

**Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Minutes
December 16, 2014**

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

Town officials present: Garrit Smits, town treasurer; Gloria Warden, town clerk.

Visitors present: Jen Cirillo, Bernie Loven, Bob McNary, Red Muir, Nate Palmer, Bessie Sessions, Bill Sullivan.

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

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

2. Approve minutes — December 2, 2014; December 9, 2014

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2014, as submitted. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the selectboard budget meeting on December 9, 2014, as submitted. Jim Warden seconded. Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence and Jim Warden voted in favor. Jim Benoit abstained. MOTION PASSED.

3. New business

(a) John Bull — road foreman's report. John Bull was unable to attend the meeting, but reported via e-mail that he is planning to have his budget done this week and would share the budget with board members. He said Ferrisburgh did not suffer much damage from the previous week's snowstorm, and that equipment had held together. He predicted there would be complaints about rough gravel roads, but said until the weather changes there was not much the road crew could do; he said they would spread gravel in the worst spots as time allowed.

— November 25, 2014, letter from Geralyn Roscoe of Wolcott, Vt. Board members received a letter concerning possible problems with signage for westbound drivers heading down Old Hollow Road to the intersection with Route 7. Board members Steve Gutowski and Jim Warden said they would take a look at the intersection with the issues raised in mind.

4. Public Comment

Jennifer Cirillo attended the meeting to express her interest in joining the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission. Cirillo, who has lived in town for three years, has worked at Shelburne Farms since 2003, where she is now director of professional development. With a B.S. from UVM in plant and soil science and a masters in environmental education from Lesley University and its Audubon Expedition Institute, Cirillo said during a conversation with board members that she was particularly interested in engaging young people in town issues and government, growing civic leaders. Loretta Lawrence said that the board would take up her request later in the meeting.

Bob McNary brought up what he felt were continuing maintenance issues with the town hall. During a discussion, Steve Gutowski said that the town was still dealing with contractor Bread Loaf Corporation about some of the issues. Red Muir said that he was satisfied with recent work done on the air conditioning system, and that further work would probably take place in the spring. Jim Warden said he appreciated all the time that Steve Gutowski had spent working with Bread Loaf on the town hall. Red Muir also said that Silas Towler had photos taken during construction of the new town hall that shed light on some of the issues raised. Board members said they would invite Towler to attend a meeting in the near future, and hoped he would be able to provide the town with copies of the construction photos for future reference.

Red Muir said he had welded and painted a broken metal floor grate upstairs in the town hall, and felt it would hold up under normal use. He said the metal might be somewhat brittle, having survived the Grange Hall fire. He suggested warning people using the hall, particularly for children's programs, about jumping on the grate. Loretta Lawrence thanked Muir for his work and board members said they would keep an eye on the grate, and consider a possible replacement.

5. Selectboard to approve or sign

(a) Warrant. Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$1,663,452.59. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

6. Other business

Jim Benoit made a motion to appoint Jen Cirillo to a term on the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission that expires in March 2016. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Nate Palmer told the board that he is selling his property on Route 7, Palmer's Garage, and asked for board members' advice on getting his town and state junkyard permits transferred to the new owner. Palmer said the business was being purchased by John Hoehl. Palmer said the business will still be called Palmer's Garage and he will still be running it. Board members suggested that the new owner fill out the state permit application and then attend a selectboard meeting to request sign-off from the town. They agreed to put the new permit on the agenda for the selectboard's next meeting on January 6, 2015.

Steve Gutowski expressed interest in attending, along with deputy health officer Bob Peisch, a January 28, 2015, conference on municipal solid waste management offered by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in Montpelier, and asked the board to approve paying the conference fee and expenses. Jim Warden made a motion to approve the cost of sending the town officials to the meeting. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden said Jaimeelyn Gaboriault, the town's animal control officer, had asked about finding a large dog crate for the back of her car. Bob McNary said he had a good-sized crate, almost new, that he was no longer using and that might fit the bill.

Gloria Warden, town clerk, said the elevator in the town hall and the emergency phone in the elevator were working, and that all fire extinguishers in the town hall had been inspected and several were serviced. She reported that the heat had been out in the town hall on Monday morning. The problem was solved quickly, but this led to a discussion of the need for an automated reporting/alarm system for mechanical system malfunctions in the town hall.

Gloria Warden also said that the town office would be closed Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, reopening on Friday, December 26.

Red Muir asked about the status of discussions between the town and the school about a land swap. Loretta Lawrence said the last meeting had been a couple of months ago and that the town and school were working on establishing property boundaries.

Bob McNary asked what the procedure would be for getting new keys to the town hall. Gloria Warden said the town would make sure that everyone who needed a key would have one before the lock replacement project was completed.

Bernie Loven said he attended a recent zoning board meeting and asked why a neighboring property owner is being allowed to operate a business on land that is not zoned for commercial use. He said he was told at the meeting that the issue was between Ken Wheeling, zoning administrator, and the selectboard. Board members said they were hearing about the issue for the first time. Loretta Lawrence said she would get in touch with Ken Wheeling.

7. Correspondence

(a) Public Service Board — Basin Harbor Club, certificate of public good decision. The selectboard received a copy of the PSB's approval, dated November 25, 2014, of a certificate of public good (CPG) for a 150kW solar array to be built on Basin Harbor property in Ferrisburgh. While the PSB dismissed most objections to the project from neighboring property owners, the board does say in its ruling that Basin Harbor has agreed to plant additional screening to reduce the views of the project.

(b) Public Service Board — Petition from TDI for a certificate of public good for an underwater transmission line under Lake Champlain. The town, along with other Vermont towns on Lake Champlain, has received from the PSB a five-volume set of testimony, exhibits and other filings concerning the request for a CPG for a \$1.2 billion high-voltage power line that will run under Lake Champlain and then on to Ludlow, Vt., carrying hydroelectric and wind power from Canada to points south. The information is available for inspection at the town office.

(c) Vermont Superior Court decision — Rice garage permit. The town received notice of a November 7, 2014, decision by the Vermont Superior Court, Environmental Division, concerning construction of a garage on property on Mile Point Road owned by John E. and Mary Jane Rice. The garage project, granted a zoning permit by the town in 2013, was appealed to Superior Court by a neighboring property owner, 567 Mile Point Road LLC, Candace O. Davidson, Stewart K. Diana and Rena G. Diana. A mediation session in June 2014 led to a memorandum of understanding between the parties and a plan for the garage, and the court's judgment approved the plan and the memorandum.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Etchells