

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes**

July 19, 2016

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael “Red” Muir, Jim Warden.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Gail Blasius, George Gardner, Rayne Herzog, Bob McNary, Bessie Sessions, Silas Towler, Judy Wolf.

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

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

2. Approve minutes — July 5, 2016; July 12, 2016.

Red Muir made a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2016, with the correction that the next regular selectboard meeting date under Public Comment be changed to July 19, 2016. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

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

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway department report. John commented on several projects including completion of roadwork, mowing to control the spread of wild parsnip, and the start of the parking lot behind the town offices. He also said that staff vacations continue for the next week or so. After review of prices for a Ford or Chevy pickup truck, the board decided that the highway department would purchase a 2016 Ford F350 pickup truck with a plow attachment, a budgeted expense.

(b) Highway department vacancy. The board and Road Foreman John Bull reviewed the results of four interviews for the position of highway worker. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to offer the position to Kyle Bradley to fill the town highway vacancy at \$16.00 per hour. Jim Warden seconded. Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Loretta Lawrence voted against. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Bixby Library — request for selectboard chair to attend library focus group meeting. Bixby trustee and Ferrisburgh resident Gail Blasius explained that as part of the process of formulating a strategic plan for the library, all selectboard chairs from the five towns served by the library have been invited to a meeting on August 11, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the library located at 258 Main Street in Vergennes, Vermont. Board members asked several questions pertaining to the overall budget for the library.

(d) Town Hall Maintenance Committee Report. Red Muir detailed an extensive list of maintenance and repair work needed for the town offices, including power washing and painting the exterior as well as cleaning the interior and exterior of the windows. After discussion, Red was directed by the board to contact Middlebury Fence Company for an estimate for approximately 36 linear feet of 5' tall vinyl fencing; the fencing will be used to shield the condensers. Gloria Warden was asked to obtain prices for small carpets to go under the chairs in the main office to reduce the wear of the wooden floor. Jim

Warden made a motion to approve Blue Sky Window Cleaning's estimate of \$3,075, with the condition that the window cleaning starts after the US Route 7 signal and parking lot (behind the town offices) projects are finished. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Rayne Herzog — request for traffic study for signal at US Route 7, Stage Road, and Old Hollow Road. Citing numerous examples that warrant a study, Ray Herzog made his request by email to Loretta Lawrence. She will take up the matter with Jonathan Harrington, project manager for the Vermont Department of Transportation - Highway & Safety Design.

(f) Review bids for HVAC service contract for town hall. The board reviewed bids from the current provider, Mountain Air Systems, against Avonda Air Systems. After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to award the contract to Mountain Air Systems for \$1,250, contingent upon the contract changing to non-auto renewal. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

There were no items under new business for this meeting.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Craig Heindel, a member of the town's VGL Committee, reported on the progress since the last selectboard meeting. Since there has been no response from VGL's attorney regarding the host town agreement, Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell will pursue this issue. The tax analysis report prepared by George Silver Associates has been received; this report will be sent to the town listers and auditors. The report from VGL's electromagnetic field expert has determined the risk of contracting cancer from this project is very low.

Craig submitted three invoices approved by the VGL Committee to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of the June invoice from Carroll, Boe & Pell, in the amount of \$4,053.50, from the VGL escrow account. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of an invoice from Civil Engineering Associates, in the amount of \$1065, from the VGL escrow account. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to authorize \$5,000 from the VGL escrow account to Civil Engineering Associates. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, Red Muir, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Flood Hazard Area & River Corridor General Permit draft amendment — informational meeting July 27, 2016. The Watershed Management Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation will hold a public informational meeting on July 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Agency of Natural Resources Annex Building located at 190 Junction Road, in Berlin, Vermont. Written public comments on the draft General Permit may be submitted until 4:30 p.m. on August 8, 2016.

(c) Douglas Smith — Union Meeting Hall lease renewal. This agenda item was tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on August 2, 2016.

6. Public comment

George Gardner said right now is the worst time for a traffic study given that traffic will be slow and avoiding the area during the construction on US Route 7. He also mentioned that the speed cart he complained about two weeks ago is still on the Hollow Road. The board directed Gloria Warden to email Sargent Bruce Nason and Sheriff Don Keeler about this matter and follow up with a phone call.

Gloria Warden stated that although the fire alarm has been removed from the elevator, the electronics in the basement panel must be deprogrammed.

Bob McNary commented that wild parsnip will be held down if it is mowed or weed wacked. He suggested that town residents with road frontage mow up to the ditches.

Bob McNary asked what is the status of the mortgage for the Sisters' property; he believes a balloon payment of \$120,000 is due soon. Loretta Lawrence replied that Town Treasurer Garrit Smits has refinancing information.

7. Other business

The town received a request from ECI to layout and store a long 12" HDPE casing on the lawn of the Historical Society property, south of the building but not blocking the driveway, until such time as the casing is pulled back; when this happens, on or about July 26, 2016, the driveway and parking lot will be blocked for approximately 24 hours. ECI also made a second request to use the lawn at the Union Meeting House for the same purpose. If the lawns are damaged, ECI will restore them.

Red Muir asked if Ferrisburgh Day would happen this year. Loretta Lawrence replied that she had not heard of any specific date. She was not sure if Ferrisburgh Day was happening this year. The committee from the last Ferrisburgh Day had discussed the possibility of skipping a year.

8. Correspondence

(a) Shoreland Application — Gwiazda/Donahue — 56 Pleasant Bay Road. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has approved a bike shed/lean to for this property in North Ferrisburgh, Vermont.

(b) Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation — annual stewardship plan for state lands in Ferrisburgh FY 2107. By letter, the town was notified about several projects for the Little Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area including continued harvesting and commercial sale of timber, invasive control/herbicide treatment, and repair of the informational board and removal of trees at Harris Dam.

(c) Wetland Individual Permit for solar facility west of US Route 7 and northwest of Pierce Lane. By letter, the town was notified of the approved proposal for installation and operation of a 500kW net-metering solar electric generation facility by BDE North Ferrisburgh Lazar Solar, LLC to impact zero square feet of Class II wetland and 4,888 square feet of Class II wetland buffer zone. The Agency of Natural Resources found that this conditional use will not result in any undue, adverse effects to the protected functions of the significant wetland at this location.

(d) BDE North Ferrisburgh Lazar Solar, LLC Public Notice — storm water discharge permit. The town received a public notice stating that the company submitted an application for coverage for the discharge of treated storm water for a 500kW net-metering solar electric generation facility.

(e) Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans) Board Hearing to name Route 22A the Desert Storm Veterans Memorial Highway — August 17, 2016. A public hearing on the petition for the name change will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Platt Memorial Library located at 279 Main Street in Shoreham, Vermont.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Sheriff Coverage — Vermont Primary August 9, 2016 — polls at town offices open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to hire coverage from the Addison County Sheriff's Department from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Financial Management Questionnaire — Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Garrit Smits, town treasurer, prepared a self-assessment questionnaire regarding the financial operation of the town. Red Muir made a motion to authorize Loretta Lawrence to verify with Garrit missing information. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(c) Justus J. DeVries, Jr. — contract renewal. Discussion ensued regarding a proposed three-year contract, noting an increase for field inspections and appraisal work from \$63 per hour to \$65 per hour as well as an increase for data entry from \$40 per hour to \$42 per hour. After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to renew the contract with Justus DeVries. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Villari's of Ferrisburgh – rental agreement – July 23 and August 13, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to Villari's of Ferrisburgh for the rental fee of \$50.00 for each date, the required \$500 deposit, and proof of insurance. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Selectboard warrant. After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$60554.61. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

10. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira