

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
January 19, 2016**

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

**Town officials present:** Gloria Warden, town clerk; Garrit Smits, town treasurer; John Bull, road foreman.

**Visitors present:** George Gardner, Marsha Hoffman, Bob Jenkins, Don Keeler, Andy Kirkaldy, Liz Markowski, Peter Markowski, Bob McNary, George Merkel, Bruce Nason, Robert Peisch, Bessie Sessions, Bill Sullivan, Monica Tupper.

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

Steve Gutowski, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Loretta Lawrence made a motion to amend the agenda by moving items **4. (b) Finalize budget** and **5. (a) Town Meeting Warning** to after **8. Correspondence**. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**2. Approve minutes —December 29, 2015; January 5, 2016; and January 12, 2016.**

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of December 29, 2015, as presented. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2016, with the addition of the ending term date of 2018 for Norman C. Smith on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Jim Benoit seconded. Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, and Jim Benoit voted in favor. Jim Warden abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016, as presented. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) John Bull – monthly highway report.** The town received a bridge grant of \$97,500 to replace the bearings underneath the bridge on Little Chicago Road. John Bull will solicit bids for this spring 2016 project from Parent Construction, Inc.; A. L. St. Onge Contractor, Inc.; and CSE, Inc.

John discussed the details of the Route 7 paving project by the Department of Transportation. He will ask the department to fix the drainage issue caused by a previous paving of the Hollow Road intersection. The project is scheduled for summer 2016.

Three contractors will be submitting bids to remove the nine windows containing lead in the glazing and the sink containing asbestos from the old highway garage. Bids are expected by the end of January.

To further explore the concerns of making the intersection of Greenbush Road and Stage Road a three-way stop, John suggested a spring site visit with all interested parties.

**(b) Don Keeler – Addison County Sheriff.** Discussion ensued regarding the services provided by the Addison County Sheriff's Department. Don Keeler thanked the town for all the years of service it has

contracted with the department. He suggested that the town create a public safety committee that would bring ideas to the selectboard, such as suggested patrol times. His main point is that whether the town hires the Vergennes Police Department or the Addison County Sheriff's Department, the State Police is the agency of primary jurisdiction for Ferrisburgh. All other police forces provide assistance to the State Police as needed.

**(c) Law enforcement decision.** Stressing the importance of the vote being taken by the full board, Steve Gutowski tabled this agenda item until the next regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

#### **4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) School unification discussion.** Steve Gutowski tabled this agenda item until the next regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

**(b) Finalize budget.** After brief discussion, Steve Gutowski tabled this item. The selectboard will convene on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. to finalize the budget. Note: This agenda item was discussed after **8. Correspondence**.

#### **5. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Town meeting warning.** After brief discussion, Steve Gutowski tabled this item. The selectboard will convene on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. to vote to accept the warning. Note: This agenda item was discussed after **8. Correspondence**.

#### **6. Public comment**

Jean Silveira commented that the town's second American Red Cross blood drive is Friday, January 22, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. All donors will receive a free \$5.00 gift card to Dunkin' Donuts. All donors who give blood in Northern New England in January will be automatically entered into a raffle to win one of seven New England Patriots items.

George Gardner commended John Bull, town road foreman, and his crew for the excellent condition of the roads in Ferrisburgh.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding unification of the Addison Northwest Supervisory Union (ANWSU). George Gardner reported that since the Board of Education and the Secretary of Education approved the Act 46 proposal from the town of Ferrisburgh's proposed unification committee, the proposal will be voted on at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Loretta Lawrence commented that the process was to include addressing all of the concerns of the town prior to the vote with a memorandum of understanding. George Gardner stated that in order to qualify for the tax incentives involved, the proposal had to be voted on and passed in all of the district towns prior to the first of July 2016. He went on to say that changes can still be made to the agreement up until July 2017. Bob McNary quoted portions of an article by Andy Kirkaldy from the *Addison Independent* dated December 31, 2015, regarding the consolidation of schools in the ANWSU. Bob's concern was that the article stated that all forming districts would convey real and personal property to the new unified district for \$1. He believes the town will lose control of the land and the buildings that were paid for by the taxpayers of Ferrisburgh. Bob Jenkins asked the selectboard members if they met with the Ferrisburgh Central School board. Steve Gutowski replied that there have been private meetings with Bill Clark, chair of the Ferrisburgh Central School board, and Chris Kayhart, Ferrisburgh School member.

Bob McNary asked if the budget and fund requests from local agencies will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 1, 2016. Gloria Warden responded saying that since these items do not involve voting by Australian ballot, they will be voted on as part of the warning on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Bob McNary asked if the maintenance fund, which has been growing by \$30,000 per year, has a cap. Steve Gutowski replied that given the age of the buildings owned by the town, there is currently no need for a cap.

Gloria Warden thanked Bob Jenkins for cutting, sanding, and refinishing the conference table. The job is very professional.

Steve Gutowski commented that he received a reply from Ian Degustis, project engineer in the traffic design unit of the Vermont Department of Transportation, agreeing to a site visit to review two requests previously denied by the department: inclusion of a turn lane on Route 7 from the south at the entrance to the Ferrisburgh town offices and a 40 mph zone on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh.

## 7. Other business

**(a) Bob McNary – discussion of Vergennes truck reroute.** Bob McNary, the town's member on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), reported on the proposed truck rerouting of half of the truck traffic currently driving on Main Street through Vergennes. Northbound truck traffic coming from the Champlain Bridge on Route 17 and north on Route 22 will head east along Route 17 to Route 7 at New Haven Junction, and continue on Route 7 from there instead of traveling through Vergennes. This rerouting will add five miles to the travel time.

## 8. Correspondence

**(a) Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) – stop light/stop bars.** By email, VTrans requested acknowledgement from the town that installation of painted stop bars within the town right-of-way on Little Chicago Road and on Middlebrook Road is acceptable. Since this work is outside the State's right-of-way, VTrans requires written acknowledgement before the project to construct a traffic control signal system [Ferrisburgh NHG SGNL(42)] at the intersection of Route 7, Little Chicago Road, and Middlebrook Road can proceed.

**(b) Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) – resurface/rumble strips.** By email, the town was notified of the final plans for preventative maintenance on US Route 7. Work to be performed includes surface preparation involving patching, pot hole repair, crack sealing, micro-milling, resurfacing with a thin bituminous concrete pavement wearing course, and applicable pavement markings. The project also included reconstruction of a rail crossing in Ferrisburgh. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for bids within the next year.

**(c) Letter to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) from town – stop bars and 40 mph sign on Route 7.** On Monday, January 22, 2016, Steve Gutowski, selectboard chair, emailed Ian Degustis, project engineer in the traffic design unit of VTrans, voicing no objection to the relocation of the stop bars at the Route 7, TH-5, and TH-14 intersection during the installation of the traffic light at this intersection. The email also requested a site visit to review two requests previously denied by VTrans: inclusion of a turn lane on Route 7 from the south at the entrance to the Ferrisburgh town offices and a 40 mph zone on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh.

## 9. Selectboard to approve or sign

**(a) Ferrisburgh Historical Society – rental agreement – February 14, 2016, and March 13, 2016.**

After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Historical Society, waiving the rental fee but requiring the \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) Efficiency Vermont – rebate form.** By email, Bob McNary was asked by Sarah Sherill, Associate Program Manager at Efficiency Vermont, to sign and return the attached Building Performance Final Financial Incentive Summary to receive a rebate of \$1,247.20 for completing the project at the Union Meeting Hall. Loretta Lawrence made a motion to authorize Steve Gutowski to sign and return the summary. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) Selectboard warrant.** Jim Warden made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$31,564.68. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**10. Adjourn**

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira