

**Town of Ferrisburgh  
Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT  
December 1, 2015**

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

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

**Visitors present:** Steve Huffaker, Bob Jenkins, Don Keeler, Andy Kirkaldy, Bob McNary, Bruce Nason, Robert Peisch, David Pratt, Bessie Sessions, Bill Sullivan, Monica Tupper.

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

Steve Gutowski, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Steve Gutowski began with two opening remarks. First, he apologized to Bob McNary; Steve felt his demeanor toward Bob during the November 24, 2015, budget meeting was unwarranted.

Second, Steve Gutowski explained the meaning of the open meeting law: A quorum/majority of the board and audience members at selectboard meetings can discuss business only during warned meetings. He continued by asking participants in the audience to refrain from discussing business or agenda items prior to calling the meeting to order or after adjournment.

**2. Approve minutes — November 17, 2015, and November 24, 2015.**

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2015, as amended (a corrected typo). Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Jim Warden made a motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2015, as written. Loretta Lawrence seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Selectboard new business**

**(a) Don Keeler – Addison County Sheriff’s Department.** Discussion ensued about the services offered by the sheriff’s department and the police service needs of the town. Don Keeler proposed a new contract offering the same services at \$27 per hour instead of \$48.10 per hour (as offered by the Vergennes Police Department) for 12 hours per month. This item will be discussed at the next budget meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

**4. Selectboard old business**

**(a) Personnel Policy Review.** Steve Gutowski asked the board members to review the personnel policies and supplemental materials and be prepared to comment at the next selectboard meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

**(b) Norman LeBoeuf – letter re: speed limit on Plank Road.** Norman LeBoeuf’s letter agreed with the comments made by Daniel Crossman at the November 17, 2015, selectboard meeting regarding excessive speeding on sections of Plank Road. On November 19, 2015, John Bull went to Plank Road to assess the need for traffic signs. As an immediate action, he ordered “Blind Hill,” and advisory speed limit signs that will arrive next week. John will monitor the effectiveness of these new signs before

approaching the towns of Waltham and New Haven to discuss additional signage. The board is seeking public comment on this issue. Interested residents should contact John Bull directly by calling the town offices at (802) 877-3076 or by email him at [ferrisburghroad@comcast.net](mailto:ferrisburghroad@comcast.net).

David Pratt, who lives on Bedford Road, asked if an enforceable speed limit sign could be installed. Steve Gutowski commented that a traffic study would need to be undertaken to determine the exact speed limit.

## **5. Selectboard general business**

(a) None

## **6. Public comment.**

Bob Jenkins, Bill Sullivan, and Bob McNary discussed concerns that the town be able to retain control of the Ferrisburgh Central School land and buildings when the school districts are unified. Loretta Lawrence and Red Muir are continuing to meet with the school board to ensure that the language of the articles of agreement protects this property.

David Pratt commented that in an article in the most recent *Addison Independent* about the Middlebury unification, there was very specific language that may help Ferrisburgh craft its own language.

Bessie Sessions asked if there has been any action to remove the old highway building. Steve Gutowski replied that nothing definitive has been decided yet. Bessie Sessions asked if any action has taken place regarding making the conference table smaller. After discussion, the board accepted Bob Jenkins' offer to alter the size of the conference table to better fit the meeting space.

Monica Tupper asked if the budget John Bull submitted last week included a line item to remove the old highway garage building. Steve Gutowski replied it did not. The budget is still being worked on.

Jim Warden commented that the presentation about cold climate heat pumps by Mat Sawyer of Efficiency Vermont was very informative and complimented Bob McNary of the Ferrisburgh Energy Committee for this event.

Bob McNary asked about the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. with Anbaric. Steve Gutowski, Craig Heindel, Vaughn Collins, and Keith Wagner (the town's committee that will negotiate with Anbaric) will attend this first meeting. Bob McNary commented that he would like to see a video of the installation process for the casts. He also suggested that the Anbaric project be an old business agenda item at every selectboard meeting.

## **7. Selectboard to approve or sign**

(a) **Selectboard warrant.** Loretta Lawrence made a motion to approve the selectboard warrant, which details town expenditures, for a total of \$10,394.57 with the condition that Garrit Smits, town treasurer, bill Liz and Peter Markowski (\$88) and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (\$104) for reimbursement for false fire alarms. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

## **8. Other business**

(a) Steve Gutowski asked Bob McNary if he was available to supervise a subsequent blower test by SEC at the Union Meeting Hall on December 15, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. Efficiency Vermont will issue rebates if the blower test meets the standard. Bob McNary will be at the test.

## 9. Correspondence

**(a) Addison Northwest Supervisory Union (ANWSU) Unification – Act 46 Community Forum-Ferrisburgh Central School, December 14, 2015, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** The board received a flyer from ANWSU promoting this community forum about district unification.

**(b) Vermont Superior Court Notice of Hearing – Oosterman Boundary Line Adjustment, December 14, 2015, 11:00 a.m.** In a letter, the board was requested to participate in a telephone conference call about this matter. James F. Carroll, the town's attorney from the firm of English, Carroll & Boe, will participate in the call.

**(c) SunCommon solar installation application – John and Patricia Paul, 3415 Middlebrook Road.** The board received a copy of the application for a certification of public good for a net-metered power system at this address from the State of Vermont Public Service Board.

**(f) Notice of Issuance for 401 Water Quality Certification for TDI-New England for the New England Clean Power Link (NECPL).** As per Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the board received a letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation stating that NECPL was issued a water quality certification on November 24, 2015.

## 10. Adjourn

Loretta Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Jim Warden seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira