lost dollars to Ferrisburgh (either by State statute or company policy).

Once this data is received, the listers will follow-up on advice from the League of Cities and Towns.

- Reviewed Grievance letters from Jon Ralph, Robert Bergman and Terry Allen. See Grievance Hearing minutes dated June 25, 2014.
- Justus advised that the only BCA Hearing was Button Bay-Z/Zimmerman. Also advised Jeannette Bergmann's Tax Abatement letter was signed and sent to the town.
- Justus discussed Shlansky's tax map discrepancy which will be a listers correction. Advised there were a few errors CAI needs to correct.
- Discussed Justus' renewal contract. Carl will be at the Selectboard meeting on July1, 2014 to discuss with the board.
- Reviewed CAI's proposal contract. We are looking at sending out an RFP again to other firms (Kevin Larose and two other companies). Carl had talked with Kevin who was interested, but did not have the mapping capabilities yet to do the other mapping layers (soils, wetland, zoning, etc.). Talked about the digital mapping training from CAI. Justus will follow-up on all the mapping issues.
- Discussed the new law which requires meeting minutes to be posted on the town website within 5 days of the meeting. Justus will coordinate with Pam and Gloria to get the posting process set up.
- Joe discussed updating and expanding the data in the Grand List on the website. Justus will follow-up with Pam.
- John made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Joe. All were in favor and so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:40 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted: Justus J. DeVries
Dated: June 26, 2014