

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes  
August 2, 2016**

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Jim Warden. **Absent:** Michael "Red" Muir

**Town officials present:** Gloria Warden, town clerk.

**Visitors present:** Aubrey Choquette, Carl Cole, Andre Emmell, Deb Healey, Bob McNary, Ken Villeneuve.

**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 — July 19, 2016, regular meeting; July 25, 2016, special meeting.**

Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2016, as presented. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Loretta Lawrence tabled approval of the minutes of July 25, 2016, as there was not a quorum of board members from that meeting present for the vote.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) Basin Harbor Road — trash problem on both shoulders of the road between the Dead Creek and Little Otter Creek.** Deb Healey described how the trash being left daily at the site by users of the area has increased significantly. Discussion ensued about whether or not the town had the authority to post signage regarding a fine for littering. Gloria Warden will research this. Deb asked the board to consider asking the Addison County Sheriff's Department to include this area as part of the patrol route.

**(b) Town auditors' payroll audit of June 8, 2016.** Deb Healey, town auditor, discussed the findings of the payroll audit of the June 27, 2016, payroll for town employees and elected officials. She noted a few omissions in the payroll procedure and asked for clarification of the chain of command. Deb suggested a payroll audit be added to the next budget audit. Jim Benoit made a motion to add a payroll audit to RHR Smith & Company's financial audit in September, with the estimated cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500 coming from the contingency fund.

**(C) John Bull — request to hire cleaning services for highway department offices.** After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to approve John Bull's request to hire cleaning services. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted against. MOTION FAILED.

**4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) Personnel policy — review personnel policy draft.** After discussion of several sections of the latest draft, this agenda item was tabled.

**5. Selectboard general business**

**(a) Vermont Green Line (VGL) Committee update.** Jim Warden, a member of the town's VGL Committee, reported on the progress since the last selectboard meeting. There has been no response from VGL's attorney regarding the host town agreement. Discussion ensued about the long-term implications of the project and whether or not the town would be protected in the future. Jim Warden confirmed that once the host town agreement is finalized, there will be a public hearing for questions and comments.

Jim Warden submitted an invoice approved by the VGL Committee to the selectboard. After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from George Silver Associates, in the amount of \$5,000, from the VGL escrow account. Jim Benoit seconded. Jim Benoit, Loretta Lawrence, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Steve Gutowski abstained. MOTION PASSED.

## 6. Public comment

Carl Cole asked the selectboard to again request that the Vermont Department of Transportation add a turn lane on US Route 7 from the south at the entrance to the town offices.

Carl Cole questioned the board about the recurrence of homemade signs advertising a farm stand at the intersection of US Route 7 and Little Chicago Road.

## 7. Other business

Road Foreman John Bull and the board will meet on August 8, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at the town garage to discuss highway employee reviews.

Carl Cole presented topographical maps to the board that highlighted 75 acres of land, which abuts the town forest on the west. Subdivision of 50 of the acres with up to six building lots is being proposed. The law states that the project must provide a right-of-way for access for forest management. Carl will be presenting a sketch of the concept to the Planning Commission.

## 8. Correspondence

**(a) Hoehl family — Vermont Department of Watershed Management Division Shoreland Permit application.** The town was notified that the department has authorized the creation of a cleared area and/or impervious surface at 1044 Grosse Point Road, to repair failure of an existing retaining wall along with other work.

## 9. Selectboard to approve or sign

**(a) City of Vergennes — FY 2017 — fire contract.** After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to accept the city of Vergennes' contract for fire protection for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(b) City of Vergennes — FY 2017 — recycling contract.** After discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to accept the city of Vergennes' contract for recycling for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Jim Benoit seconded. Loretta Lawrence and Jim Warden voted in favor. Jim Benoit and Steve Gutowski voted against. MOTION FAILED.

After further discussion, Jim Warden made a motion to accept the city of Vergennes' contract for recycling for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, with the condition that clarification of what is driving the increased cost is provided. Jim Benoit seconded. Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, and Jim Warden voted in favor. Jim Benoit voted against. MOTION PASSED.

**(c) American Red Cross — hall rental request for blood drive on August 24, 2016, from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m.** After discussion, Steve Gutowski made a motion to rent the upstairs community hall to the American Red Cross, waiving the rental fee but requiring the \$500 deposit and proof of insurance. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**(d) Selectboard warrant.** After review, Jim Benoit made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$13,167.07. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## 10. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira