

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
January 16, 2018**

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael Red+Muir.

**Town officials present:** Deb Healey, town treasurer.

**Visitors present:** Craig Heindel, Jack Poirier, Bessie Sessions.

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

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She asked for a motion to amend the agenda adding **3. (a) Jack Poirier — permission for Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to use town forest.** Rick Ebel made a motion to amend the agenda as described. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**2. Approve minutes — January 2, 2018, regular meeting; January 9, 2018, budget work session.**

Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018, regular meeting, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018, budget work session, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) Jack Poirier — permission for Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to use town forest.** After discussion, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the VAST trail through the town forest for the 2017. 2018 season and that Jack, or another representative from VAST, comes before the board each year for permission. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Craig Heindel stated that the Conservation Committee supported the need to have the VAST Club come before the board each year.

Rick Ebel suggested that a tickler file be created to keep track of annual agenda items, such as this one, for scheduling purposes. Jack will be contacted and asked to attend the October 2, 2019, meeting.

**4. Selectboard old business**

There were no items under old business for this meeting.

**5. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Craig Heindel — letter to National Grid.** Craig Heindel, chair of the Vermont Green Line Committee, said that he spoke with Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, regarding the central issue of the letter: a request for the soil boring logs and location maps to be given to the town. After discussion, Rick Ebel made a motion to send the letter to National Grid from the chair of the selectboard. Red Muir seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) Fire alarm issue — discussion.** On January 15, 2018, at 4:30 a.m., Loretta Lawrence and Red

Muir received calls about the fire alarm going off at the Ferrisburgh Community Center and Town Offices. When the fire department arrived, it determined that it was a false alarm. A lengthy discussion led by Red Muir ensued. He detailed the specific operation of the monitoring system and the reprogramming needed to stop the false alarms. There was also discussion about moving the annunciator panel to the south entrance of the building, just inside the door, for easier access by the fire department, as well as installation of a keyed lock on the rear entry door. Rick Ebel made a motion to spend up to \$2,500.00 to address the fire safety issues related to the location of the annunciator and appropriate lock system on the rear entry door. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Quotes will be obtained for both items.

**(c) Budget work session — set date.** The next budget work session will be January 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Community Center and Town Offices.

## 6. Public comment

Bessie Sessions asked if the board could share the status of the tree cutting by the Vorstevelds. Loretta Lawrence replied that the board met earlier with Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell. Jim is waiting to hear back from Jim Foley, the Vorstevelds' attorney, regarding sitting down for mediation. Loretta said this would hopefully happen the first week of February 2018.

## 7. Other business

Loretta Lawrence announced that on January 10, 2018, she testified before the Vermont State Legislature on behalf of the Town Charter. The Government Operations Committee reconvenes on January 19, 2018, to hear final testimony. Loretta will testify by phone.

[Note: This agenda item was discussed after **9 (b) Selectboard warrant.**]

## 8. Correspondence

**(a) Vermont Land Trust — notice of option to purchase.** By letter, the town was informed that the Vermont Land Trust has approved a grant for the purchase of an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value. The reason for the amendment is due to a change of ownership. The farm is now owned by Brian and Kathleen Van de Weert.

## 9. Selectboard to approve or sign

**(a) #311 Ferrisburgh Jolley — 2018 liquor license renewal application.** Jim Benoit made a motion to renew the 2018 liquor license for store #311 Ferrisburgh Jolley. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The liquor license is for a convenience store located at 6973 US Route 7.

**(b) Selectboard warrant.** After review, Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$102,742.23. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## 10. Adjourn

Rick Ebel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira