

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
July 18, 2017**

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

Town officials present: Deb Healey, town treasurer; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Tim Etchells, Gary Gray, Bessie Sessions, Bruce Werner.

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: **5. Selectboard old business (b) Temporary Zoning Administrator for July 20, 2017, meeting from 2–4 p.m.** Jim Benoit made a motion to amend the agenda as noted. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

2. Approve minutes — June 27, 2017, Town Plan hearing #2; July 3, 2017, regular meeting; and July 11, 2017, special meeting.

Rick Ebel made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017, Town Plan hearing #2, as submitted. Red Muir seconded. Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Jim Benoit and Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2017, regular meeting, as submitted. Rick Ebel seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, and Loretta Lawrence voted in favor. Red Muir abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017, special meeting, as submitted. Rick Ebel seconded. Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. Selectboard new business

(a) John Bull — highway operations report. John sent the board an email stating that he was not available on July 18 and 19 and was unable to attend the meeting.

(b) Lauren Cynewski — dog complaint. The board received a letter from Lauren Cynewski detailing the condition of the dogs and property housing Heidi’s Haven, an animal rescue business owned by Sheila McGregor. The business, located at 2512 Sand Road, is just 15' from Lauren’s property line. There are now over 30 dogs, and the back and front yards are being used by them. She described how the smell from urine and piles of excrement makes it unbearable to be outside or inside with the windows open. Board members stated that they have tried for many years to file complaints and sought legal action regarding the rescue operation. This animal rescue business operates under the guidelines of the state of Vermont and is exempt from local control. The board has contacted several agencies in the state and has always been told that this particular rescue operation is following the state guidelines and inspections. Following a lengthy discussion regarding any possible further action by the board, Steve Gutowski stated he would make a formal complaint with the state on behalf of the town.

(c) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Agreement between town of Ferrisburgh, Ferrisburgh Town School District, and Addison Northwest School District (Unification July 1, 2017). Rick Ebel made a motion to sign the current version of the MOU/Agreement. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Steve Gutowski voted against. MOTION PASSED.

(d) Tim Etchells — Planning commission minute taker position. Tim has expressed an interest in taking minutes for the planning commission. The board is very pleased to have Tim aboard. Steve Gutowski made a motion to appoint Tim Etchells as minute taker for the planning commission. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(e) Matt Chandler — Long Point Lake Weed Committee. Committee members Gary Gray and Bruce Werner addressed the board, as Matt Chandler was unable to attend. They described details of a proposed joint partnership to reduce the weeds growing in Lake Champlain at Long Point, Point Bay Marina, and the Ferrisburgh town beach. The first step prior to mechanical harvesting of the weeds is obtaining a permit (\$175 for 10 years) from the state. The second step is for the town to come up with \$1,046 just to have a plant study, before going any further. The board stated that there are not monies for this in the budget. Also, the board questioned whether the town could do a joint permit with a private party. This agenda item was tabled until the next regular selectboard meeting on August 1, 2017.

(f) Julia D. Parkinson — re: Union Cemetery maintenance. The board received a letter from Julia D. Parkinson informing it that after some general cleaning last winter or spring, cuttings and branches from the cemetery were dumped onto her adjacent property. Loretta Lawrence informed the board that she sent the letter to Dave Gebo, a cemetery trustee; he removed the debris including some that had been thrown over the hill by other people.

(g) Set tax rate. After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to set the residential municipal tax rate at \$1.82 and the non-residential municipal tax rate at \$1.72 for 2017–2018. It was noted that both tax rates were decreases from the previous year. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectboard old business

(a) Security camera quotes. After further comparison of quotes from Lock-N-Glass Crafters, LLC and DZ Security, Steve Gutowski made a motion to accept services from Lock-N-Glass Crafters, LLC to install Wi-Fi enabled cameras at the town offices, not to exceed \$2,800.00. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The funds for this expenditure will come from the Town Hall and Community Center maintenance fund.

5. Selectboard general business

(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update. Rick Ebel, a member of the town's VGL Committee, stated that there were no updates since the previous regular selectboard meeting. He submitted an invoice, approved by the VGL Committee, to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, in the amount of \$19 from the VGL escrow account. This account, which funds continuing expenses such as legal bills, is fully funded by Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC, not by the town. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Rick Ebel submitted an invoice, approved by the VGL Committee, to the selectboard. After discussion, Red Muir made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from Civil Engineering Associates in the amount of \$483.61 from the VGL escrow account. This account, which funds continuing expenses such as legal bills, is fully funded by Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC, not by the town. Rick Ebel seconded. Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Loretta Lawrence, and Red Muir voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Temporary Zoning Administrator for July 20, 2017, regular meeting from 2–4 p.m. Loretta Lawrence stated that Zoning Administrator Ken Wheeling is on a leave of absence. She also stated that

there was some paperwork that needed signing and was recommending Pam Cousino to fill in for 2 (two) hours on Thursday, July 20. Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Pam Cousino as temporary zoning administrator for 2 (two) hours on Thursday, July 20, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public comment

Gloria Warden, town clerk, informed the board that when the Union Meeting Hall was rented on June 30 and July 1, 2017, the key was misplaced. The renters purchased a new lock and key and returned the old lock. After discussion, the board decided to return the new lock to the rental party and put the old lock back on the building.

Bessie Sessions asked the board for the status of the unauthorized tree cutting by the Vorstevelds on Arnold Bay Road. Loretta Lawrence replied that there is more to the issue than the facts of the report prepared by Cliff Mix, tree warden. She said that Jim Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, is reviewing town and state statutes, speaking to neighboring property owners, and taking into consideration reparations and replacement landscaping. Bessie expressed concern that again no one will be held accountable. Red Muir reiterated that the board would follow through on this matter.

7. Other business - There were no items under other business for this meeting.

8. Correspondence

(a) Vermont Department of Taxes — education tax rate for fiscal year 2018. The town received notice that the non-residential education tax rate will be \$1.4657; the homestead tax rate will be \$1.5578.

(b) Notice of Panton Town Plan public hearing — August 10, 2017. The public hearing for the amended and updated 2017–2025 Panton Town Plan will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Panton Town Hall at 3176 Jersey Street. Copies of the plan may be viewed at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, the Panton Town Hall, or online at www.pantonvt.us.

9. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Gilfeather's Fine Foods. Red Muir made a motion to approve Little Garden Market, LLC (dba Gilfeather's Fine Foods) for a second-class liquor license and tobacco license for May 1 through April 30, 2018. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

(b) Selectboard warrant. After review, Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$85,758.94. Rick Ebel seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED. The board asked Deb Healey, town treasurer, to bill the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for \$64.00 for a false alarm call.

10. Adjourn

Red Muir made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira