

**Town of Ferrisburgh**  
**Selectboard Minutes / APPROVED**  
February 20, 2018

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

**Absent:** Michael Red+Muir

**Town officials present:** John Bull, road foreman; Deb Healey, town treasurer; Bill Wager, fire department chief; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

**Visitors present:** Judy Elson, Stan Field, Don Keeler, Peter Newton, Jenn Rand, Bessie Sessions, Silas Towler, Jim Warden.

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

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Approve minutes — February 6, 2018, special meeting and February 6, 2018, regular meeting.**

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018, special meeting, as submitted. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018, regular meeting, as submitted. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) Bill Wager — Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department.** Bill Wager, fire department chief, discussed the initial details of a potential plan to create the Bob Jenkins Memorial Training Center. It would be a small structure, located north of the fire station, with props used to train firefighters self rescue and other procedures. Preliminary design work has started. Bill said Bob was adamant about firefighter training. Donations made in his memory will be seed money for this project.

**(b) John Bull — road foreman's report.** John Bull said that he received preliminary information regarding the water discharge permit. On July 1, 2018, there will be a \$250.00 permit fee as part of a multi-year plan to reduce stormwater-related erosion on paved and unpaved roads in our town. As of July 2019, every town is must submit an inventory of culverts and road systems and a plan for projects, including remedies such as retention ponds and grass ditches.

He said he has been working with an engineer from the Agency of Transportation to correct the drainage from US Route 7 to the bridge on Old Hollow Road. He is confident that the town will receive a grant next year for this project.

John stated he will probably go over budget with the line item for winter maintenance materials by approximately \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 because he had to rent a loader for a month while the town loader was being repaired. He said there is still money left in the paving budget because the paving price was lower than he anticipated. He said he thinks the difference will cover the deficit and the overall budget should not be over.

Loretta Lawrence asked when Plank Road signage with advisory speed limits would be installed. John responded that when the ground is less frozen the signs will be installed. John also stated that the lilac bush at the intersection of Greenbush Road and Stage Road is on the agenda for spring projects.

**(c) Judy Elson — Ferrisburgh Central School — request to tap trees on Town Green.** Judy Elson reviewed parts of a letter from Chris Olson, Addison County forester, who evaluated the general health of the maple trees. His analysis lists certain trees that need pruning, staking, and limb cutting. After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the tapping of the maple trees on the Town Green by Ferrisburgh Elementary School children. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. Attached to Chris Olson's letter was a report from the Forest Health Division of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation about the forest tent caterpillar outbreak in Vermont. This information will be passed along to Cliff Mix, the town tree warden.

[Note: This agenda item followed 3 (d).]

**(d) Don Keeler — Addison County Sheriff's Department.** Don Keeler and Lieutenant Peter Newton responded to the board's inquiry regarding the town being billed for hours spent assisting the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) with truck safety inspections on US Route 7. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding many factors including the apparent overlap of time billed to the town while grant funding also paid for truck safety inspections. Loretta Lawrence announced that as a board member the issue is about safety, not about income from tickets issued for safety truck violations. She stated that the Sheriff's Department does not need to be on Route 7 assisting the DMV. The town hired them to patrol town roads, not Route 7. Jim Benoit stated that as a board member and a taxpayer in the town, he wants police presence on town roads, such as Shellhouse Mountain Road, Plank Road, and Old Hollow Road. The board accepted Don's offer to not only reimburse the town for the cost of officer hours and mileage (\$524.14) but also allow the town to keep the revenue (\$895.00) from fines for various violations during the inspections. Loretta stated that it is the consensus of the board that the Addison County Sheriff's Department charge the town for local patrolling only and that patrolling will take place on town roads, not Route 7. Route 7 is under the jurisdiction of the Vermont State Police.

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

**(a) Andrew Peterson — Purchase and Sales Agreement termination letter (Route 22A & US Route 7).** Andrew Peterson submitted a letter to the board stating he has been unable to secure the necessary financing to purchase the town land located at the corner of Route 22A and US Route 7. Loretta Lawrence said the parcel will go back on the market with the listing agent Kingsland Company.

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

**(a) Review data regarding recording backlog.** Board members reviewed the report and accompanying bar graph regarding the backlog compiled by Gloria Warden, town clerk, and Pam Cousino, assistant town clerk/treasurer. Loretta Lawrence said that the backlog begins with January 2018. She stated as a reminder that the board would like an update every two weeks.

**(b) Kelly Brush Annual Bike Ride — September 8, 2018.** Jenn Rand, events coordinator, spoke to the board regarding this year's bike ride, saying the route has not changed and local police and county sheriff officers, along with volunteer flaggers, will help facilitate safety and traffic control. After discussion, Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the use of town roads and the use of the Ferrisburgh Historical Society property for a water stop for the Kelly Brush Annual Bike Ride on September 8, 2018. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) Villari's of Ferrisburgh — 2018 hall rental.** Jim Benoit made a motion to continue renting the upstairs community hall to Villari's of Ferrisburgh for youth and adult self-defense classes on Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. for the rental fee of \$50 per Saturday, with the required \$500 deposit, and proof of insurance. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED

**(d) Ferrisburgh Historical Society — hall rental agreement — March 18, 2018, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Jim Benoit made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the Ferrisburgh Historical Society for a concert on March 18, 2018, waiving the rental fee but requiring proof of insurance. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(e) Gage Cemetery — hall rental agreement — May 6, 2018, from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Steve Gutowski made a motion to rent the downstairs meeting room to Gage Cemetery for an annual meeting on May 6, 2018, waiving the rental fee but requiring proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## 6. Public comment

Jim Warden addressed the board at length regarding the town land at the intersection of Route 22A and US Route 7. He concluded by saying that it is his personal opinion that the town hold on to the land for use by future generations of townspeople.

## 7. Other business

Loretta Lawrence informed the board that on February 18, 2018, the Vermont State Police contacted her because the sewer alarm was going off at the town offices building. Discussion ensued regarding this recurring problem. Loretta said J & A Pump and Motor Service came and diagnosed the cause as the announcer panel. She said the panel would be fixed in the next couple of days.

Rick Ebel acknowledged the office staff for following the request of the Vermont Secretary of State's office to lower the US flag outside the office building to half-staff, to honor the victims of the tragic shooting of 17 people at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

## 8. Correspondence

**(a) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) — Spring Selectboard Institute — May 24, 2018.** The town received a notice that the VLCT will be conducting selectboard workshops on May 24, 2018, at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont.

**(b) Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) and Vermont Auditor's Office — Governmental Accounting & Auditing Symposium — March 27, 2018.** The town received a notice that the VLCT and the Vermont Auditor's Office will hold a symposium on March 27, 2018, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, Vermont.

**(c) Vermont Department of Transportation — approved 2018 Certificate of Highway Mileage.** By letter, the town received its approved 2018 Certificate of Highway Mileage.

## 9. Selectboard to approve or sign

**(a) Starry Night Café — 2018 Liquor License Renewal Application (2).** Jim Benoit made a motion to renew the 2018 liquor licenses for Starry Night Café for a rear patio and a restaurant in a single-story

building located at 5371 US Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) Selectboard warrant.** After review, Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$114,987.38. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## **10. Adjourn**

Rick Ebel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira